

River Life Listening Focused Conversation

June 16, 2019

Rational Aim

To discern what is our calling. What are we hearing from God?

Experiential Aim

To fall in love with we're God is leading us.

Order

- 9:30 am Worship
- 9:35 am Talk on Acts - Phil
- 9:50 am Talk on Context and Format – JL
- Prayer over the meeting
- Review of the Order (ORID)
- Silent prayer before moving to small groups
- 10:00 am Small Groups discuss Objective Questions
- 10:10 am Small Groups Rotate and discuss Reflective Questions
- 10:25 am Small Groups Rotate and discuss Interpretive Questions
- 10:40 am Pause and pray
- Decisional Questions in Large Group
- 10:55 am Summary of Work and Next Steps
- 11:00 am Dismissal

For Meditation

Gallup Q12 Engagement Questions Adapted for River Life

1. Do you know what is expected of you at River Life?
2. Do you have the materials and equipment to do your work right?
3. As a member of the body, do you have the opportunity to do what you do best?
4. In the last seven days, have you received recognition or praise for doing good work?
5. Does your pastor, leadership, or someone at church, seem to care about you as a person?
6. Is there someone at church who encourages your development?
7. At River Life, do your opinions seem to count?
8. Does the mission/purpose of River Life make you feel your work is important?
9. Are your fellow members committed to doing quality work?
10. Do you have a best friend at River Life?
11. In the last six months, has someone at work talked to you about your faith?
12. In the last year, have you had opportunities to learn and grow in your faith?

From June 4 Prayer Night

They said it felt natural and comfortable to listen and pray in a group. We started with a responsive reading of confession, read Psalm 84, and Isaiah 43:16-21. Some of the words that came out of the time of listening were:

- spring (of water)
- hunger for God
- Living God
- strength
- longing for depth and intimacy
- priority of prayer

From Pastoral Candidate Ted Burrows

What is it about River Life that excites you? What do you look forward to?

Almost everybody that I have talked to about River Life says the same thing—you are a group of good, genuine people who want to seek the Lord and are willing to take risks for his kingdom. That is just about the best type of church that a pastor could ask for. Christina and I have both been increasingly blessed as we have interacted with members of your search committee and leadership team.

Pastoring in Sacramento is a huge challenge, and I love challenges! But what an incredible opportunity we have to really be the church, to be God's faithful witness, to be God's peacemakers, to be God's ambassadors to the watching world around us. After having lived in Europe for some time, I am quite comfortable in a "post-Christian" context and see the world around us as ripe for the harvest. Let's go!

Objective-Level Questions (10 mins)

These questions engage the senses and elicit facts. The goal is to invite inclusive participation that generates facts and objective data. (Facilitators: Don't try to answer all of them, but do aim for everyone to answer at least one question.)

- OQ1. How far away do you live from River Life?
- OQ2. How did you hear about River Life?
- OQ3. What words do you use to describe our church? (Try: To your friends? To strangers?)
- OQ4. What did you notice (see, hear, smell, touch, or taste) when you first came to River Life? (Try: Did you taste donuts? Try: Did somebody hug you?)
- OQ5. What did you hear Pastoral Candidate Ted Burrows say?
- OQ6. Which, if any, of the Markers of Healthy Missions stand out?

Reflective Level Questions

(15 mins) These questions are meant to evoke emotion, memories, and imagination. (Facilitators: Don't ask "why." Just seek clarity. Make sure to ask RQ4.)

- RQ1. What excites you, inspires you, or motivates you about what River Life could become?
- RQ2. Why do you stay at River Life?
- RQ3. What color would you use to describe our church? Explain.
- RQ4. **Is there anything you feel like you've heard from the Lord about this?** (Anything that relates to River Life?)
- RQ5. What else are you hearing in your prayer time?
- RQ6. In what ways has River Life had a significant impact on you, your family, and/or the community?

Interpretive Level Questions

(15 mins) These questions are meant to share individual experiences and identify options or possibilities.

- IQ1. What difference will it make to have a shared vision for our church?
- IQ2. What is at stake here?
- IQ3. What do we have to get out of our way to achieve God's calling for our church?
- IQ4. What do you think your neighbor would hope that River Life becomes?
- IQ5. What questions does this meeting about Vision raise for you?
- IQ6. What insights are beginning to emerge?

Report Outs

(Before Decisional Level Questions)

1. What highlights will you share?
2. What experiences will you share?

3. How is your group feeling about this?
4. Is there a point or story or anecdote somebody from your group should share?
5. What about the groups before you—did something stand out to you from their flip chart notes? Maybe you have a question or would like that group to explain their response?

Large Group - Decisional Level Questions

(10 mins) These questions are meant to provide clarity around what needs to be accomplished and revealed by the previous discussion. (We will do this in a large group so that everyone can hear and participate together.)

- DQ1. What should we be doing differently?
- DQ2. What have you learned from this meeting?
- DQ3. What does this mean for our future?
- DQ4. Did anyone have an “Aha” moment (inspiration)? If so, please share.
- DQ5. Did you see or experience something unexpected?
- DQ6. What inspired you about our meeting?
- DQ7. What does your soul need?