



## **GUIDING TEAM EXPECTATIONS**

The Guiding Team is the conduit through which the congregation as a whole is invited to participate in this process. They will receive coaching on how to engage other people in their congregations throughout process. A coach will be available to help them answer questions that arise and address challenges they face in the process. The Guiding Team should be made up of around 4-7 participants.

### **A participant on the Guiding Team should have the following characteristics/skills**

- Ability to work in cooperation with a team
- Willingness to experiment with new activities and behavior as the process will invite
- Ability and willingness to personally invite others in the congregation to participate at different points in the process
- Commitment to participate in all 3 trainings as well as all meetings the Guiding Team schedules to work on each step
- Guiding Team members together represent the diversity of their congregation in terms of age, ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status
- Commitment to respond to communication related to the process (i.e. email, phone calls)
- Willingness to personally practice some of the spiritual habits integral to the process (i.e. Dwelling in the Word, Listening to Neighborhood)
- Demonstrated leadership ability in some other context
- Commitment to enter the process as a learner without a particular agenda other than to follow God's leading for the congregation

## **TIME COMMITMENT**

Three one-day trainings, approximately 5-6 hours each. ([Visit milwaukee.synod.org/faithful-innovation](http://milwaukee.synod.org/faithful-innovation))

On average one meeting per month with members of your Guiding Team.

This meeting will be the space where the planning for the execution of each of the steps in this process will take place. Meetings will include the participation of your congregational coach.

Time and place will be determined by the team.

Time spent recruiting and training other participants in the congregation throughout the process (i.e. Guiding Team members will train other people in the congregation how to Dwell in the Word, interview other church members, and walk their neighborhoods with a spiritual focus). Guiding Team members will also practice these things themselves.

# Guiding Team Initial Meeting



**Welcome to the journey.** This process is about connecting more deeply with God, one another, and your neighbors. This document is a guide to your initial congregational team gathering, prior to the kickoff training.

## Open with Prayer (2 mins)

*Use the following prayer or another one you find suitable:*

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

– *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Evening Prayer*

## Introductions (15-20 mins)

Share your name, when and how you came to this church, and why you are here on this team.

## Sharing of Gifts (20 mins)

What would people who know you well say that you do well?

## Organizing for the Journey (15 mins)

Choose a lay member of the team to serve as the Point Person. This person will be the primary organizational coordinator and communication hub of your congregation's Guiding Team, responsible for setting meeting dates, communicating with team members, and keeping the team moving in its work. Your team will have the assistance of a coach who will be accompanying your team, supporting you, encouraging you, answering questions that may arise, and holding you accountable. If your congregation has a pastor, they will be walking with you in this process to help you reflect theologically on what you are discovering but they are not responsible for managing the work.

Make sure everyone has on their calendar the three upcoming Sunday training days with the other congregations.

## Close with Prayer (2 mins)

*Use the following prayer or another one you find suitable:*

Draw us together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission in the world, and together witnessing your love wherever you will send us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. - *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

## Sending

Go in Peace!