

## DIALOGUE SESSION III – RESULTS

***I. What new ways of doing ministry, service or programming, would God have us explore to respond to the needs of our surrounding community?***

***II. What new areas or ways of doing ministry can we introduce to better express our core values within our own congregational life?***

### ***COMMUNITY SUPPORT & CARE***

- Provide meals for the handicapped and those 75+.
- Community dinners that target specific age groups
- Ask families what they need from our church
- Have a “family forum” in the Fall
- Membership and visitor oversight/follow-up
- Smaller support or interest groups development (ex., prayer, addictions, emotional needs, meditation, etc.)
- Develop young families parents’ group
- Implement home meetings – around location, themes, studies, etc.
- Increase social gatherings at the church (breakfasts, etc.)
- Have parenting groups
- Create dinners for parents with childcare separate
- Youth group sports teams
- Offer scholarships to post-high kids to promote ministry after high school
- Offer discussion and support groups
- Deacon visitation team to new/first-time visitors
- Develop a “Welcoming Committee”

### ***SPIRITUAL LIFE***

- Have a youth “music session” – for spiritual in-reach
- Adult bible study offered at optional times
- Strengthen Silver Lake connection
- 2<sup>nd</sup> hour of study after services

### ***WORSHIP SERVICE***

- Alternative worship service times and dynamics
- Have guest preachers
- Have more opportunities for children to experience the worship services

### ***INVOLVEMENT***

- Challenging church members to increase their “engagement”
- Engage more lay persons to participate in service

***OUTREACH & MISSION***

- Address needs of 35-54 year-olds – in terms of their spiritual life and support needs.
- Communicate without “evangelizing” our welcome to the community.
- Explore “soft” evangelism techniques
- Radio ads
- Implement effective marketing of church
- Provide entertainment opportunities in the church
- Youth participation in local charities
- Develop more programs for part-time residents
- Casual summer services
- Do research to discover what is working for other churches in the area
- Increase communication to the community regarding events, outreach, programs, etc.
- Financial support to low-income housing and material needs
- Develop a “sister-church” relationship to increase diversity awareness and experience
- Establish a direct connection and involvement in world mission
- Involve local youth in hands-on mission work
- Overseas mission work involvement
- Increase participation in UCC events in CT
- Continue to support drug awareness and support in the community through transportation to treatments, support groups for parents and youth, financial support for treatment, and knowledge of resources
- Loosen formality of worship service to appeal to younger visitors
- Have a church “open house” to explore community members’ needs
- Learn effective ways of making personal contact with community