

## CONGREGATIONAL IDENTITY EVENT – SEPTEMBER 22

On September 22 from 09:00 to 02:30, the Visioning Team will host a day of “*Discovering our Congregational Identity*”. The planned agenda is:

0900-0910	Welcome/Overview of Day/Prayer
0910-0920	“Who are we?” (Video)
0920-0930	Break into groups
0930-1030	Identifying your Congregation’s Core Values
1030-1230	History Timeline
1230-1300	Lunch
1300-1415	Cultural Heritage Scavenger Hunt
1415-1430	Recap/Introduce Event 2/Prayer

Everyone is encouraged to attend. Nursery will be provided for younger children. Lunch will be provided.

**Identifying Our Core Values** “Values are the commitments that shape the way any organization does its work. If the mission defines what the organization exists to do, values describe the commitments that will be honored in fulfilling that mission. Values can be thought of as the guidelines and boundaries within which the organization will function to accomplish its mission.” <sup>1</sup>

After a brief break for lunch, we will form groups to discuss our core values. Each group will identify three to five values that are an essential part of the life and work of DUMC. We will then prioritize them by their importance and meaning in the life of our church.

We will then use this information to help clarify what is the most important for our congregation.

**HISTORY TIMELINE** “New vision will always flow out of the history of the congregation. It is important to understand the flow of history that brought the congregation to its current state.” <sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> **Discovering God’s Future for Your church**, Lewis Center for Church Leadership | Wesley Theological Seminary | churchleadership.com

<sup>2</sup> **Discovering God’s Future for Your church**, Lewis Center for Church Leadership | Wesley Theological Seminary | churchleadership.com

Beginning at 10:30, we will construct a History Time Line for Dahlgren church. From its earliest beginning with 3 members in 1929 and its first worship service in a new building in 1932 to present day, we will look at significant events that shaped who we are as church today.

Each of you will be asked to mark on a timeline when you entered the life of Dahlgren UMC and to describe what was happening at the church at that time. Studying all of the input provided, we will reflect on key historical events. Then using this information (on the timeline), we will answer the following questions:

1. What are the distinct chapters in our church history?
2. What positive or negative implications are there for moving into the future?
3. What are most significant themes in the history of the church?

**CULTURAL HERITAGE** Identity politics is the process by which one group is pitted against another to gain political advantage, rich vs poor, white vs black, privileged vs non-privileged and so on. Within a church, we strive to do exactly the opposite. We bring people of different backgrounds together as one body unified in Jesus. If we are successful, we will have created our own unique DUMC culture. The purpose of the Cultural Heritage exercise is to try to identify those things that make us unique. What do we hold as our DUMC heritage? When a visitor from another church attends worship, what would they notice that is different from other churches? To try to answer these questions we will have a scavenger hunt, looking for artifacts, rituals, terminology, collective behaviors and whatever else we can come up with that will help us understand our culture better. Bring a pencil and your phone to take notes and pictures for a group discussion on who we are.

***If you plan to attend, please fill out the insert in the bulletin and leave on the desk in the church office. You may also call or email the church office at to sign up at [office@dahlgrenumc.org](mailto:office@dahlgrenumc.org) or 540-663-2230.***