A Congregational Assessment of Intention and Effectiveness

This assessment is designed to help the GROW, EQUIP, and CONNECT Teams of the Susquehanna Conference make the best choices with you about which of our collaborative processes/programs can be most helpful to your church. Gather your core team of leaders to complete this assessment, noting who was in attendance. Rate the first two questions – 1 lowest, 5 highest. Answer the third question completely.

Discipleship Pathways – these questions are designed to discover how your congregation prepares people for a deeper relationship with God and to know and utilize their God-given gifts for a fruitful impact in the community and wider world.

1. Our church has designed well-rounded pathway(s) that gives persons multiple opportunities to grow in prayerful practices, presence, generosity, service, and witness.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5
2. Our people take personal responsibility to continue their growth in faith and invite others into discipleship.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5
3. How does your congregation help persons discern their gifts and graces, as well as encourage them to be part of the ministry of all believers?

Leadership Formation – these questions are designed to discover how your congregation prepares leaders to engage others in mission and ministry.

1. Our leaders are effectively called, equipped, and empowered to oversee their area of responsibility.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5
2. New leaders, being intentionally developed within the congregation, are equipped for our changing culture in the society and the church.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5

3. Describe how persons within the congregation are being developed as spiritual transformational leaders. How are your leaders engaging others in the transformation of the world through loving God and neighbor?

Ministry with Children, Youth, and Young Adults - these questions are designed to discover how your congregation intentionally engages young people in faith formation and actual ministry.

1. Our congregation provides age-appropriate experiential learning and leadership opportunities for children and youth that are well attended and supported by strong adult mentors.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5
2. Young people are regularly mobilized to serve as leaders within our congregation, i.e. participating in decision making and discernment, leading worship, and launching new forms of ministry.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
3. Describe a multi-generational experience within the life of your congregation that expanded the faith forming relationship across the generations.

New Places for New People – these questions are designed to discover how your congregation experience readiness to design and welcome new places for new people.

1. Our congregation has demonstrated the ability to create and launch new ministries with people who are currently not members of our church. (Fresh Expressions, new small groups, etc.)
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
2. Individuals who participate in our congregation take personal responsibility to develop a wider circle of genuine relationships with new individuals and families, along with forging new relationships with community partners who are doing good in the world, i.e. schools, first responders, other non-profits.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
3. What is your most recent experience of starting something new for the people of your community, and what risks did you take to do it?

Leading Innovation – these questions are designed to discover how your congregation expresses a spark of innovation and creativity for its future ministry.

1. We spend more time dreaming together about God's preferred future for us than reminiscing about the way things used to be.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
2. The people of our congregation understand and can articulate our mission, vision, and strategies for the future.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
3. What is the most innovative thing your congregation has developed in the past year?

Equipping Ministry – these questions are designed to discover how your congregation equips lay people for active ministry throughout the congregation and community.

1. The people of our congregation understand and are using their spiritual gifts.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
2. The administrative structures of our church are intentionally designed to help us live out our mission, vision, and strategies for ministry.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
3. Describe how you fill the leadership roles for your congregation.

Collaborative Initiatives - these questions are designed to discover how your congregation works well with other congregations (UMC or others) to effectively make a loving impact in your community.

1. Our congregation has a relationship with other churches in our area (charge, cluster, district) that is designed to meet intentional needs within our community.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5
2. Our congregation is paying attention to those persons in our area who are serving in extension ministries so that we can partner for mutual support and ministry impact, i.e. campus ministries, camping and retreat ministries, chaplains, etc.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5
3. Share an experience of collaborative work done recently in which your congregation partnered with other churches, perhaps ecumenically, to do a project together.

Justice and Mercy - these questions are designed to discover how your congregation works beyond itself to make a significant impact in meeting the needs of the wider community.

1. Our congregation has significant funds and persons invested in mercy ministries in our wider community – food pantry, clothing closet, partnership with schools, disaster relief, etc.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5
2. Our leaders have met with local community leaders to discuss important issues within our county so that we can help resolve them together (justice) as well as meet human need (mercy).
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5
3. Describe a time when you partnered with the Annual Conference through Volunteers In Mission (VIM), Disaster Relief, or other connectional relationships to make a united difference for Jesus' sake.

Connectional Engagement - these questions are designed to discover how your congregation creatively participates in what the United Methodist Church does together.

1. Our congregation values the benefits of being a connectional system that can do far more in collaboration than we can do alone, including generous shared giving, global missions, regional disaster response, and UMCOR.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5
2. Our congregation is aware of the need to communicate beyond ourselves as we use social media and other platforms to connect with each other and provide a witness to the world.
   Rate 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 - 5
3. Share a United Methodist training, that you attended outside your local church, that was helpful in the way leaders of your congregation continue to lead mission and ministry.