

Challenge Two: Refocus Vision

"What did we learn?"

Congregations were originally founded in a unique contextual moment. In many cases, the initial vision has long since faded or rarely been revisited and reshaped. As an end result, an unintended feedback loop has been created that recycles previous programs but with few accommodations for different results. Intentional effort to discern God's call to create fresh vision for mission and ministry, by asking what did we learn, can break the loop and create new or refreshed vision. The focus in this gathering will be to discern a vision statement that will guide the church's planning and focus for the next months and year.

Quick Start Steps: Refocus Vision

- Schedule 2 to 2 ½ hour event with session members and other leaders of the church.
 - *Pastor/moderator may serve as the facilitator or an outside person maybe invited to facilitate.*
 - *This can be done on a zoom meeting or in person (preferred). It may lose some energy if it is hybrid.*

Part 1

- Distribute Dwelling in the Word and take 15 minutes to Dwell together.
- Distribute or display the picture of the Rose
- Distribute the Rose worksheet. The facilitator will also use a white board or large paper set up like the Rose Worksheet to collect the conversation.
- What did we learn from Challenge One: What is the One Thing We can Do Now? (no more than 15 minutes)
 - Using the Rose Worksheet Share ideas and brainstorm "What would be the flower or bloom of our Challenge One?"
 - Continue with "What would be the thorns of our Challenge One?" and "What are the buds of our Challenge One?"
 - Record responses on White board or large paper.
- Take a short break – Instruct the participants that after the break they will again be asked "What did we learn from the Pandemic Season?" (this should be at least 30 minutes)

Part 2

- Again, use the Rose worksheet to collect the conversation. (do not rush ideas or brainstorming or conversations)
 - What were the blooms of our work and ministry during the pandemic?
 - What were the thorns of our work and ministry during the pandemic?
 - What were the buds of our work and ministry during the pandemic?(facilitators – ideas and stories about the work/ministry of the pandemic may end up on three areas)
- Take a break – let people review the lists

Part 3

- Distribute the "God has a Vision" handout
- Using Mutual Invitation invite each person to answer the following: *God has a future for this congregation over this next year (and beyond). Using the information we have shared where do you see, dream, or believe we can go in mission and ministry over the next three months, six months and year.*
Capture the comments on large paper or white board
- After everyone has shared ask what are patterns, commonalities, differences. Where do you resonate? Is there one thing or more that keeps emerging.
- Narrow the comments to 1 or 2 ideas.
- Take a short break

Part 4

- Using Mutual Invitation what is one thing you can do over the next 3 months, next 6 months and next year. (see example sheet)
- Agree on who will write up the comments. Plan to take time at the next Session meeting to write up action steps for the ideas.