**Experiencing God Today**

* Other people
* God’s insight
* Clear understanding
* Discernment
* Hope
* Exchange regarding our differences
* Thorough communication
* Dialogue
* I hope to experience God through the comradery with one another
* I hope to experience God by developing a deeper understanding of how we can serve God through our differences
* Hope to see God in us as we learn
* Experience God with an open heart, Experience God in love
* In my love and in my friends
* With open eyes and open hearts
* Listening ear to God’s word
* In fellowship and conversation
* In our exchange in regarding our differences
* Through others
* Sharing joys, challenges, in CRCC ministry together
* To be blessed and to help our church more
* Fellowship
* To get to know people in my church better
* For God’s direction for what I might think is necessary
* Courage
* To learn about other cultures today and find joy in them
* Revelation of something new to equip me as part of the Body of Christ
* Feel God’s presence in our discussions
* Draw circle wider
* Peace
* I hope God will provide me with greater wisdom and do good in our community
* Be relaxed
* Togetherness
* Learning and feeling empathy
* Experiencing greater awareness of God and more thankful in all things
* God’s loving kindness to all gathered
* Peaceful, lighthearted certainty of purpose
* Better understanding of God’s love in all of us
* See God’s desire
* Deeper understanding how to share the love of Jesus to all regardless of race, gender, or social economic level
* God’s reckless love will be upon us and be filled with the hope of God
* God’s goodness and presence, love and peace, inspiration and wisdom.
* Practice
* To be blessed to help our church more

**Joys and Concerns**

* Future health of our church as our congregation ages
* A new beginning with a new pastor
* My family
* Discernment
* Unity acceptance
* Healing
* Forgiveness
* Joy - Power of modern medicine
* Being whole again
* Missouri family lost
* The spirit of worship
* Receptiveness and openness
* Our denomination
* Our country
* New pastor molds our congregation together
* Willingness to serve God
* Distraction
* So we can better relate to one another
* What God is doing in my life
* Joy - A congregation to change and cross cultural appointment
* Thankful for love
* People understand that God blesses all
* Fellowship
* Direction of our country
* Spread the love of God to all
* That the church will grow
* Decision making
* Peace among all people
* Increase our spiritual awareness of God
* Needs of hurting and broken
* Lifting up praise
* God’s work in us
* Reuniting of immigrant families
* Revitalization
* God continues to bless church, congregation and community
* New day with new opportunities
* Those missing from church
* Political leaders
* Privilege of serving in ministry
* Joy of being a part of a multicultural congregation and community
* Reaching all people
* Healing of the church

**Qualities of a Cross Cultural Minister**

* Centurion was faithful and believed
* Lived with others
* Acceptance
* Compassion
* Full of Faith
* Hospitality
* Openness to reach others
* Hospitality
* Compassion
* Respect
* No prejudice
* No barrier
* Non-defensive
* Open
* New vision
* Full of Holy Spirit
* Full of faith
* Full of belief
* Full of God’s inspiration
* Conviction to share with everyone
* Surrender to the Holy Spirit
* Questions
* Seeing what God is already doing in a new context
* Paul’s message reached Lydia’s heart after he and “party” reached out to women
* Sharing of good news
* Be willing to be obedient to God’s Teaching
* Engagement and teaching
* Willing
* He was glad and encouraged them
* Willingness to serve and to listen
* Great and patient teaching, wise
* He went to where the Samaritans would be
* To stay with people
* Obedient
* Holy Spirit led
* Spread God’s love
* Young and old
* Strong and faithful
* Healer
* Faithfulness to seek place and pray
* Exploring benefits of not making quick assumptions
* No prejudice
* No barrier

**Prayers for the church**

* Listening ears and hearts
* Always be one family
* That people will believe that we are representatives on earth
* I pray our diversity becomes our true strength
* God is a God of second chances
* To extend our mission to bring our community closer to Christ
* Prayer for church acceptance for all, unity and amazing love
* We continue God’s commandment to go forth and make disciples
* Continue to grow through inclusion
* Listening ears and hearts
* That it finds its way in the ever changing world
* Acceptance of differences as we seek to serve Christ
* Continue to grow through inclusion
* Faithfulness in God’s word
* Better understanding of differences
* Overflowing with God’s love and justice
* Become one body the church
* Live in diversity in unity through peace together
* Church has a positive influence on all
* Church would be a beacon of hope and stability
* Grow in number, strength and impact
* Unity with space for all of God’s children
* Working together in harmony
* Joy overflow every worship
* Wisdom to know their needs
* The church to be inclusive and tolerant of all
* Unite as one
* No separation of all of God’s people for we are all the same in God’s sight
* Reaching out to more friends
* Guide us in wisdom
* Reaching out across differences

