

10/6/19 Listening Post notes as captured by Mike Dickman

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:

- The data collected was what folks would have expected
- With the 8.5% population growth how can we better invite people to be part of OFLC?

Congregational Trends:

- Change in Pastoral Leadership during in interim period might be impacting the strength of the Church
- Interesting that Attendance has declined while Giving levels have remained more constant
- A core group of people consistently volunteers. It seems that many of these folks have been long time members of OFLC
- Many individuals find it challenging to make longer term time commitments and prefer to pulse in and out for short well defined projects

Programs important to OFLC:

- Outreach is a gift that OFLC wants to share with the Community
- While some people might not be directly participating in certain programs like youth education most see this as an extremely important part of the Church
- OFLC is walking the talk regarding our Statement of Purpose
- OFLC is willing to tackle new ventures e.g. Combine project, Nourishing Hope, Lunchbox Fever
- Given the significant use of the OFLC building by outside groups, is there a way to engage them in the North End project – what are their needs, financial support, etc.
- There is a societal change of people migrating toward non-denominational churches. Should Our Father's continue to keep the word "Lutheran" as part of the name of the Church?

Ministry Tasks:

- In agreement with the top 3 tasks
- The Pastor has to be the Spiritual Leader of the Church
- A Pastor has to have the mindset of "being on call" versus watching the clock and punching a timecard
- Don't overly burden the Pastor with Administrative tasks – that should be handled by the Office Staff and Volunteers
- Must provide Pastoral care when needed
- Having a sense of humor and not taking oneself too seriously is extremely helpful

Gifts in a New Pastor:

- Strong experienced leadership is a must not a nice to have
- Dynamic preaching capabilities
- Build up teams and various ministries
- Put the overall needs of the Church first versus the needs of one