

OFFERING

Today, I invite you to consider that today is the day for us all to give of yourself generously, so that together, we can do more to show God's love to a needy world.

DISCUSSION#4

**How do you tell the story of what giving gifts means to you as a congregation?
Do you inspire generosity or project scarcity?**

SENDING

Mission and Challenge

Discussion#5

What does it mean to be a strong small church?

Look back at your list of three things you wrote down as we started. How do you share these values with others? Is there any you would change?

SENDING SONG

One: Go! Go from this place and be witnesses to the resurrected Christ. Go! Go to kneel and wash the feet of those with whom you serve. Go! Go to bring comfort to those who have found no comfort. Go! Go to share the everlasting love of Christ to all of those who cross your path. Go! And carry with you the Holy Spirit who empowered you at your baptism, the love of Christ as found in bread and wine made new, and the strength and wisdom of the Creator God. Go! And make disciples for the transformation of the world.

All: Alleluia and Amen!

(Debra Tyree UMC Global Ministries)

Giving: umcgiving.org.

Ministry Matters: ministrymatters.com

Lewis Center for Leadership : Leading Ideas offers tips for small membership churches churchleadership.com

Discipleship Ministries: Many articles on small churches and resources
umcdiscipleship.org

Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation 2017-2020 Small Membership Church ...
By General Board Of Discipleship

Be a part of the conversation, GNJAC Commission on Small Church Membership:
umcpastorgina@comcast.net

We're glad that you are here. We pray that you had a meaningful experience today.

DOXOLOGY



SMALL CHURCH WORSHIP

Name three things that your church is known for, that you value or keeps you coming to your particular setting.

WELCOME

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Leader: What do you bring before the Lord this day?

People: We bring our hopes and our dreams to the Lord

Leader: What do you seek?

People: We seek peace for our weary souls.

Leader: You will find it in this place, for this is the house of the Lord.

People: Open our hearts and our spirits, O Lord, to hear your words of comfort and peace.

AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we have come to you this day bringing all that we have, our lives, our hopes and dreams, our fears and sorrows. We place these before you in faith and hope, knowing that no matter what has happened you are with us and blessing us. Open our hearts to receive your words and your spirit. Open our lives to the wondrous possibilities for service and joy that you offer to us. Ease our minds and spirits that we may hear the words of encouragement and peace this day. AMEN.

(Nancy C. Townley, Ministry Matters)

DISCUSSION #1

Take a few minutes and talk about what worship means to you?

DISCUSSION#2

How does your sanctuary tell the story of your current congregation?

Are there items in our sanctuaries that no longer express who we are?

TIME OF PRAISE

Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Reader 1: I don't have much to offer.

Reader 2: I don't have much that I can do.

Reader 3: I don't have any gifts.

Reader 1: I don't have many skills that are worth much.

Reader 2: I don't have the great wisdom that will change much.

Reader 3: I don't have the knowledge that will help things to move forward.

Reader 1: My prayers are weak.

Reader 2: My words are inadequate.

Reader 3: My fears overcome my spirit and I can't pray easily

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

(Nancy C. Townley, Ministry)

DISCUSSION#3

How do you prepare for worship each Sunday?
How have you found ways to connect to God in worship during the week?

What keeps you from worshipping?
Each of you has a role in worship, what is yours?

Leader: Let go of your fears. God has given you blessing upon blessing. Know that whatever you have to offer is pleasing to the Lord.

THANKSGIVING

God has given to each one of us such blessings and talents. With joy we bring these gifts to God. You are blessed by God's absolute love for you. Rejoice in that love and find healing and hope. Lord, you have placed before us your wonderful world, with its blessings and its difficulties.

But we sometimes hold back from trusting in these gifts you have given to us. Forgive us when we slide so easily into our fears of inadequacy. Strengthen and encourage us as we move forward in ministry, seeking to be good stewards of all that you have given us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name.

AMEN. (Nancy C. Townley, Ministry)