**Opportunities of CRCC**

* Growing in knowledge and appreciation
* Learning form others
* Learning new ways, New ideas
* Vision
* Inclusion
* Expanding experience
* Teaching opportunities
* New foods, New recipes and ways to cook
* Growing our congregation to larger diversity
* Escape comfort zone
* Become more inclusive to reflect changing demographics in our area
* Learning to think differently to share thoughts and hopes
* Unlimited opportunity to bring God’s hope and grace
* Stretching personal perspective
* Understanding other cultures
* Being stretched ideologically and viewpoint
* Reaching the community in different ways
* Develop new ministries
* Expanding your outlook on the world, life, and growth
* Change and acceptance
* Creativity is derived from diversity
* Opportunity to expand our notions of God from a feminine perspective
* Need more people of color in pivotal leadership positions
* Deeper encounters with God
* Walking together in our lengthy journey
* Make new friends
* Teach next generation how to live together with different people
* Widen our world and include new ideas
* Reach out to the community
* Improved relationships
* Transformed community
* Attracting new people to worship

**Why CRCC**

* To keep up with our world
* An awakening challenge
* To show connection with others
* Need of the community for changed acceptance
* Convictions could be stronger
* Help me to grow to see God’s vision
* Time to grow
* Meeting need for revitalization
* To see the kingdom of God
* God’s big plan is come to the table
* Because God want us to do CRCC ministry
* More open, more opportunity more learning
* God know mankind’s heart and tendency to be too comfortable, complacent and exclusive
* Matching gifts and graces with the community
* It is vital to diversify our church to include everyone
* Its inevitable
* Because Jesus said step out of the boat
* A new beginning to broaden minds, the future
* So that the church, God’s church can be a part of the change
* Because God says so
* To be blessed and bless others
* To reach out to all people
* Heal our country
* Connect with others
* Because we need this in our diverse world
* The church needs a church and I’m a pastor
* Because the bible tells us so
* Challenge our congregation to step out in faith

**Challenges of CRCC**

* Focus of importance in ministry is likely different
* Acceptance / Learning new ways (2)
* Learning to appreciate differences
* Fear of the unknown (saying something inappropriate and/or offending another) (2)
* Self-centeredness
* Close-minded (4)
* Misunderstanding/lack of understanding of culture/customs (5)
* Language barriers (literally, figuratively) (8)
* Resistance and hostility towards growth
* Not knowing very much
* Adjusting to changes
* Hesitation in communication because of misconceptions
* Understanding other points of view
* False assumptions
* Fear of change
* Loss of members of the congregation
* Remembering that “my way” may not be the right way
* Create opportunities through barriers
* Different expectations that may be based on stereotypes (3)
* Different opinions
* Temptation to conform to the majority race/culture
* Existing culture
* Change
* Getting to know each other
* Not acknowledging differences from the beginning
* Inherent racism
* Trusting the process

**Outcome of CRCC Encounter**

* Baptizing whole family (2)
* Expansion of understanding
* Praise to God
* Jesus transformed the Samaritan woman’s life and she used the info to help transform others (2)
* Inviting others into our homes
* Experiencing/being a witness to Jesus’ healing of whole family (2)
* The Eunuch was baptized / converted
* All are blessed (3)
* Possibilities
* Miracles
* Beloved
* The Good News was shared (2)
* We had the first Christians (2)
* Evangelism
* Centurion’s servant was healed
* Acceptance
* A lesson on not judging is learned
* Change of perspective (2)
* Change of heart and mind
* They went out and found new people and went to land of Canaan
* Love
* Re-start
* Growth
* Acceptance of and hospitality towards others
* Peter’s eyes were opened
* Many became Believers
* Generosity
* Unity
* Lydia and her household became a vital congregation
* The queen acknowledged the wisdom of Solomon and rewarded him with many gifts
* Soul saving
* Being humble and having faith

