

OR-ID Church M.I.L.E. Assessment 2024

Below you are asked to reflect on the M.I.L.E. as it is expressed through your ministry setting. Your thoughtful responses are greatly appreciated! (If you fully engaged this questionnaire in 2023, please update your answers and focus on the new questions noted as NEW. Your 2023 MILE form is available on your Church Dashboard or from your district office.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your District Superintendent.

Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) are required fields.

If a required question was fully answered last year, please put 2023 in the blank field.

If a question doesn't apply to you, please put NA in the blank field.

Church Name	Fremont-Portland
District	Columbia District
Name of Pastor or Lay Lead for your Church	
First Name	Last Name
Erin	Martin
Date	2024-11-15
Please list the participants in this assessment process and conversation.	Erin Martin, Diane Rheos, Wiki Smith, Trudy Pollard

M. Ministry that Matters

Describe who you believe your neighbors are and tell us what God is currently doing with and through them (your neighbors) that is transforming your community.	We are actively organizing among our neighbors at Fremont. Our Sacred Organizing Team did 20, 1:1s with neighbors who live in and around the Alameda Neighborhood. We included in those conversations several building users who lead ministries with neighbors such as Music Together, Daydream Music, Juniper School, Dances for Peace, and Interfaith Alliance on Poverty. As part of our sacred organizing project, we held our first Neighbor Night to begin to build meaningful community with our neighbors that includes our building partners. Another neighbor of ours is our sister congregation, First AMEZ. We held an annual summer picnic with them and worship with them as part of the Seven Last Words worship service on Good Friday. We also hosted our 2nd Annual Block Party with our surrounding neighbors and co-hosted some neighborhood events with the Alameda Neighborhood Association.
NEW: Tell us about your new neighbors or the new connections you have made in your community in the last year?	One new connection this year was with a neighborhood organization called Adventures in Spanish. They now have their office in our building and hold classes in Spanish for children and adults. They partnered with us at our annual Block Party.

<p>As a congregation, where do you believe you have already been invited, or are now being invited, to be a partner with God in making an impact in this transformative work in your neighborhood/community?</p>	<p>We are already being invited to partner with God to make an impact with the Alameda Neighborhood Association, with Alameda Elementary School, with our above named building partners. The Board identified Family Ministry as a place where God is calling us. We expanded hours for the Family Ministry to include community engagement because of the many kids and families in our building each week.</p>
<p>What key partnerships (outside of your local church) do you currently have or would like to have? Describe the partnerships.</p>	<p>Already named above. New key partnerships for this year will be Hacienda CDC for protection and advocacy for immigrants.</p>
<p>What role has your pastoral leader played in enabling the congregation to see and speak into this invitation and your community partnerships? Role of Laity?</p>	<p>Pastor Erin has led by example by building relationships with neighbors and building partners. As we have completed the Sacred Organizing practice, additional lay leadership has stepped into the role of building relationships in the same way. Through this modeling of talking to neighbors others in the congregation have followed the lead and as more neighbors attend our community events they have worked to build meaningful connections.</p>
<p>NEW: What has your church's impact been in the community in the past year?</p>	<p>We are increasingly visible and becoming recognized as hub for community gathering, conversations and organizing.</p>

I. Itineracy and Location

<p>Describe your pastoral leader's current ministry with your congregation.</p>	<p>Pastor Erin Martin has a ministry to lead Fremont into greater activity in our community and world. A group studied Reparations and our members contributed over \$12,000 for housing reparations with PDX Housing Solidarity Project. The movement towards building meaningful relationships with our neighbors has moved forward markedly with more neighbors attending events when invited. Many have attended second events. Erin is a teacher about transformation in this time of change. She and the Board are aligned to questioning how Fremont can remain relevant in a time when needs are different than they were in the past. What do we need to let go of, what do we need to try?</p>
<p>NEW: How has your pastoral leader intentionally helped to lead the M, I, L, E.?</p>	<p>Pastor Erin intentionally leads the M.I.L.E. by including it in her comments, and continually bringing forward new ideas to try and new partners to work with.</p>
<p>What are the gifts in your pastoral leader that best serves the mission of the congregation? The needs of the community? Why? How?</p>	<p>Erin is a change agent. Her gifts are: building one to one relationships, inviting and encouraging leadership of those in the church, questioning current practices, inviting us into joy as a form of resistance.</p>
<p>The pastoral leader and lay leadership function together as a team. On a scale of 1 to 10, how well are you functioning together as a team for the mission and ministry of the church? And why? (with 1 being "not well at all" and 10 "being very well")</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>NEW: If this number is different than last year, why is that?</p>	<p>The number has increased as our new single board has learned to work together. Erin has invited us to step into leadership alongside her which has brought the number up.</p>

