

## 10/13/19 Listening Post notes as captured by Ruth Durand

### Describe the local community:

- Demographics as stated are about as expected—no surprises
- When shrinking the radius to within 1-2 miles, growth expectation is somewhat less
- A question was raised about what is considered to be a family unit—did we look at the many variables such as single parent, one-person households, etc.?

### Congregational Trends:

- Regarding the questions pertaining to satisfaction with life together at OFLC, those who responded with a 9 or 10 (high satisfaction) can be considered to be the “promoters” of our church, the congregants who are highly engaged. Conversely, we need to bring up the 3’s and 4’s.
- People who are responding to this survey are most likely those most highly engaged.
- Suggestion made to reach out to those who have left OFLC. What were the reasons? This would give us a direction for improvement.
- Individual definitions of the word “satisfaction” could significantly impact responses.
- Those who are the most involved with the church life at OFLC are most likely those who are highly satisfied.
- Responding to the life cycle of the church—we are on the cusp of taking off again!
- Nourishing Hope is gaining strength and is an important part of the outreach at OFLC.

### Programs important to OFLC:

- We value being a welcoming and inclusive church family, yet our teens are not involved after confirmation.
- After November of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year, there isn’t much to draw our youth back to involvement at OFLC.
- Suggestion for involving youth—offer activities such as playing volleyball, or some other activity 1-2 times per month.
- Results of the youth survey showed that 87.1% of our youth feel they have gifts to offer, but they don’t know how to use their gifts.
- How do we harness the energy of our youth? We need to offer something that speaks to them in their lives i.e. student mentor programs, readers theater, tap into their ideas, meet them where they are, give kids a safe place to gather
- Kids show engagement differently
- How are other churches engaging youth?

### Ministry tasks for the Pastor:

- Some of the tasks on the list seem like a given i.e. spiritual direction
- Youth engagement seemed to be important in our discussion, but what our “core” members we see as a vision for our church (according to survey results) and our commitment to youth involvement don’t seem to match.
- Concentrate on just one area i.e. providing a strong youth program, instead of trying to take on too many missions. We need to be known for a strength.
- OFLC is known for outreach. Focus on 1 thing.
- Should our next pastor have strengths in the area of leadership or youth engagement? Differing ideas offered--a strong leader could foster a higher level of youth engagement by empowering our congregants, but a pastor highly skilled in youth engagement could directly impact our youth
- We need a youth pastor more than one skilled in the area of leadership
- Our next pastor needs to have a strong interest in our youth.
- A youth pastor is needed
- Ideal—2 people with strengths in each of the areas of leadership and youth
- Leadership is important, but support for families is the highest priority.