**Word or Thought on CRCC**

* God (no distinction among believers) vs. people (who are you to be among us)
* Jesus has no limit in healing and caring and saving regardless of ones condition
* Centurion / Servant: different authorities
* World-wide
* Breaking down socially established barriers
* Stranger, going to a new place, spreading the Gospel
* Fear of the unknown
* Salvation is from the Jews but not exclusive to the Jews
* Prejudice
* At times of need we turn to God. He answers all without regard
* Outsider from Israel had greater faith than those who were descendants of Abraham
* Reflects the world
* People make assumptions on first impressions (2)
* To make a change. Immigrant traveling from his country to another
* Blessings are reciprocal
* Never too late to learn about new cultures and people
* God gave
* Only among Jews. . . but then some
* Jews spread The Word
* Spirited
* He is blessed and opportunity to learn
* Go out into the world and be among the people
* If there were no CRCC ministry, then there would be no Christians (There would’ve only been Jews)
* Kept expanding to cultures unlike where they started
* Breaking old laws
* Shock / surprise (2)
* The queen did not believe that Solomon could be so wealthy and wise and had to see if for herself
* Teaching
* Communication
* We may know very little about the people we are called to serve
* All can be baptized in Christ
* Beautiful encounter
* Expectation / Difference in expectations
* Jesus shares everything we need to know
* Baptize and grow
* Lightbulb moment for the apostles
* Understanding and acceptance (3)
* If I am now a Christian, then accept me enough to accept an invitation to my house
* People from different continents
* Diversity rules
* Believers criticized
* Relationship
* God allowed the queen of Sheba to observe wisdom and knowledge in someone of a different race/culture
* We are all the Gentiles
* The Lord opened

**Learnings from Cultural Orientation Exercise (your own cultural location)**

* Identify more with the dominant culture
* Diversity of culture
* That we can be blessed by change 137 years in
* Confirming what I thought and felt
* I know a lot about me
* We are the church – we must expand and grow!
* I’ve been appointed to a great church
* I need to listen more; find another word other than “tolerate”
* Diversity is even within an individual
* Vast differences
* I am more emotionally expressive and hierarchical as I was raised in the black church tradition
* More flexible to understanding of time
* The group that’s here – we are not too far apart
* Quite extreme
* Relationship focused and harmony (2)
* I already knew it
* I am in the middle (3)
* My own cultural orientation is diverse because of my diverse upbringing
* Cultural orientation is move to the right, more like the south
* Only proof that others are not like me and don’t think like me
* Need to be mindful of my thinking about others
* We are much alike in our culture
* Double talk
* Talking as though there is no difference
* Revelation of self
* There are explanations for the reasons I do things
* All over the map (2)
* Mostly white culture
* My churches are more monochromic, egalitarian and emotionally restrained
* Help to guide my church to the center
* We are at various points on the spectrum
* Most all the same
* We have a great place to plant (sow)
* Our congregation seems to be very similar
* There are vast cultural differences (2)
* We could use more exposure
* The five of us covered the gamut
* Task-focused
* Where we are and how far we need to go to meet in the middle or to get along with our differences. Appreciate each other
* So different
* Diverse
* Wesley’s cultural location is diverse as its people
* I am sure that only a few think the way I do that the conversation is important
* My church is very stoic
* Manageable
* More similar than expected
* Help other to be more understanding and be willing to move
* Even though we are different, we can work together
* Church is more like traditional US culture
* So far, wonderful
* A slight mix of cultures

**Influence of culture in ministry**

* The CRCC minister is willing to adhere to God’s instructions
* By being myself and sharing that with others
* A lot. It opens up possibilities of knowing people
* You take time to get to know your congregation – makes you more aware
* Listen to what people are expressing
* Refresh
* Quietly
* My diversity in upbringing gives me the opportunity to see the diversity in others
* Leadership
* Help serve as a voice for either party to bring congregation together
* Can sometimes isolate me from the group
* Need to be more open-minded
* Directly impacts everything
* It will give us a synergy
* High expectations (monochromatic) of myself and others
* Mindful of others needs as well as my own
* Because of my culture, I minister and relate to others through presence. relationship building and conflict resolution
* Be comfortable with being uncomfortable. Share cultural knowledge. Ask the questions
* The pressure not to be expressive
* Understanding
* I am trying to expand my ability to share
* How I deal with others
* It is too difficult to worry about it. Just accept others as they are and work with it.
* That I often just behave and say what is on my mind, but it might not be appropriate, good or helpful.
* Listen, learn, let go
* Better understand others opinions
* I am more feeling oriented than task oriented, and don’t get as much done as I should. But I can relate to and have empathy for others.
* Helps me to try to build relationships
* Help surface differences with vital congregations

