

APPRECIATIVE INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CONGREGATIONS

The Four Initial Questions

Instructions: In pairs take time to interview one another using the following questions. Be a generous listener. Do not dialogue, rather take turns to actually conduct an interview. If you need more information or clarification ask additional follow-up questions. Use this sheet to record the results of your interview. When your interviews are completed you will present the results to the wider group.

Before you conduct the interview take a minute to read the questions and decide how you will personally answer the question and make a mental note of your response. Now proceed with the interviews, paying full attention to the interviewee rather than to your story.

1. Best Experience: Reflect on your entire experience with your congregation. Recall a time when you felt most alive, most involved, spiritually touched, or most excited about your involvement. Tell me about this memorable experience that you have had with your church. Describe the event in detail. What made it an exciting experience? Who was involved? Describe how you felt? Describe what you did as a result of the experience?

2. Your church: What is it about your church that you value? What is the single most important thing that your church has contributed to your life?

3. Core Value: What do you think is the core value of your church? Put another way, if you had to state the purpose of your church in one statement, what would that statement be? Or, put yet another way, what is it in the church's DNA that, if it did not exist, your church totally different than it currently is?

4. Three Wishes: If you had three wishes for your church, what would they be?