Leadership Dinner Format and Script

A key component of the campaign is leadership honoring God with their commitment and modeling for the congregation generosity as found in I Chronicles 29. The leadership dinner is a time to bring together the core leadership of the congregation (key elected leaders) to thank them for their leadership and to invite them to lead the congregation by making their commitment. It is important to have the dinner at a location that is special, a member’s home or restaurant with a private room. It is also important to invite the spouses of the elected leaders because they will make their commitment together. The following is an outline for the evening.

* Gathering and fellowship
* Welcome by the Campaign Chairperson and thank the leaders for coming and the leadership they provide to the congregation
* Grace
* The meal
* Prior to desert, the Campaign Chair explains the campaign and why their gift is important. Suggested script for the campaign chairperson.
  + Explanation of the commitment card. Have someone pass out the commitment card. The following is a recommended script to use by the Campaign Chairperson to explain the card and to invite the leaders to make a commitment first to the ministry of our congregation during 2019 and secondly to *The Miracles Everywhere Campaign.*

*On \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our congregation will gather together to celebrate God’s generosity and have the opportunity to bless God with their generosity. One of the things our congregation will consider is what we as leaders do. That is why we have gathered here this evening, to lead our congregation in making their commitments. As a group of leaders, our gift will set the pace for others.*

*We and the leaders of 580 other United Methodists Churches in the Greater New Jersey Area are supporting the ministry of our congregations and The Miracles Everywhere Campaign. Bishop Schol, the bishop of The United Methodist Church in the New Jersey area wanted me to share with you that your first gift is to the local church. As he has said at the start of this campaign, the local congregation is the primary mission of the church and to make your commitment first to your congregation’s ministry. Bishop Schol said no other commitment you make today should diminish your commitment to the ministry of our congregation. In fact, Bishop John and Beverly Schol and conference leadership have made their commitments for local church ministry and in addition to these commitments have done the following:*

* + - *Bishop John and Beverly Schol committed $42,500 to be given over three years*
    - *Conference leaders committed $640,000 to be given over the next three years*

*This totals more than $682,500 toward our $5,200,000 goal.*

*On the second side of the commitment card, you will see a series of circles. That indicates giving per week. I would like for you to find the circle that is closest to your present giving and Bishop Schol and I would like you to consider widening your circle of generosity by one or two circles. Your generosity will make a difference in our ministry.*

*On the front side of the card, you will find a place for your information and directly under that a place to make your commitment to our congregation’s ministry.*

*Beneath the commitment to our congregation’s ministry is a place for you to make a commitment and/or gift to The Miracles Everywhere Campaign. This campaign will raise $5.2 million dollars through generous commitments of United Methodists throughout the Greater New Jersey area with students, community mission, hurricane recovery and the launching of new congregations and Hope Centers in Tanzania.*

*You will also see a place to indicate that you would like to consider leaving the church in your will. This type of generosity will provide a legacy for years to come.*

*Once you have completed the card we invite you to bring it forward and place it in the basket here in the front. I invite our pastor to pray before we make our commitments.*

* + The pastor prays
  + People make their commitments
  + When people come forward, the pastor and campaign chair may stand at the basket to greet and thank people.
  + Desert is served
  + The gifts from the evening are announced. You should announce the number of households that made a commitment, the total amount committed to the church’s ministry, and the total amount committed to *The Miracles Everywhere Campaign.*

Thank everyone for their generous commitments and ask them to pray for the congregation and other congregations that will be making commitments.