

This is a facilitated church discussion about a contemporary worship service (“C2”), structured in three rounds: what people love, what feels challenging, and what gives hope moving forward.

1. What brings joy (Round 1):

Across all groups, people consistently highlighted:

- **Music and energy** as the biggest source of joy (lively, uplifting, engaging).
- A strong sense of **community, fellowship, and warmth**—feeling welcomed, hugged, and known.
- The **informal, relaxed style** of worship that feels accessible and family-oriented.
- Practices like **passing the peace**, which foster connection.
- Inclusion of **youth, diversity, and participation**, making it feel vibrant and communal.

Overall, C2 is valued as a joyful, relational, and spiritually uplifting space.

2. Challenges and disconnection (Round 2):

The dominant theme is **loss and change**, especially over the past ~6 months:

- **Music concerns**: seen as less engaging, more “performative,” less joyful, with fewer familiar or singable songs. Many miss the previous band and style.
- **Loss of leadership**: especially the absence of a consistent, central figure (like Drew) who created continuity and connection.
- **Reduced fellowship**: time changes and scheduling have limited interaction between services and community bonding.
- **Missing elements**: videos, extended passing of the peace, prayer practices, and a cohesive flow to the service.
- **Communication gaps**: many felt changes happened without enough explanation.
- Emotional impact: people described **sadness, confusion, disconnection, and decreased fulfillment**, with some attending less or considering leaving.

A smaller counterpoint: some attendees feel complaints are excessive and emphasize supporting the broader church mission.

3. Hope and desired next steps (Final round):

Despite concerns, there is strong **hope and willingness to improve**:

- Appreciation for the **conversation itself**—being heard gives people hope.
- Desire for:
 - **Clear, consistent leadership** for C2.
 - **Improved communication and transparency** about changes.
 - Adjustments to **service time** to restore fellowship.
 - A more intentional, engaging **music strategy** (sometimes including older songs or style).
 - Return of meaningful elements like **videos and stronger service flow**.
- Emphasis on **unity, patience, and shared responsibility**—encouraging both leaders and congregation to work together.
- A spiritual reframing: focusing on **community, love, and worship as how people treat one another**, not just the service format.

Closing tone:

The meeting surfaces significant grief and dissatisfaction but also a deep commitment to the church community. Leaders acknowledge the difficulty of decisions (e.g., time changes due to staffing and mission goals) and emphasize balancing current members' needs with outreach. The conversation ends with a call to **stay engaged, support one another, and move forward collaboratively with faith and openness to change**.

Beginning of the conversation transcribed from the recording:

MARTA: Okay. I'm feeling a little cloudy. It's been a long day. Yeah, that's for sure. We're going to do this first round, and then after this first round, your representative will share with the whole group some of the answers that have come up. So the first round is:

ROUND 1

What is it about C2 that brings you joy and life? What is it about C2 that brings you joy and life?

MARTA: Okay, let's start at this end, and your representative can stand and just share some highlights for the whole group from your conversation. Okay. Can everyone hear me? Oh, right up to my mouth, sorry. Okay. We have a lot of comments. Okay, sorry. Well, I'll try and...

Table 1

Everyone loves the joyful music that's full of life, fun, the love that everyone feels, camaraderie, joyful and energetic, the informality of it, and the different type of the different type of music that it provides. The different type of music, that it's family-oriented, informal service that's open to everyone. It brings everyone together, energizes, the sharing of the peace, the camaraderie that it provides, the usefulness of the service, provided a positive place for families and anyone to come in and enjoy, and uplifting.

Table 2

We have a lot of the same ones, but the music, it was said the world-class passing of the peace. Leaving with a clear message, especially from videos. And the fellowship, the camaraderie, the music, leadership, a voice for us.

Table 3

We said many of the same things. Seeing all the people, the welcome fellowship, singing and dancing, passing the peace, the music moves, fellowship, and less traditional service. And what we have is very much the same. How we can be more spontaneous. Everyone gets to express their own worship style. The people, and the acceptance of the people in any of the services. The music, of course. It's more casual, and people are freer to welcome everyone.

Table 3

The fellowship that starts with hugs at the door by our greeters.

The extended sharing of the peace, the energy that comes from all of the above things that have been said, and the quality of the music. And also someone mentioned the participation of youth and young adults.

