

10/6/19 Listening Post notes as captured by Pastor Melanie Lichtenberg

Please notice: On October 6, notes were taken at several tables; as such, the table discussions captured by each recorder may differ based upon the specific discussions that table engaged in. See additional notes by other recorders in the Road Trip folder for October 6.

Describe the local community:

- Projected population growth of 8.5% was surprising
- Agreed with the description of our local community
- Question as to what was the salary range of “upper-middle class” but recognized that within the radius of 5-10 miles of OFLC, there are a lot of professionals.

Congregational Trends:

- Stabilization with a permanent pastor will help with people engaging in ministries.
- Discussion of less people being engaged in ministries now due to not much offered for Birth-Grade 4 children, so parents/families of this age group will be less engaged in overall church ministries.
- Group was surprised to see so many youth on a Wednesday night Engage & Confirm night. Where are all of the younger children (before Confirmation age)? Do kids come only for the Confirmation program?
- When OFLC doesn't offer nursery during worship, it's hard for parents to get anything out of worship service. Having Sunday School this year during worship is a positive impact on parents.
- When the format of Sunday School keeps changing, it's hard on families. Consistency has a huge impact. In the past, families had to ask “is it the 4th Sunday as then there isn't Sunday School?” Is this year's SS, when the family stays with kids or do we bring kids to their rooms and leave? Confusing.
- Question raised as to those who feel less engaged: how can OFLC have a conversation to see what help is needed to become more engaged?
- If 25% of those in survey are doing everything to keep ministries going, is there concern for burn out and what can be done to prevent burnout from the core group?

Programs important to OFLC:

- Our Father's does a great job in outreach and welcoming community partners like Scouts, Nourishing Hope, etc.
- Group felt like there is a need for also improving on “feeding those who already part of Our Father's community of faith.”
- The group talked about wanting to grow in their personal relationship with the Lord. They are looking for sermons that will captivate them, give them something to think about. With a strong sermon, visitors and Confirmation students will want to come back!
- Discussion that a worship service needs to be authentic, a real joy, not just feel-good music and message.
- When it is a good sermon, young families of OFLC's will share the word and other young families will come. Many young families are at Riverwood, because of the strong children programs...not so much for the sermons.
- How can MOPS or Scouts be invited into the ministries of OFLC, instead of just being welcomed to use this space for their meetings?
- The survey didn't show a high percentage of people participating in the Sunday School ministries.
- Missing the committees as it seems if each ministry/program is on a separate island. How does OFLC get the ministries to connect to each other again?
- Voting for top two:

Christian Education =6 votes

Spiritual Direction = 4 votes

Recruit and Equip leaders = 2

Administration = 1 vote

Communication = 1 vote

- Group discussed that we all have capabilities to lend and support the ministries at Our Father's so we don't really need a pastor to recruit and equip. We just need to step forward.

Ministry Tasks--

- Isn't it a given that a pastor would be Christ-centered? Of course next pastor would have a sense of humor!
- Gifts desired in our new pastor—interest in youth; ability to relate to all ages; engaging with kids and willing to have fun (swallow live minnow); connect God's truth and contemporary issues; leadership; clear communicator; focus on families. Many overlap (inclusive, good listener, team builder.)