

# SHIFT

From Maintenance to Mission

## Discussion Questions for each of the 4 Shift Videos

Be sure to record your conversations in some way to help you identify key themes and ideas for future reference.

### Part 1 - What's Working?

#### Questions for discussion:

1. Tell a story of a time when you experienced joy or satisfaction as a person of faith. What were you doing and who were you with?
2. What do you appreciate the most about your congregation? How do you believe this program or ministry of your congregation positively impacts you and/or the wider community?
3. What themes, images, ideas, or possibilities emerge from these stories?

### Part 2 – Let's talk about change

#### Questions for discussion:

1. Tell a story about your experience with change in your personal, professional or spiritual life. What unexpected joy has come to you through change?
2. Tell a story about a time when your congregation experienced change. What unexpected joys or possibilities emerged as a result of this change?
3. What are some of the potential stumbling blocks to making changes in your congregation? What strategies could you employ to address potential stumbling blocks so that they are less likely to hinder or derail change efforts now and into the future?

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## **Part 3 - At The Crossroads**

### **Questions for discussion:**

1. Tell a story about a time when you encountered God outside the Church. Where were you? Who were you with? What were you doing?
2. Tell a story about someone you know who is spiritually seeking but for whom Sunday morning worship doesn't work. What are some ways in which your congregation could reach out to people like this and engage them relationally and spiritually?
3. Take a ministry inventory by answering these questions to the best of your ability:
  - How many people who are not officially members of your congregation are touched by your ministry in some way in a typical year?
  - Who are these people and how do you interact with them?
  - Imagine these people are part of your congregation, too. How could you deepen your relationship with them?

## **Part 4 Where Our Joy Meets the World's Need**

### **Questions for discussion:**

**“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.” Frederick Buechner**

1. Where does your deep gladness as a congregation and the needs of your community meet? Where is God calling you to be? What is God calling you to do?
2. What is one, concrete, tangible thing you could do in the coming year that would help you make a connection between your deep gladness as a community of faith and your community's deep hunger?
3. What resources or support will you need to make this shift?

We look forward to the ongoing conversation at our association annual meetings in April and the conference annual meeting in June.

If you haven't already, go to [www.wcucc.org/shift](http://www.wcucc.org/shift) for more information on the Shift initiative and to sign up for additional Shift communications.