

Discipleship Pathway Ministry Team
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2026

In attendance: Elizabeth Goodin, Marcia and Dave Rais, Steve and Marty Hannah

Consistent with preliminary steps as suggested in *Stride*, Elizabeth distributed a handout (attached) that realigns our 6 Keys to Discipleship (Worship, Scripture, Prayer, Small Groups, Giving, and Serving) around the church's mission and intention for creating a discipleship pathway. The keys are aligned under the church's values of Growing Spiritually, Nurturing Relationships, and Serving Others. Elizabeth expressed that one goal of the meeting was to come up with a clear and concise framework for the discipleship pathway to introduce to our church members. This handout might make more obvious how we may do that.

Time was spent reviewing Rally Day and responses to our questionnaire. With those responses in mind, what are our next steps?

We are already leaning into a Discipleship Pathway at HUMC through the formation of new small group classes that have been made available over the past year (Marcia and Dave Rais will begin leading a Bible study on Joseph this week. There is a new class on prayer proposed to begin this summer and another future idea for a class for sharing times of an awareness of God working in and through life circumstances.). Our task is to present the discipleship pathway in a way that everyone may easily see where they can plug themselves in, targeting participation in at least one activity from each of the 3 values.

Steve asked which activities are an efficient use of our resources?

Dave wondered how we can encourage those to think beyond church participation as consisting simply of going to worship and giving. Marcia thinks personal invitations are important.

Elizabeth responded that we want to work toward creating a culture of growth and invitation, where people are inviting others to join in, and where we offer a variety of community programs and classes (i.e. parenting, Financial Peace) that utilize outside speakers.

Steve believes our congregation needs to be challenged every Sunday that growing as a disciple is a part of who we are as Christians. It's an everyday thing and a communal

effort within our church. We want our members to be asking how they may journey along a discipleship pathway beyond their attendance at worship.

Elizabeth shared a definition of Simple Church: *A congregation designed around a straightforward and strategic process that moves people through the stages of spiritual growth.* What might that process look like for HUMC?

Steve said that it's not 1990 anymore, and the definition of church is different. We need to know where our church wants to go in order to help our people grow in faith. Elizabeth emphasized that our mission as a church is not to entertain, feed, or solely be a place to make friends. Our mission is to grow disciples, the same mission of UMC: "The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Elizabeth shared that she and Bruce had a conversation about wanting to be able to point people to one experience as an entry point and as a beginning point.

Beginning on February 15th, Bruce will be doing a 4-week sermon series on the six keys. On those Sundays, there will also be a communal Sunday School hour to break down all of the opportunities for engaging in that key. Steve encouraged Elizabeth to think about how to engage the online worshipers with the after-worship sermon series events. It was also expressed that the after-worship events should include "listening" sessions, asking what do we need, what do you need.

Elizabeth is striving to have a simple structure for leading people to participate in a different way toward discipleship. Steve suggested we leverage our three values: grow spiritually, nurture relationships, and serve others. Widespread communication around these three areas will be very important in building our discipleship pathway structure.

What's next? In response to Steve's earlier question regarding the most efficient use of our time and resources, we decided to focus on immediate short-term goals that enhance discipleship:

- Messy Church: help recruit people to assist with the soft launch on April 19, as well as future planning.
- 4-week Sermon series and after-worship sessions on the six keys: assisting with listening and gathering information on how to move the congregation forward along a discipleship pathway.
- Assist with creating a New Member Discipleship Entry Point Class to model the after-worship sessions.
- Marcia will contact Karen Stusek and work on setting up an Empty Nesters dinner to maintain momentum around that life group.

Notetaker: Marty Hannah

Next meeting date TBD

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