

## Town Hall Meeting & Planning Retreat

February 15, 2020

Rush United Methodist Church

The Rev. Todd R. Goddard, Pastor

### Welcome (8:30 – 8:40 am)

- Light a candle and let us pray ...
- Introductions
- Identify working table groups, with a leader and a reporter
- Select a timekeeper

### Opening Devotions and Song (8:40 – 8:50 am)

- “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.” - John 15:1-8
- The Summons, by John L. Bell & Graham Maule  
*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

### 1. Who are We? List the “core values” of our community of faith. (8:50 – 9:05 am)

- Definition: *Core Values* are the guiding principles that dictate behavior and action. Values underlie our work, how we interact with each other, and which strategies we employ to fulfill our mission. Core values are the basic elements of how we go about our work.
- What are the top four or five core values of the Rush United Methodist Church? (First by table groups, then by the whole group)

### Song (9:05 – 9:10 am)

- The Summons, by John L. Bell & Graham Maule  
*Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?*

*Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

## **2. What is the Purpose of Our Faith Community?** (9:10 – 9:25 am)

- Definition: *Mission Statement* (What You Do): A one-sentence statement describing the reason an organization or program exists and used to help guide decisions about priorities, actions, and responsibilities.
- What is our reason to exist? (first by table groups, then by larger group)
- How does our Mission Statement help guide decisions?

## **Devotions and Song** (9:25 – 9:30 am)

- “Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” - Mark 12:29-31
- The Summons, by John L. Bell & Graham Maule
  - Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?*
  - Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?*
  - Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,*  
*and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?*

## **Break** (9:30 – 9:35 am)

## **3. Ministry Context** (9:35 – 10:00 am)

- Rush UMC ExecutiveInsite Report, available from the church website, Resources -> Documents. [https://12debe72-1d4e-0856-8d70-1dc6cb483b8e.filesusr.com/ugd/4e33e3\\_c43fadfe51994ff1b50910c9d792f14a.pdf](https://12debe72-1d4e-0856-8d70-1dc6cb483b8e.filesusr.com/ugd/4e33e3_c43fadfe51994ff1b50910c9d792f14a.pdf)
- Presentation of The ExecutiveInsite Report
- Table discussion, listing top 5 insights
- Tables report

**4. SWOT Analysis** (10:00 – 11:15 am)

- Definition: *SWOT analysis* enables organizations to identify *both internal and external* influences. SWOT's primary objective is to help organizations develop a full awareness of all the factors, positive and negative, that may affect strategic planning and decision-making.

<p>Strengths: what are our Strengths?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal</li> <li>• External</li> </ul>	<p>Weaknesses: what are our Weaknesses?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal</li> <li>• External</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities: what are our Opportunities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal</li> <li>• External</li> </ul>	<p>Threats: what are our Threats?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal</li> <li>• External</li> </ul>

**Devotions and Song** (11:15 – 11:20 am)

- Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” - Matthew 28:19-20
- The Summons, by John L. Bell & Graham Maule
  - Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?*
  - Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?*
  - Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?*

**5. Goal Setting** (11:20 – 11:55 am)

- Given our Core Values, Mission, Ministry Context, and SWOT Analysis, what reasonable goals can be set for our community of faith?

	Ministry Action Plan		
Goals Areas	Measurable Goal	Strategy (How will we achieve our goals?)	Implementation / Tactics (A planned action to achieve a specific end)
Disciple Making			

Worship			
Mission / Outreach			
Buildings & Grounds			
Stewardship & Finance			
Lay Leadership Administration			
Lay Leadership Development			
Lay Education			
Pastoral Leadership			
District / Conference Partnerships			
Other?			

**Devotions and Song (11:55 – 12:00 noon)**

- On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” - John 7:37-38
- The Summons, by John L. Bell & Graham Maule  
*Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
 Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
 In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

**Benediction and blessings!**