Table 4

Well, we did have a shout-out for Don and Debbie, and their team at the- ... the greeters, because it's got to be a family, and it feels more like a family, and getting to know everybody a little better. But on top of that, it was the singing and the contemporary music, which seems to help several of us really enter into worship in a different, higher way, maybe? I don't know if that's the right adjective. And all the greetings from everyone, and conversation-like. What was that? Some of the services are more conversational. Well, conversational. I think I'm hearing relaxed, and family, and conversational, and easy to enter into.

Table 5

And I'm trying very hard to listen from my heart right now, and I'm trying to respect the talking piece very much. So we had some things that obviously are not bringing a lot of joy to some of the individuals here. Several have stopped coming to church, and some have not been attending for the last six months. Also, there was a comment that this person had been coming to church for a number of years, but no longer feels that it's the church she's used to attending. Things have changed. Used to feel very full when leaving the church, and is not feeling that at this time. Some are confused by the changes, but still amend the camaraderie that continues. And those that love this church and see the changes and know that these changes will become a more positive outcome in the near future. And many are missing the music that we have had in the past.

MARTA: That was all really good sharing. Thank you.

Thank you each and every one of you for leaning into those agreements, for listening from the heart and sharing from the heart. That's important.

Table 6

Ours had a lot of the same thing. Music, music, and tradition. Lively energy of the congregation. Nobody can ever say that we are a quiet congregation, I don't think. Feeling that everyone is welcome, and that everybody's glad you're there. You feel that warmth coming through everybody. Participation, and then my last one, coffee. Like drinking my coffee during the service.

MARTA: Sipping warm coffee on a Sunday morning while you worship, you can't beat it. That's wonderful.

We had several the same. We like the community, the diversity. We like the people, the attitude, and the energy. And one person mentioned people know if you are missing. It's a very tight-knit group. And they love the music and how there's younger people here.

Table 7

I think we're pretty much the same. The music, the community, the passing the peace. And yeah. So we had other things that we talked about. We'll save that for the next question.

MARTA: Now I have all kinds of ideas around the passing of the peace, Jacob. We're going to have to make it a central ritual practice, special questions to ask each other. We can go to town with the passing of the peace.

Our next round is this, and this is when we do the deep dive. And this is definitely a listening from the heart and speaking from the heart. Definitely using "I" statements for this kind of sharing. Sharing your own personal experiences, not maybe what you heard, not anything from this person, from that person to this person again, but from your own lived experience with this worship service. And so, the third round is

ROUND 2

What aspects of C2 feel challenging for you? Loss, fear, anxiety. And in what ways do you feel disconnected from C2 or the larger whole?

MARTA: One, both of those questions, however you want to answer it, go for it. When I look at all of you out there in your small groups, having these conversations, having this deep dive conversation, I think this is church. This is what it looks like to center a

relationship in community. This is, for me, Jesus' superhero power, which was to be present. To be deeply present and listen with the blind man, with the woman at the well, and countless other people. With Zacchaeus, with Nicodemus. He showed up, he often paused, and he listened deeply. And this is what this moment looks like for me.

Table 1

I think one of the first comments that we had were there were a lot of changes happening in the C2 worship without a lot of communication or explanation. So some members at our table felt a little lost and confused coming into C2 worship without-- We're seeing changes in the band, time. The quality of the music has shifted dramatically, where we feel that there's not a great balance between secular and non-secular songs. That the tempo has changed, the engagement has changed, that many people don't feel quite engaged, and they're not feeling the joyful part of the worship. The music appears to be a little bit more performative and not engaging or joyful or inspirational. Some people miss the dancing and feeling involved in the worship part of the service. Some of our members at our table don't necessarily attend C2 regularly, but they do really appreciate the fact that there is an opportunity to have a worship service like this available for those who do really enjoy it. That music is transformative, and that's a large part of the service. We do like that it opens up the service to other people in the community who may not like a traditional service. We're missing the fellowship between services with the change in times. That we're missing an informal leader that creates continuity in the worship. That we so appreciate everybody who has stepped in. But with the loss of Drew, we're missing somebody that has that presence that people feel really connected to, that's providing the initial greeting, the filling in in between, providing the benediction, and we enjoy that we have this opportunity, but people feel that in the last six months, there's been significant change.