**Called to be a part of God’s Work**

* To be open to what God asks of me
* Following His calling and scripture and letting others know about His grace and love
* Embrace each other as who we are
* Never forget the pastor needs to be fed
* Take time to listen, learn and understand (2)
* Through presence, reconciliation, justice work and prophetic preaching
* Finding new ways to spread the Good News in our community
* I am blessed by God and needed to make disciples for Jesus Christ
* Continue the conversation
* To teach others what I’ve learned today
* Teach, encourage, listen and be yourself
* Support the pastor by learning more about her culture (2)
* Be friendly to everyone who visits
* Be more tolerant and accepting
* Have a difference view to present from historical culture of the church
* Help those in need no matter who they are or where they are
* Be more involved in missions
* Working on my ability to spread God’s word
* Serving in a cross-cultural ministry
* To love everybody and learn different cultures
* Reaching out to others
* I feel God’s call to promote harmony and tolerance
* Called to learn more and be more open
* I have had an exceptionally gifted life – need to pay it forward
* Being part of our new cross-cultural appointment
* The Stephen Ministry to help others who are hurting
* Seeing is believing
* Think and pray to reach out better to my acquaintances outside church now that we have a place to welcome them
* Pray for God’s Word to guide
* There is diversity of cultural dimensions and orientations. To celebrate this diversity is part of the mission of the church.

**Learnings for our CRCC Context**

* Nothing
* Pastor has to stay to teach us and since we are slow; needs to stay a long time
* Curiosity and questions need to be met with active listening and openness (2)
* Engagement is key
* Evangelism
* Welcome to all walks of life
* If you believe, anything is possible no matter who you are
* Honest with any feelings and thoughts
* Acceptance of all people’s thoughts and ideas – open mind and open heart
* Non-judgmental
* Every moment can be THE moment to transform others and show God
* To learn from others that are different (2)
* That God can be found in the middle or center
* God is leading
* Do we reflect our community?
* Shared ministry
* God is alive and active in various cultures and contexts
* Don’t hesitate to reach out (Acts 16:11-15)
* The Lord opened His heart
* That we are different but can be the same in spirit
* My church is a worshiper of God as well
* Praising God for moving forward with a new passage
* “Jesus’ Story” is greater than cultural difference
* As I move to a new place God will bless my family
* God’s love is everywhere for all people
* Do we feel superior to thou outside the church?
* We need to be open to the Gentiles
* Bring our thoughts and concerns to Jesus in honesty
* Ready to move
* All are equal as Christians
* Inclusion
* Acceptance
* God gave us all gifts (2)
* God has a plan
* Has been God’s will always
* That we have to be more willing to go out and seek people who are different from ourselves
* We can accept others being different than ourselves because God has given to all the repentance that leads to life
* Anyone can be saved
* God’s grace is blind to status and ethnicity. Only sees faithfulness

**One Take Away**

* Supporting the pastor as well as church community
* Understanding and tolerance
* Be mindful of culture within a culture
* Conversation and dialogue on difficult conversations can be fun
* Learning all the subtle ways people are different
* CR/CC is here to stay and growing. We need to embrace change (2)
* An awareness of how different we are even though we’re so alike
* Challenge my congregation to start a small group with church leaders and anyone else interested
* CRCC ministry is about sharing our lives
* Listening and sharing with others with openness (2)
* Be conscious of culture / subtle differences
* Realize how the bottom of the iceberg affects us more than I realized
* Conversation, not assumption
* Do our missions
* Awareness of what culture means
* We must embrace change in order to thrive
* God is still working on us
* Listen more and be more conscious of cultural differences (2)
* Awareness of what culture means
* We must embrace change in order to thrive
* God is still working on us
* Listen more and be more conscious of cultural differences
* Take nothing for granted culturally
* My pastor needs to be fed. There’s more below the surface than above
* The church needs a better understanding about CR/CC ministry (2)
* Be more open-minded
* It’s been God’s plan all along
* Getting to know one another matters

**One or two things to be the bridge**

* Sharing info and the Good News more frequently on different platforms
* Take the time to listen and learn about other cultures
* Commit to being a conduit for the future church
* Communication and conversation
* Open our hearts
* Keep pushing for inclusiveness
* Always working to make safe space
* Love and unite
* Being a bridge for Christ through prophetic presence, preaching and witness
* Through the Stephen Ministry (all of us hurt sometimes)
* I feel called to heal wounds and restore life
* People come first; differences are ok
* Be a mediator with our neighbors
* Continue to stay connected with the community
* Share personal experiences
* Educate about diversity (2)
* Make people feel welcomed
* I can be one more link in the chain to expand God’s Kingdom to others