

Generosity Strategy Team - 5/22/23 - Minutes

- Opening Devotion and Discussion - The Grace of Giving - Bishop Robert Schnase
- Members - Andy Bryan, Phil Estes, David Bennett, Chessey Brenton, *Emily Garetson*, Jill Krogan, Tom Lawrence, Susanne Mertens, *Kim West, Bryan White*
 - Welcome new members (*Kim and Bryan unable to be here*)
 - Members present - Andy Bryan, David Bennett, Emily Garetson, Susanne Mertens
- Discussion of Manchester UMC Theology of Generosity:
 - Giving to something good, something that makes a difference, feels good! (Grace)
 - Financial Discipleship - Generosity is a response to God's goodness
 - Generosity is woven into the life of the congregation, not separate
 - One of five membership promises, with prayers, presence, service, and witness
 - Proportional Giving - Not dollar amount but proportion of income
 - Giving creates community, we invest in one another
- Current Generosity Strategies
 - Discipleship Promise Card - 3x a year in worship
 - Thank you notes to first time givers - Andy
 - Thank you notes to those whose giving increases - Andy
 - Calls to those who have stopped giving - Pastors
 - Quarterly Reports to congregation - Mary / Andy
 - Personal visits with the highest capacity givers - Andy
 - Options for online giving, text-to-give, and recurring giving - Mary
- Strategies that have been suggested
 - Setting up a "giving kiosk" in the lobby - Team is in favor
 - A traditional pledge drive, with periodic notifications from the church office to keep people on track with their pledge - Team is not in favor
 - Publicizing dollar amount giving levels with numbers of households giving at each level so people can compare - Team is not in favor
- Discussions about the term "discipleship" - may be off-putting, too high a standard, people do not consider themselves "disciples"
- Possible adjustment of goal #2 (*Generosity (financial giving) will be understood as Discipleship, not fundraising, by 10% more of the people of the church annually. (Do an annual survey as an interactive part of the annual report. Establish baseline 2022).)*
 - Desire to keep the spirit of the goal, but clarify the words being used
 - Understanding generosity as a sense of "ownership" but with a better word
 - Knowing that the good stuff happening happens because **I** am giving.

Next meeting will be set for August - specific date TBA