



## Clarity of Identity Discussion Response

### ***QUESTION ONE: Where and how is your congregation intentional and authentic?***

- Step by step process to multi-cultural.
- Difficult under presbyterian model.
- Still struggling from the pandemic especially having young people return.
- Our church doesn't have the language of intentionality.
- The question is what we are authentic to?
- Consensus was the worship was central to our authenticity. Worship leaders work to make the worship God centered around scripture and prayer. Music is important.
- Relationships are strong - an abundance of love to share with each and in the community.
- Most churches have programs that bring the community into the church or parishioners out into the community.
- Building relationships in the community through feeding programs, support scouting to help build youth program.
- Relationships should extend beyond the walls of the church.
- Churches should provide activities to generate relationships, ie: workdays, luncheons, meal prep for the homeless, etc. Then those relations should spread out to the community.
- Communication throughout the week is crucial.
- The congregation loves music.
- Music is used to invite people.
- The church is missional.
- Focused on reaching out to the community.
- Here to serve the community.
- Intentional prayer committee.
- Focus on growing both locally (in-person) and globally (on-line).

### ***QUESTION TWO: Where in your congregation do you see well-defined vision and inclusion?***

- We are welcoming but not invitational.
- Our church is working on clarity of vision.
- Our congregations are diverse - political, racial, age, socioeconomic.



- A particular apropos analogy - we are in a boat during a storm and people are all around us in the water drowning.
- We don't care about whether they are believers, their political views, their economic status. We just want to get them into the boat.
- Reworking Mission Statement to include "all people."
- Challenge that no one knows that we are here and need to do more work to reach out to the surrounding community.
- One church is on a main street and still struggles to have people know they are there.
- Seek to create opportunities for people at all places in their faith journey.

***QUESTION THREE: What would you say about the state of spiritual and ecclesiastical maturity in your congregation?***

- We all need each other to be spiritually strong.
- Vision: Teaching disciples and transforming lives.
- Daily practices for nurturing faith.
- Intentionality is key.
- Provide resources like Bibles to people.
- Increased racial and generational diversity throughout the church.
- Different cultures represented on World Communion Sunday.
- It is having the effect of making everyone feel welcome.
- The church is a community (fellowship is important)
- Caring for one another
- How are we reconnecting (post Covid) to the community
- This is prompting members to be more spiritually self-sufficient
- It is also prompting increased generosity
- People are open to spirituality
- Seeing evidence of spiritual immaturity
- Are churches making "house cats" – no bit, no claws to their faith?
- How do we help our congregation connect Sunday to Monday, living out their faith in the workplace?
- There is an opportunity for growth in the midst of crisis.