

**WIDENING OUR WELCOME**  
**A Workshop For People Who Feel Like Dummies but know....**  
**“We’ve Got a Good Thing Goin’ and We Want to Share It!”**

**University United Methodist Church**  
September 2, 2017  
Mary Scifres, Congregational Coach & Retreat Facilitator

*Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,  
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

*~ Hebrews 13:1-2*

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|-------|--|------------------|
| 9:00  | Centering Thoughts   | Rev. Paige Eaves |
| 9:15  | Growing Skills to Grow Your Church<br><i>It All Starts with Invitational Attitudes &amp; Warm Welcoming Hearts</i>       | Consultant Mary  |
| 9:45  | Where Can I Invite?  |                  |
| 10:15 | Break  |                  |
| 10:25 | “We’ve Got a Good Thing Goin’ and We Want to Share It!”<br>Top 5 by 10:45 ( <i>The 5 Best Things About Your Church</i> ) |                  |
| 10:45 | Quarterly Conference   |                  |
| 11:30 | Departure  |                  |

*Thank you for sharing your time and insights with your church family today*

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.*

*~ Romans 12:9-13*

Mary  
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# WIDENING OUR WELCOME

## Growing Skills to Grow Your Church

Mary Scifres, Congregational Coach & Retreat Facilitator

It All Starts with Invitational Attitudes & Warm Welcoming Hearts

### 1. Get people to come to your church

#### a. Let your friends & neighbors know they are welcome!

- i. Foster friendships first.
- ii. Invite those friends & family who are close to you.
- iii. Keep it as simple & frequent as any other invitation to hang out.
- iv. Invite acquaintances & people you don't know in the same way.

#### b. Know who your church is & how to describe what you love about it.

- i. Examples: People who are Friendly, Supportive, Caring; Meaningful Worship; Great Sermons; Beautiful Music; Opportunities for Service in Community and Church; Children/Youth programs that are Fun, Energetic, Inspirational, Educational
- ii. Know where you have found hope for transformation. (*"This is a place where my life could be changed. My life might be different because of this place."*)

#### c. Intentionally invite your friends & neighbors to worship, events, concerts, or study groups that you think might add value to their lives.

### 2. Keep them coming to your church!

#### a. Welcome guests who are at UUMC for the first time with a warm "hello!"

- i. You may have only one chance to let them know you care.
- ii. You may have only one chance to let them know they are welcome.
- iii. You may have only one chance to let them know that this experience might add value to their life.

#### b. Introduce yourself & then introduce them to your friends at UUMC.

- i. Introduce yourself, rather than waiting to be introduced.
- ii. Seek out the "stranger" and help them to feel welcome with information or additional introductions to your friends.
- iii. Allow people to go at their own pace, trusting your instincts.

#### c. Give returning guests a sense of loving community.

- i. Unified purpose & teamwork are key to retaining guests.
- ii. When you're stressed, rely on your conflict competence tools.
- iii. Say only positive things while on church campus.
- iv. Offer only good fruit (fruit of the Spirit) in all you say & do on campus: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

#### d. Give returning guests a sense of purpose and value found at UUMC.

#### e. Give returning guests a friend to help them find their way around.

- i. Take initiative in sharing information.
- ii. Notice people & respond to what you notice.
- iii. Know your church, what's wonderful about it, how it adds value & brings meaning to your life, what's happening on a regular basis, and what special events are coming.

#### f. Give returning guests a place to belong, be missed, & be needed

- i. Give them a small group.
- ii. Give them a place to socialize & have fun.
- iii. Give them a place to serve.