



**(Frequently Asked Questions)**

**GENERAL QUESTIONS**

**Q1 – Why is it recommended that we do participate in FCJ? Are we a “bad” church?**

A – By no means are we a “bad” church. In fact, our church was specifically invited to participate in the Fruitful Congregation Journey, because the Indiana Conference Cabinet and Development Staff believe in our potential. However, we also have room to improve in terms of reaching our mission field and bringing others to Christ as per the United Methodist Church mission and our congregation’s vision.

**Q2 – What is the mission of the United Methodist Church?**

A – The UMC mission statement and therefore, the mission of our church is “To make disciples for Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world.” This comes from Jesus’ words in Matthew 28:18-20.

**Q3 – This seems like a lot of change and a lot of potential expense. Can we really do this?**

A – We cannot do this on our own. Only God, working through our congregation, can accomplish God’s mission in this place. Therefore, we are dependent upon God to provide for us the resources and opportunity to successfully implement these prescriptions. The good news is that God provides for those who love Him and seek to do His will. God is calling us to “jump out of the boat” in faith.

**Q4 – What are the expenses and how are they handled?**

A – Our conference covers the cost of the weekend consultation (except for the noon meal on Saturday during the workshop). Should your church vote to go on to Step 3 and implement its prescriptions, our conference also covers the cost for the peer mentor leaders and consultants, should additional workshops be included in the prescriptions. Your church, however, is responsible for paying a monthly coaching fee, \$200 per month, plus travel costs directly to the coach. The church will receive an invoice from the Conference Center (not the coach) for the coaching fee and mileage reimbursement which will be payable to the coach. [If a Church Development \(CD\) team member is the coach, the fee is charged, but as a member of the Conference staff, we do not receive the coaching fee. It goes to CD income.](#)

**Q5 – Can we vote to do only part of the prescriptions?**

A – No. The vote at the church conference by all present will be to accept the entire proposal (i.e., all of the prescriptions) or to reject the entire proposal. To reject the report would mean that we would not have the benefit of working with the coach provided by the Conference as our congregation moves forward to better position our church to reach more for Jesus Christ.



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**QUESTIONS – PRESCRIPTION 1 – Clear, Shared Mission and Vision**

**1. What programs and ministries are included in the evaluation process? (1.c.)**

A - All programs provided by NUMC are considered ministries and each of them will be evaluated based upon our shared mission and vision and the role each plays in the overall mission of the church. While not every ministry (i.e. Congregational Care, Stephen Ministry, et al) is evangelistic in nature, each will be evaluated according to its purpose and effectiveness.

**2. What is the relationship of the Preschool to the Church?**

A - The name says it all, Newburgh United Methodist Preschool is a ministry of Newburgh United Methodist Church. Its directors and staff are supervised by the SPRC. We have recognized a lack of coordination and communication, though and are in the process of updating those systems and making the preschool ministry and children and family ministries more complementary.

**3. What does the audit process look like? Who will perform the ministry audits?**

A - The Ministry Audit process has not yet been created. There are several tools available that will be utilized to develop it. Following the Visioning Workshop the staff and leaders of every ministry will meet together to discuss how each ministry fits into the NUMC Vision and if necessary develop the plan to align it appropriately.

**4. What is the difference between faithfulness and fruitfulness?**

A - Faithfulness describes how true a ministry's activities are aligned to the vision of the church and the purpose of that ministry. Fruitfulness is the measurement of the outcomes of that ministries activities according to its purpose. For example, the Connect Class is faithful because its purpose is to connect guests and regular attendees to the discipleship process by getting them into learning communities such as Sunday School Classes or small groups. It is fruitful when these connections take place and persons join a group and become involved regularly.

**QUESTIONS – PRESCRIPTION 2 – Plateaued Attendance**

**1. The Deadlines for completing some of the prescribed actions are only a few weeks following the vote (April 7, 2013). Is it possible to live up to these?**

A - The Deadlines are considered soft deadlines, meaning that they are negotiable with the Coach to provide enough time for planning and implementation. The earliest deadline (2.1.a. May 1, 2013) has already been changed to June 1, 2013. Additionally, in anticipation of these early deadlines, lists of possible participants and volunteers (nominations) are being created now so that we will be prepared for an affirmative vote and the process can begin immediately. (Note that no new committees or task forces are being formed just yet, only the creation of lists of possible participants.)

**2. In the Building Study would the recommendation be come before the Charge Conference in 2014 or is it 2013? (with the Capital Campaign beginning in 2014)**

A - Recognizing a need for time between the Charge Conference 2014 and a Capital Campaign to begin in 2014, our Coach has recommended an adjustment of this



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deadline. We are not required to wait for a fall Charge Conference to approve such a Capital Improvement Plan, therefore a plan could be completed and a Charge Conference held prior to the fall of 2014 allowing for both to still happen on time. An alternative is to move the Capital Campaign back into 2015 in order to complete the Study. Also, we are not required to wait until late 2014 to complete a building study and Capital Improvement Plan. If it is prepared before the 2013 Charge Conference, it could be adopted at that time.

