

10/13/19 Listening Post notes as captured by Pastor Melanie

Describe the local community: (5 people at Small Group Discussion Table)

- Agreed with description of our community
- There's a need for housing, for young families and for the aging. Some want to downsize (i.e. move to a one-level house) so they can stay in this community.

Congregational Trends: (Large Group Discussion by 7 people and 4 Transition Team members for rest of the meeting)

- How can OFLC reach out and connect with those who rated #2-5 on survey's "satisfaction" question?
- Suggestion made to reach out to those who have left OFLC. Would they identify what OFLC's could have done differently so they would have stayed?
- Some people have said they left OFLC due to too much music, not enough music, too long of sermons, or repetitive within sermons.
- Some expressed concerned with the percentage of people who think OFLC is struggling. If this means "less people in the pews," ok. But overall, group discussed that it may be common for a "lower satisfaction" number when in transition of pastoral leadership.

Programs important to OFLC: (See Ruth and Mike's notes)

- Interesting that the music didn't move over to the "priority" when listed as strong "participation."
- How do we connect with 10 – 12 graders in High School? How do we hear and implement their ideas, of ways we can be in ministry together? What do they want to see happen here at Our Father's? (There's a list from a Building Ministry Listening Post of their ideas.)
- How does OFLC offer something for High School students, more than just fill a spot where adults are needed in ministries and mission?
- In the past, high school students invited by church members to try helping with Sunday School or being on the Evangelism Team. It gave them good experiences and they found that they had a gift for those ministries! Great way to live out the "discipling" part of the church's mission statement!
- If there's a high school student going through cancer, can OFLC offer a prayer vigil to the family, teens, the whole community? Other local church did. How does OFLC support youth as they struggle with peer having cancer?
- OFLC has a welcoming culture but not seeing a lot of young people or young families coming to worship or participating in ministries.

Ministry tasks and Gifts of the Pastor (see Ruth's and Mike's notes for more discussion)

- If we diversify with too many programs, what is OFLC's strength or how known in the community as a place to go for that purpose? Some churches are known for the preachers or their youth ministry.
- Is NourishingHope meeting spiritual needs or could it be expanded in this way?
- How does OFLC look at the personal needs of the youth? What are the gaps of opportunities to connect with children-teens?
- This is how we look now but youth ministry needs to be done differently than it was 10 years ago. How many remember when Jerrod was at OFLC? How does it look in the future?
- Are we meeting kids where they are or offering them programs that are more geared towards adults?
- Discussion about "what is family?" – OFLC might have lost track of this as it isn't just about the church, it's also about community being part of the family.
- In the past, the youth had a "space" by the kitchen. Comment shared of the importance of providing a space for youth to claim and decorate as their own. It becomes their safe place at church, to be and invite friends.
- Discussion about having a pastor that provides stability, knows us, helps people recognize their skills and talents to use. It's important to feel a connection with the pastor so can talk with them.