

Intro:

- Purpose – help us consider our congregation’s culture and see what we might change to better fulfil our purpose and glorify God
- Not recording everything said, but looking to capture the big picture of what is said
- 100% confidential – no one gets to hear who said what. If you hear your words about our church in a subsequent discussion, it will be because several folks said basically the same thing

Cover these *Intro* points at the beginning, before you really get into it.

For all the questions, ask follow-up questions for clarity and wherever your discerning curiosity takes you...

Opening:

(Pair Share & then Group Discussion) What are a few things that you appreciate about who we are as a congregation?

This question and prayer are intended to help us start in a healthy State of Mind, i.e., from a “How else can we glorify our God?” mindset vs. a “What’s wrong with us?” one.

Use these points of appreciation as part of an opening prayer of thanksgiving.

Questions:

1. What are your thoughts about how things get done here - points either positive or negative?

“How things get done here” is a colloquialism for “the congregation’s culture.” Ask follow-up questions accordingly, especially to explore thinking behind behaviors, e.g., “why do you suppose we do that?”

Summarize & then ask: “Is that about right?”

This is a framing opportunity to restate what you heard using a common language that is beginning to develop from these discussions and will be formally shared in the EXPLORE Summary Presentation.

2. As you consider how we typically go about equipping the saints, reaching the lost, and serving others in our community, are there any attributes – not

“Attributes” is used because this question is about BEING, not DOING. You may need to restate this question to clarify that point.

programs or tasks, but attributes – that we could either amplify/add or diminish/delete to improve or help those efforts? How would you see those helping?

3. (Optional Framing Question) Summarize what you're thinking, and then ask, "What do you think about that?"

If you already have some FROM | To targets in mind, this is where you get to do a little framing. This is done AFTER the previous questions so as to not bias the responses.

4. (Optional Focusing Question) If you could change just one thing about who our congregation is, what would it be?

You'll be showing this data in bar chart form in your report out. Sometimes folks can't give just one! If they give two items, then later on when charting this, each gets ½ point, and so forth.