**3. Does having a new Building Study Committee mean we will be spending money on our building?**

A - The evaluation of our present facility does not necessarily mean will spend any money immediately on building improvements. The committee's first task will be to evaluate how the facility is used and we expect the plan will include how to use the present facility more efficiently. The Trustees have been discussing several needed upgrades for some time. So the need for a long range plan is recognized. The Prescription does seek a 3 year Capital Improvement Plan that is expected to include some projects that will have some cost attached.

**4. How flexible are the outcomes of the building evaluation? Who will be responsible to approve the report and subsequent capital improvement plan?**

A - We expect that the evaluation will be faithful to the intent of the prescription, to carry out the mission and vision of NUMC. The final report and capital improvement plan will come before the Church Council, the Board of Trustees, and for final approval and implementation to a Charge Conference. Ultimately, the development, approval and implementation of this plan is the responsibility of the people of NUMC. This outcome is not under the authority or direction of the Coach or the Consulting team.

**5. How effective is the FCJ Process and what is the success rate? (How is it measured and how is it going throughout the Conference?)**

A - This question has been submitted to our Consulting Team for a response.

**6. How often does a guest worshiper "return" to a church? (What is the number that represents a high probability of return?)**

A - The Guest Worshiper Report states that the average "return" score is 7.48. NUMC scored 4.8 among the 10 guest worshipers. (6 of the 10 scored this 5 or above). This question has been submitted to our Consulting Team for a response.

**QUESTIONS – PRESCRIPTION 3 – Discipleship Pathway**

**1. Didn't we just create a Discipleship Pathway?**

A - Yes, NUMC did just launch a Discipleship Pathway, The Simple Way, last fall. But, we recognize that it is still not clear how a person moves along this path and how we can track each person's progress. One of the challenges we have discovered is that discipleship doesn't take a linear path that always begins at the same place. Our task in this prescription is to codify this process and develop clear "on-ramps" and easily identifiable and measurable "steps" along the way.



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**2. Why is Stewardship not a part of the prescriptions?**

A - The last paragraph of prescription 3 clearly calls for our newly developed Stewardship Team to put together an annual plan for encouraging and teaching extravagant generosity. The term *stewardship* will continue to be used in some ways, although the trend is to use terms that are more clearly understood such as generosity.

**QUESTIONS – PRESCRIPTION 4 – Greater Outward Focus**

**1. What is the Mission Insite Report?**

A - MissionInsite is a Church Demographics Specialty company that provides online tools and reporting for churches to discover who lives within a geographic area by using US Census and other raw data updated regularly. The MissionInsite Report used for our Consultation is available in the church office and on the website: [newburghumc.org](http://newburghumc.org)  
The Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church provides the subscription so that we can track this data regularly without any additional cost.

**2. How was Joshua Tree a part of the Outreach Process? Was it successful?**

A - Joshua Tree was an intentional outreach program of NUMC and it was successful in that it provided a place for those who were not in church for a variety of reasons and in many cases helped those persons find churches to plug in to, including NUMC. Joshua Tree had also come to end of its life cycle. While there are not specific plans to replace Joshua Tree, through the Worship Task Force and the Outreach Team of this prescription, it is expected that several new ministries could emerge including but not limited to alternative worship services, service opportunities and large outreach events.

**3. What does it mean in prescription 4.b to "take responsibility" for a percent of the mission field? (What are the implications of this?)**

A - This question has been submitted to our Consulting Team for a response.

**QUESTIONS – PRESCRIPTION 5 – Staff and Leadership Development**

**1. Will these prescriptions affect the process of receiving a new Associate Pastor?**

A - No, not really. The process for receiving a new Associate Pastor is wholly separate from this process, but there are some interesting similarities. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) met with Pastor Chris and in consultation with Dr. George Purnell and Bishop Michael Coyner, created a profile of the type of person we believe we need for the ministry that we are expecting to provide at NUMC. Anticipating some of the changes the church could make in the future, the expectations in our profile fit nicely with the prescriptions and the new Associate Pastor, to be introduced on March 17th, is a perfect fit for both.



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**OTHER GENERAL QUESTIONS:**

**Q: What is the seating capacity of our Sanctuary?**

**A -** The capacity of our sanctuary is based upon trends in seating and changes over time. Presently we have 44 pews with 6,222 linear inches of seating space. Current averages is to provide 21-24 " per person which equals 259 seats. (This does not include the Choir, Bells or Band.) See chart below.

<b>Space</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
Pews (44) 6,222 lin. inches	259
Wheelchair Space	4
Choir	30
Bells	12
Band	6
Acolytes	2
Totals (w/o Choir/Bells)	313 (271)
<b>80% = feels full</b>	<b>250 (216)</b>