

## Discover – *New Insights and Increasing Clarity* Stepping Stone Summary Sheet



The Pastor Leadership Team models and invites the congregation/small group into *missional practices and activities*. These help people move from vague questions and unsettledness to increasingly clear questions, conversation, and understanding of Christ’s mission in their changing contexts for mission.

<p><b>Initial Questions</b> - In this stepping-stone, holy unsettledness moves to tangible questions and <u>the ability to begin to describe current reality</u> and glimpses of the future. It is the glimpses of the future or new missional paradigms that begin to generate questions. In this stepping-stone, we are beginning to immerse the congregation in conversation, worship, missional practices, and exercises that explore what it looks like to discern, live into, and embody the concerns and passion of Christ.</p>	<p><b>Initial Path Forward</b> - There are multiple combinations of missional practices, exercises, and resources the Pastor Leadership Team can utilize to begin moving deeper into the holy unsettledness of this stepping-stone. There is no specific order or timing to be followed. The Pastor Leadership Team is encouraged to consider the initial questions, missional practices, and activities listed in this summary sheet, thoughtfully and prayerfully (<b>bold</b> typed are more strongly suggested).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How are we doing as a leadership team? Are we feeling tired, energized? What adjustments do we need to make so the burden and challenges of leadership are more equally shared?</li> <li>- How do we continue to recognize and express through our leadership the call to slow down and create space to encounter God in relationship with one another?</li> <li>- How can we infuse existing activities in the congregation with missional intent by utilizing the missional practices or creating new ones that call us into the sacred space of relationships and encounter?</li> <li>- In Christian Education or Small Groups, what should we study together to help us go deeper and to open our imagination to God’s future for us as disciples and congregation?</li> <li>- How do we begin to discover our context for mission? How do we hear the stories of those in our neighborhoods who</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review congregational activities and ministries</li> <li>- <b>Review and implement “Framing the Essential Questions”</b></li> <li>- <b>Review and implement “Facilitating Periodic Feedback Meetings”</b></li> <li>- <b>Utilize “How We Got Here” discussion resource</b></li> <li>- Consider missional practices that help discover context</li> <li>- Request and review Percept Study</li> <li>- Invite leaders of local ministry and service agencies</li> <li>- <b>Initiate study groups/Christian Education based on “Suggestions for Christian Ed or Small Group Study” or “The First Three Months – Getting Started with the Congregation”</b></li> </ul>

<p>suffer spiritually and physically?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How do our questions change as a result of our encounter with our contexts on an ongoing basis? What is God up to in our neighborhoods?</li> <li>- How are our understandings opening up as a leadership team? How do we create opportunities to stay in conversation with the congregation as we move through this process?</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Note: There is more detailed information on each activity suggestion in the LCM Field Guide Overview on pages 21-23.</i></b></p>
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## Milestones

Milestones are indicators of progress. They help the Pastor Leadership Team gauge how they are moving through the missional process. Every congregation is different. This is not a race but a long journey in the same direction. Here are some things to look for:

- During times of conversation and group missional practices members who don't ordinarily speak are beginning to share perspectives and questions. This is an indication of deeper, safer and more authentic space for sharing.
- The Pastor Leadership Team and congregation are beginning to gain clarity on guiding questions. There is a level of confidence in the questions under consideration.
- Individuals in the congregation can describe current reality in contrast to insights that are emerging regarding how they live and embody mission together. The congregation begins to evaluate current actions, attitudes, and norms in light of new understandings.
- 20% of the active members are actively and consistently engaged in missional practices.
- A new level of understanding is emerging about the nature of the journey – a recognition that discernment and missional practices are not steps to move past but are part of the new emerging cultural norms of the congregation.