

RELATIONAL MEETINGS

Purpose

- To get to know others in our church community.
- To get to know what they are passionate about in their life and in the church.

Time Limit

- 30 to 40 minutes
- Leave without asking for anything.
- If they are interested in finding out more or getting more involved, make an invitation based on THEIR interest.

Ability to Listen

- Most important is your ability to listen and conduct an interactive dialog
- Try to ask questions that encourage the person to talk about what is important to them
- Remember this is not an interview, but a mutual sharing

Three Parts to Relational Meeting

A. Credential and Reason for Meeting

B. Curiosity About Person, Vision, Interests

- Probe but don't pry, respect their space, keep the conversation focused
- This is an opportunity to be curious about the person, their passions, and their story.
- What do you see happening around the church, in their families, in greater DSM?
- How long have they been in the area?
- How long have they been involved in the church?
- What is it like first coming to church, how is it now?
- Why did they get involved and why do they stay involved?
- Why? Why? ... tell me more about that.
- Remember, these questions are just to get the conversation started. You want to try and move beyond these questions to listening for stories that tell you what is important to this person and what makes them tick: What do they value? What are they worried about? Why is this important to them?
- Ask yourself in the middle of the meeting: Is this person sharing "their story" with me? Am I finding out what s/he really cares about? If not, try and share a story that tells what is most important to you, which might encourage the other to tell their own story. Try to be relational, share some of your story and vision.

C. Close

- Summarize what you have learned about the person
- What you will take with you from the meeting
- Consider if there any activities about which to inform the person which might be of interest to them
- Thank them for taking the time to get to know them.

Listen Well

Individual meetings are the most radical tool of community building. It is an art, not a science, and you learn by doing.

Remember it's not just what the other says, but how they say it; how they act; what they don't say!!

People are forced by the task, but moved by relationship.