

## 10/6/19 Listening Post notes as captured by Ruth Durand

*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:**

- Demographics of our area haven't changed very much for the last 12-16 years
- Projected population growth of 8.5% could mean opportunities to increase membership at OFLC
- Survey results of description of our local community were about as expected
- Discussed OFLC background in response to a question by newcomers to OFLC at our table—where were we 10-15 years ago, and where are we headed (Jim provided his perspectives)

### **Congregational Trends:**

- Those who participated in the survey were more likely to be engaged—perhaps showing a greater degree of engagement than attendance record would suggest
- The “core” (active members) tend to stay at OFLC longer—not as likely to switch to another church
- OFLC is a place where you can get involve—lots of opportunities
- The pastor plays a big role in drawing people into the church
- Strength of congregation—transitional time at OFLC. Stability in our leadership will bring more confidence in our strength
- Somewhat surprising that giving hasn't fallen by the same rate as attendance. Fewer individuals giving more?

### **Programs important to OFLC:**

- Engage & Confirm—we don't often see confirmations involved in church after they are confirmed
- Need to keep our youth engaged at OFLC—involved in music—choir?
- Busy family life makes it more challenging to become involved in youth programs. More and more school/sports activities are happening on Wed. night, making it difficult for some kids to even make it to confirmation.
- What we value—Very evident that OFLC is welcoming and inclusive. Ministries such as Nourishing Hope, Christian Education for all ages, and outreach programs demonstrate this. OF has been welcoming to many groups such as Boy Scouts and MOPS

### **Ministry Tasks:**

- In the experience of a couple at our table, not all pastors see pastoral care as part of their ministry, but the consensus of our group feels this should be a priority for a pastor
- At OFLC, lay leaders (Nori) go to homes and administer communion
- Question raised about pre-marital counseling/care—is that considered pastoral care? That would be another important area of ministry
- Gifts desired in our new pastor—sermons should be short and relevant to our daily lives (connect God's truth and contemporary issues), sense of humor, and develop connections with youth (ability to relate to all ages)
- It's a given that a pastor would be Christ-centered/spiritual
- Being a strong administrator is certainly important, but not as high a priority as one who is compassionate and approachable