Table 2

This accent a lot of what you said, our group was feeling a loss of a connection with the band or the choir and Drew not being here. And so it's kind of a sense of loss and trying to be reconnected. There used to be prayer in the back with the band and the ministers, and anybody else that wanted to join. That was what was being missed. This kind of sense of loss and the thought of changing churches, but the sense of lack

of communication. The time change was affecting some of our folks. Let's see. No longer had feeling fulfilled when leaving. Sometimes a feel of sense of tension. And I think what I gathered from this was, how long has C2 been going on? Some old-timers? Long time. Pardon? Fourteen, 15. 14, 15 years. Right. So it's been a change, and change is always difficult. We talked about that. But there's hope that the spiritual connection, this is what I'm feeling from our group, will reappear or come back either through leadership like a Drew, or I remember Neil. Who remembers Neil? All right. That's the history. But it's the same thing. When the minister was preaching in the main service, and you see him on the video, he or she still felt connection with the whole church. That was a good feeling. I don't know who said this, but as a captain, I thought that was cool. The ship is out to sea and hasn't come back. Did I say that? No. Well, it may be a little rough, but- ... if the ship was built well, so I have confidence it will- So, one more thing here. Let's see. The sense of loss of family in the videos. I haven't been to all the C2s. Are there still videos being shown to relate to the service? No. Okay. But that was something that-- And I was thinking, sometimes I go tell my friends after church the video that was pertaining to the whole message. Everybody knew about it- Yeah ... in the community, and those were powerful things to add to it. So... Yes.

Table 3

I did write this, and I'm having trouble reading it, so I'm going to start with, and I'm just going to say this because this is from one person's perspective, for them, is that Michelle said as happy as she is to be helping and being a deacon as part of the service, she does miss just being present in the service. And then a lot of us basically said we prefer the Christian music versus the secular music, that there's just been way too much of the secular music, and the music is kind of down. It's not that joyful, upbeat music that we used to have. Well, this was written, they enjoyed it better when the band was better. The feel and the vibe is missing. They miss the uplifting feeling and even seeing and hugging people, the fellowship moment, the passing the peace is shorter and it feels rushed. So, we miss Drew, as others have said it. And it's not so much specifically Drew, as much as having somebody who is an embodying person, humble and giving, and it's heartfelt, and it's one person throughout the whole service, and not having multiple people getting up and doing things. And also reading off of the iPad, it feels less personal. Some of us would sometimes like to go to all services, and

we miss that everybody is able to be together in the courtyard. Feel like we're losing the overall congregational connection. Love the secular music, but come here for the Christian music that they don't really hear elsewhere. Doesn't feel that the band is having a good time. Only one person smiles, it's the bass player. And they don't feel like they're exuding a feeling of worship, as was said over there, it's performative. So they said they miss our original band. It felt like the band originally became our friends and family, and they would join us during worship and during passing the peace. Some of us said they can be patient, but not that patient.

Table 4

So let's see. Missing the video moment. The service feels a little bit less like the contemporary service it used to be, that it's more sanctuary-like at times. But that's only sometimes, because it's constantly changing. It feels like throwing different ideas out, like, "Okay, we'll try this. Okay, we'll try this." And we just really miss what we had. The time change, the less time for fellowship, and I don't want to keep repeating the same things. They prefer having the sermon live, but would like to have a worship leader that guides the entire thing. And upset that the band was left so quickly that all of a sudden it was all new, and actually even with all new, it's changing. So that's, I think, everything.

MARTA: Thank you so much for your really honest and thoughtful feedback. It's really, really helpful and yeah, I really appreciate it.

Table 5

We have a lot of the same stuff. The lost excitement for C2, the feeling that we had when we used to leave. Music used to be incredible. The song choices have changed. It's less exciting. No longer had feeling uplifted when leaving. The musicians look frustrated all the time. Upset about the time change still. The lack of a designated minister. Definitely missing the video response. Again, music selection. Songs that we can't sing along to, and singing the same verse 10 times. As my dad put it in his letter, it feels like we're going to keep singing the same line five times until we get it right, and then the song can be over. Feel that we need some more vocalists, specifically more female vocalists. The C2 music is leaving a boring feeling, arbitrary, and repeats the same words. Goal is to leave the service wanting to come back the following week, which, the comment was, we used to, and maybe not so much anymore. Stage lighting

when you're watching it online is terrible. The acoustic, it's terrible, and can't really hear the words at all. Every now and then we can hear a backup singer come across really loud, so maybe there can be some work done on that. The time change and the lack of the two congregations being able to meet in the courtyard is very upsetting and felt that that was probably a mistake to begin with

MARTA: Thank you. Thank you so much.