NEW: What would help you, the laity, to improve/increase the number you indicated above?	As the Board enters the second year we will continue to step into greater leadership as a collaborative team. As a Board we are finding more ways to support Ministry Teams that take authority for tasks and needs. During our first year as a Board there has been a marked increase in additional leaders in many areas.
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L. Lay Ministry Enhancement

Describe the ministries of the church that are lay-initiated and/or lay-led.	We have active lay ministries. We have 4 small groups that are all lay led. We also have several Ministry Teams that are lay led those include a Congregational Life Team, Green Team, Worship Design Team, Family Ministries.
Tell us how your church is inviting and raising disciple who can either begin new or lead existing ministries of the church.	We have an Adult Catechumenate process that is also a leadership development process. Participants take the APEST (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, Teacher) assessment and then are encouraged to lead out of their places of identity and strength. We used our Sacred Organizing process as a leadership development process. We had 5 lay leaders move through the organizing cycle, doing 1:1s, holding a house meeting, and organizing an action in hosting our Neighbor Night.
How has your pastoral leader helped you in this work or raising disciples?	Pastor Erin helped transition us to a Single Board which had it's first meeting in January 2024. This change is supporting our people to step into new discipleship. The increase of active small groups has moved forward new disciples. For example, her promotion of Sacred Organizing led to team members doing 'new things' to stretch into new ways of being and connecting to others.
Can you identify at least 1 to 2 laity that you want to invite to lead or participate in a particular ministry opportunity in the next year? Why them? Which ministry opportunity? How?	We have several new lay people stepping into leadership positions in the coming year. RaeAnn Francis will be a Lay Staff person for our Sunday School. Holly Livengood and Sandi Lawson are stepping into leadership positions on our Leadership Board. Lindsay Hogan is being certified by our congregation for candidacy as a Deacon.
NEW: If you identified 1-2 laity for focused prayer last year, what effects have those prayers had?	We prayed for one member who has taken on greater leadership.
NEW: Identify 2-3 laity who you believe are called and/or gifted to lead beyond the local church (perhaps at the district or conference level) as a means of participating in our connection. Where might these gifts be best used? Example: Disaster Response Ministries, Conference Board of Pensions, etc.)	Cynthia MacLeod is the District Lay Leader, Les Wardnaar, Wiki Smith

E. Elimination of Racism

Describe the efforts you have already made in the elimination of racism in your Congregation as well as areas you still need to work on.	The work to eliminate racism has been ongoing for many years at Fremont. This past year a group read the book, Reconciliation by Kwon and Thompson. The team raised over \$12,000 which was given to PDX Housing Solidarity Project for improvements to a families home. This work will continue in 2025. Moving to a Single Board model has helped us identify and let go of systemic practices that lead to racism such as Roberts Rules, increased time to build relationships with each other and story telling.
NEW: How are you presently seeking to eliminate racism in your church and community?	Reparations work will continue in 2025 with further church involvement as leaders step forward out of the first group.
NEW: Tell us about a time when your ministry intentionally worked to include someone or a group that is different. (What is the difference that you addressed? What does that difference matter? How did you address this?)	To be successful as a Community Hub we have been talking about including those who are not Church attendees. Our mission to be the love of Christ in the neighborhood means that our objective is not to try to get people to attend on Sunday morning. We want to build community and offer ways for our neighbors to be community. Being included can't be based on belief systems. The second place we have worked on inclusion is around those with trauma and neurodiversity. Beginning my acknowledging when it shows up, talking about what is happening and what might be needed so that pushing others away doesn't happen.
How has your pastoral leader helped you in the work?	Through education and awareness.
What partners (outside your local church) do you already have for this work?	PDX Housing Solidarity, Hacienda CDC, and Interfaith Alliance on Poverty

Resources

What resources or support do you need to have the impact you desire in your congregation's journey with the M.I.L.E.?	None needed.
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