



## Mission Engagement Ideas

The following mission ideas involve learning about the stories, experiences and gifts of people you don't know. Keep in mind, the purpose of inviting people to lunch or to a church event is not to give them charity, or check a box, but to discover together the ways God is working in and among the different people in your community.

- Think about one of your personal or church mission initiatives. In what ways is the initiative creating mutuality and reciprocity? What are ways those you are “serving” can serve you? How are the gifts and interests of everyone involved being included? Re-evaluate your initiative to identify ways to create mutuality and reciprocity. Everyone, no matter their circumstances, have gifts to share.
- Get to know someone who is different from yourself over coffee or a meal. This could be someone in your church community or someone in the wider community whom you see frequently but tend to pass by. Author and speaker, Elizabeth Lesser, has a challenge called, “Take the Other to Lunch.” She invites people to get to know someone they might have negatively stereotyped over a simple meal. Lesser tells people to start with some ground rules. In her TED Talk on the subject, she says: “Don't persuade, defend or interrupt. Be curious; be conversational; be real. And listen.” Imagine what God might do, if you sent someone an invitation this week. Share your experience with a small group.
- Invite persons who are underrepresented in your community to an event (either virtual or in-person as is appropriate) hosted by your congregation (Movie Night, Art Show, Panel Discussion, open-mic, etc.). If in person, begin the event with a meal, or consider sharing a meal virtually, so people can get to know each other and share their stories. Providing some ice-breaker questions to answer over the meal works great!