

An Outside View

Matthew 5: 13-16

**Disciples are called to make a difference
What difference are we called to make?**

My hopes for our time together

- We pray
- We meet
- We discern a mission/vision/ in a form of a compelling story
- We discern next steps (worship, missions, outreach, discipleship) that are low stakes (unless we discern a BHAG)
- We discern a discipleship process
- We discern a leadership training process
- We thrive in God's purpose for us

Review

- Session 1
 - What does a thriving/healthy church look like
 - How do we get there
 - Mission
 - Vision
 - Mission and vision as a story
 - Pathway for discernment
 - Prayer
 - Questions
- Session 2
 - Mission and Vision
 - Values
 - Defining Goals
 - Church Structure
 - Church Schedule
 - Discipleship Pathway
- Session 3
 - Church Life Cycles
 - SWOT Analysis
- Session 4-Demographics
- Session 5-Reaching the Next Generation
- Session 6-Our Story
- Session 7-What If We Could Do Anything?

Opening Thought-"You don't know what you don't know."

Who to meet with?

Who I met with

Councilwomen Jennifer Miller
Councilman Scott Sites
Lori Miller

My Questions

What makes Middletown special?
What are the greatest challenges that Middletown is facing?
What does Middletown need most?
What does Middletown need most from the religious communities in the borough?

Their answers

What makes Middletown special?

- Community supports students/schools when there is a need
- Oldest borough in county
- Hub of all forms of transportation
- Located near major roads
- Our children/youth

What are the greatest challenges that Middletown is facing?

- Parents supporting schools/children in community
- Communications
- Lack of newspaper
- Helping 0-5 year olds and their parents get the children ready for school
- Being kind
- Loneliness
- People living paycheck to paycheck
- 60% of people living in borough live in rentals
- Water lease
- Lonely children

What does Middletown need most?

- A better way of communicating information in the community
- Pre-K educational support
- Better accessibility to good childcare
- Classes/educational opportunities related to personal finances
- Teach respect
- Being kind
- Community events
- People to get along
- People interested in what is going on (especially in boards and commissions in the borough)

What does Middletown need most from the religious communities in the borough?

- Prayers
- Meet needs in the community

- Meet material needs in community
- Help people really struggling
- Food pantry/Care-a-van
- Support service in the community (example-counseling)
- Support the local schools
- Collaboration with the business community to meet community needs
- Reaching out to youth/children

Other Comments

- People don't want churches to survive

What is going through your mind?

When should we meet again? How would we want to meet?

Homework: Bring a mission/vision statement (or more than one) in the form of a compelling story

Closing Thought

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Being Saved

Good News that the world needs

Being Saved-1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Closing Prayer