Table 6

I would be repeating what has already been said. So I think just to say that our table pretty much has the same feeling of what is being said, the time change, and lack of communication when changes have happened. We miss Drew, someone like Drew, and videos. And I think to be fair, there's some at our table who don't attend C2, so to represent that there's also questions about is C2 being a different church, and maybe they don't really like that. So maybe they're okay with some of the things. So they don't understand what's happening over here, but from a different perspective. We too had many of the same comments. And I guess I can summarize by saying that we agree with, we feel a disconnect from the reasons that attracted us to C2. Part of that has been the transition and the loss of clergy and leadership. We feel less informality in the service, too much feels rote or repetitive. Someone mentioned the lack of focus on youth, the result of the time changes, the lack of social disconnect with the fellowship. I want to make sure I get this. We had a very powerful testimony of someone that wandered into C2 by accident several years ago, and said, the first time to ever experience worshipping Christ through music at that level. And it was a profound spiritual experience for them. And that although they feel a lot of that has been lost through the music changes, they now return for the fellowship, which is also important. The question was raised as to what was the original objective of C2 when it was started, and I think our challenge summary is to return to the reasons that brought most people here.

Table 7

Well, the big word that kept coming up was this changes are sad. That was what several of the people who have been here long-term said, sad. Just the change in the music, the people changing, the band changing, and even Mike and I just came in the fall, and we knew we could see the change. And one of the new people that don't, well,

not new, but who come but don't attend C2, actually, they said, "We feel bad that we missed out on what you guys lost with the change in C2 from when everything changed." So that was things that were said. The music feels forced. It feels lost. There's no beginning, middle, or end. The videos, they mentioned the videos. Someone said that her husband felt like you left and you had a halftime speech, and you could go out and face the world for the week. And that's not the way it is anymore. And online, you mentioned listening online. I had to listen, and you couldn't understand anything. I was like, "This was not helpful." People mentioned their youth, their kids not wanting to come like they used to want to come, and that's important. The youth is the future, right? So, did I miss anything, Debbie? No. The communication. Yeah. They like the videos. The pastors being videoed. Oh, okay. They don't mind the pastors being videoed in the message. If we could have the old band back and the- And we take that sacrifice. And then we could also have more of a group fellowship and feel more connected with the other services. Because one back to back to back, no one is getting to fellowship in the courtyard anymore. Ships passing in the night. Thank you. Who has not gone? We too had very similar expressions about having one worship leader. They miss Drew, and we also said the new band is like professionals and doesn't seem to engage us as well. I didn't finish. Something's missing- there's a disconnect. But we also had several people that said, "We wish people would stop complaining" "Because we like things the way they are, unless they have a solution. And please look at the big picture, because we have three services we have to take care of, and not just C2."

Table 8

This is one challenging table, I can tell you. There's not a lot for me to add. I think most of the feelings have already been said. The major here was the sense of loss, and that is kind of all over the spectrum. It was the loss of those that are no longer attending church here. They feel they have lost that connection with their fellow parishioners. They felt that the band was definitely-- They were family, and they miss them very much. That there was too many changes too fast, particularly the time change, and not getting the explanation that they may have wanted for that reason. And the music choices, again, as we've heard numerous people say. One of the challenges that I feel personally is my anxiety is high right now because of the feelings that are going on at this table. So, that's a challenge for me.

Table 9

Most of ours, again, was music. The other thing we had a problem with, again, is having consistent leadership all the way through. Not so much Drew, but just having one person that went all the way through. We felt that was kind of, sometimes it would be kind of boring. Some of the transitions were boring. And then missing the inspirational videos and music. Right? We have quite a few on the music part. But the format was a big thing, too.

MARTA: Okay. That was a lot. There is a lot of sadness. There is a lot of grief. My heart is beating. I don't know about yours, but I can sort of feel it, and I haven't even gone through this whole transition with you all, and I can feel it. So I don't know if maybe if you just take a deep breath. For me, I just needed a deep breath. Move your shoulders around a bit. But every single comment, and every single story, and every single perspective matters. Church is important. Being in community is important. Working through moments like this are really important. And I'm so sorry that you all are in this place for whatever reason. Right? There's about 400 billion reasons why we're in this moment. A lot of moving parts, a lot of different pieces to the puzzle. So we're going to go into this final round. And it's not going to fix all of those things. And we're not going to come up with every solution to every single one of those things tonight. But at least we can maybe start to put the pen to the paper and we give this back to you. This is your community, right? And we're here to support, and to help, and to guide, and to shepherd, but I don't know if we're going to be able to fix all of those things right now. But we can at least start to work together on it, to partner together, to be partners in ministry. And so the fourth and final round is:

ROUND 3

Where do you feel hope in the next steps? Because there can be a next step. Or what would you like to see following this conversation? What would you like to see?

