

## MISSION-MINDED QUESTIONS FOR CONGREGATIONS

### *(Communal Discernment of God in our life)*

*(Communal discernment usually begins with personal discernment – so a very appropriate give and take discussion should look something like this: “What I think I hear God saying is...” followed immediately with “What are you hearing...?” then listen for communal consensus)*

#### **In discovering God in our purpose and ministry**

1. What in the world is God doing?
2. What are we hearing God call us to do?
3. Where are we seeing God in this situation?
4. God has something to say to us here. What do you believe God’s word is here?
5. What is making God smile in this situation?
6. What is breaking God’s heart right now?
7. What is God dreaming about?
8. What are we hearing from our biblical story that can inform the work we are currently about?
9. What key question(s) is God asking us today?
10. What issue(s) does God want us to talk about today?
11. What challenge(s) does God call us to tackle today?
12. What are you hearing God say to us in our current situation?
13. What is our purpose and how is it shaping what we are being called to do?
14. Where is God calling us to focus our resources?
15. Based on our purpose and what we are hearing God say, what are the most important things we should be doing this year?
16. What is God’s purpose for the church? This congregation?
17. What difference does God want this congregation to make in the lives of: its members/disciples? and or in its surrounding community?
18. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? How does someone become one? What helps someone grow as a follower of Jesus? How do the answers to these questions help share our purpose and ministry?
19. How is God active in the world today? What role does God see individual faith communities playing?
20. Who does God want us to see? What is God’s dream for those people?
21. What does God do through us?

#### **In our time in study and worship**

1. What is God doing in this story? (scripture)

2. What is God saying to me in this story? (scripture)
3. What is God saying to us through this story? (scripture)
4. What are we hearing God ask us to do through this story? (scripture)
5. How is God surprising us in this story? (scripture)
6. What scriptures are foundational to our understanding of what a congregation is supposed to be and do?
7. What theological concepts and understandings impact who we are and what we are called to do?

#### **In evaluating purpose and ministry**

1. What are we doing that is consistent with our purpose/ministry?
2. What should we stop doing that isn’t consistent with our purpose/ministry?
3. What should we keep doing, but do differently, to be more aligned with our purpose/ministry?
4. Where is God calling us to focus our resources? Is it different from our current focus of resources?
5. What do we need in resources to accomplish what we are hearing God call us to do?

#### **In discovering what God did to shape your history and ministry in the past?**

1. What might the God questions have been in 1855, 1960, 2000 etc.?
2. What actions/ministry occurred in response to these questions.
3. What God question(s) will shape us in the next 5 years?
4. When in the past do you recall a moment/incident when you experienced this congregation really being church? Really being connected to God. What would be happening in this place if that were the typical experience?
5. Recall an instance in this or a previous congregation where it listened for, discerned and responded to God’s calling. What was the experience like