MARTA: Maybe one little thing that we can do together to start moving in that direction. And then maybe we come back to a time like this again and reevaluate. Maybe we continue to do that, to have these conversations. So we're going to go into that final round.

Table 1

So in response to the last question about where do we feel hope and what would we like to see following this conversation. So overwhelmingly, everyone sees hope in people wanting this to work. We're very appreciative of this opportunity to have this meeting and bring us all together. We are excited to see change, and very hopeful because it seems that everybody is willing and interested to make changes. Overall, we came up with a three or four pronged approach. To find a consistent leader, somebody that was in Drew's role, who can provide that consistency in worship? Replace the band. We don't think, at least this table that the current band leadership has the ability to meet the needs of what people here are expressing that they want. I don't know if it's just a talent, but I don't think it's the approach that we're looking for. Changing the service time, I know that's always a challenge, but we are interested in keeping a live sermon. So I don't know if there's the ability to stagger it, stagger the times, or maybe we only have a live sermon in C2 every other week, something that would allow the opportunity to maintain the fellowship and still have a live sermon periodically and bring back the video moment. Bring it back.

Table 2

This is something we talked about that you just brought up, and I'm sure a lot of us. One of the points that I hadn't heard before was our clergy needs help to bring about change and see our needs because they're new. Mm-hmm. They weren't here when a lot of this was being born. We need help to become encouragers and to have the grace to bring that change about. And I think somebody said that the fact that we're merely having this meeting means God is still speaking. Mm-hmm. Good. That's a big deal. So adding to that is that our hope is that we can be connected to the church as a whole. It'd be difficult to attend all three services, but to somehow transcend that spirit so that we feel connected somehow with all the spirit and all the worship that the church is about. And adapt and attitude of encouragement to our clergy and to each other to try to keep the church afloat in the spiritual dimension of what God is seeking us to be. Well, Phil brought this up, and I have to repeat it. I love to embarrass him. When we were on a lot of mission trips, and he's been on, what, eight? Anyway, I was on four or five with the youth, and the youth minister used to say it every evening to the youth, "Where did you see God today? In whose face did you see God?" And it was just a beautiful thing to hear what the youth were saying. And I think that's something we can adapt.

Table 3

We said a lot of the same things, the video moments. We've had several people say they'd like to bring back the old band. One of our members, this was the first church experience where they felt a sense of community, and it didn't matter whether it was in C2 or in the main sanctuary or the 8:00 a.m. service, but everyone is nice, and that hope is that we do have that niceness. But we would like to go back to the courtyard again as a whole community. We appreciate that we're having this conversation, and that gives us hope. We're happy that the clergy is open to change and grateful that they are listening to us, so thank you. We would like to see a summation of the consensus that was discussed here and perhaps a task committee formed to start coordinating some solutions. We heard Marta ask, "What do you want to do?" That's so important to all of us, and that's so hopeful, so thank you. And we feel we can be united as a church again, and we're hopeful as a community. And Christ-like where we love. We remain a Christ-like organization, and that the anger does not have to be there. And as Catherine said, there's more that binds us together than separates us. Yeah. So one of the things that I remember is when I first started here, there always were three services at three separate times. But we still felt like a community, where the first service was at 8:00 a.m., the second service was at 9:30 a.m., and the third service was at 11 a.m. And when we were coming for the 9:30 service, the two main services were in the sanctuary, but when we would come in for the early service, we would see the people coming out from the 8:00 o'clock. And then additionally, there'd be the getting together between... There was a half hour between services, so it made a huge difference in our ability to all be together. So that's something I would like to see. And that's it.

Table 4

Again, we have very similar lists, and we kind of also did a bullet point of things that we would like to see changed rather quickly maybe. But again, we also appreciate the opportunity that you guys are listening and letting us kind of give our feelings on it. We do feel like the priority must be finding a C2 minister leader. So the consistency can start with that person, and we can build from there. The time change, again, we're missing that fellowship with some of our friends that are participating in other services.

And just a change in the music selections and the inspirational videos, we would love to see come back.

Table 5

So I think a lot of gratitude that we're having this meeting, and also hopeful because so many people came, so that means we care. The intentional piece of the liturgy and the music selection seems to have maybe shifted, so that between the sanctuary and here, maybe some of the theology that comes through the music, just reflecting the way we would be intentional about that over in the sanctuary. And so I think with that, just a person who is overseeing this service and being intentional with what the content, all the different parts, which is a lot of work. And so I think because it can take some time, maybe the what would we like to see, the ongoing conversation and transparency, so that as we wait, what can help us wait better is to know what's happening, and that this conversation continues to be being heard and being had, and people are listening, and we know it takes time. So. What about the end of the service? And at the end, because of the way right now, the time, the minister isn't here, or some minister isn't here, the benediction and just the intentional as we leave the exit, we hope for something that kind of helps that fellowship to be able to continue out the door as it does from the sanctuary.

Table 6

I think we agree that we feel a lot of hope. Hopeful that once the ministry is fully staffed, that that will relieve some of the pressure and make some of these changes possible. Take some of the pressure off the staff to be many things, and provide a continuity of the service, whether it's the youth minister, whoever is assigned to that role. We also are hopeful that there's nothing broken here that can't be fixed, and that's a good thing. What we'd like to see again is possibly a time change that would expedite more social interaction and I guess might impact some of the musicians to be able to be here for this service in a timelier manner.

Table 7

Well, everything's pretty much been said, but the first thing that was said is someone just wants to see Jesus. That's what they want to see. And then someone else brought up that we all have a part that we should be praying for the service and prior to coming,

and not just expect to get, but pray for the service pray for the people that are leading it, pray for the band, pray for the pastor, and then think about what... We all have a word. Pray for how you can encourage somebody else who's sitting next to you that you don't even know is going through something. Yeah. We talked about the band being better and it being more spirit-led instead of being performers. We talked about... oh, just like everyone said, that this meeting being held gives hope. And moving forward, people want to know that you've heard us. And in order for people to know that we've been heard, they need to see some concrete actions being taken. So, we know sometimes why something was done, but as it was put, just like in business, you start with good intentions, and you have a plan. And then, things hit the wall, and you have to pivot and figure out something better. And I guess that's where we are now. And they're hoping the time change can be one of those things we pivot with to begin with. Thank you. Where are we now? Our main solid suggestion was to have the services concurrent. Some people swayed the opposite way, saying, "I can't believe everybody's complaining so much. I don't know if I want to worship here anymore." And then other people reminded us that we want God to be in our midst. It should be Christ-centered and spirit-led, not just about us. Then we switched back to everybody was hopeful because one of our people at our table noticed there's 12 churches within four miles, and he thought that people give up too soon, and they could just go to another church. This is this person's church, that this person's not leaving, and he thinks we should dig in and work together. That was echoed by another person who's been here for 29 years. Because we have three full-time clergy doing a wonderful job and the church has been here for 100 years, C2 has been here for 16 years, I'm sure we can figure this out. Mm-hmm. Leave it on a high note.

Table 8

Not a lot to add. Just having this discussion, as people have said, is one of the greatest hopes we have, and that our thoughts and our concerns are being heard, and that we will see some changes. We're also hopeful that the band will get back to where it used to be, to put it nicely, and that when the band is restructured possibly, that they are in charge of what they want to play. And as the spirit brings them to us, that's what we're looking for. We're not looking for a professional atmosphere. We want it to be a Christian atmosphere and one that we all can participate in. I think that's about it. No, I don't want to add that. If you'd like to add that yourself, that's fine. You're okay. Go.

Okay. Okay, thank you. I think our biggest one was that we would like more communication, and I think that's something that can be done. It's an easy thing to do. And that before big changes are made, that we have meetings like this so that we can be part of the discussion as to what's going on. And then the other thing is we need a ringmaster, because we figure our C2 people are kind of like a zoo. Or a circus. Especially when you're passing the peace, it's kind of- ... herding cats. And to me personally, that's one of the most important things, is the passing the peace. But our big thing is we said to intermingle, change music, to go... And I know that we can't really go back to the old band, but if maybe- Yes, we can. No, you can't, because they've already gotten other jobs. Okay, so we're just- So we're just going to say if we could play some of the old songs that they did. We can't go back to the old band. We can play some of the songs that they had played before that we're more familiar with and that we felt were more- Uplifting ... uplifting. I think that was it. Basically, communication was the biggest thing we came up with, and the ringmaster.

MARTA: Thank you everyone. A lot has been said, a lot of solutions, a lot of ideas. Tonight, we, me and Jacob and Bev We're in the posture of listening. Obviously, I know that all of us have lots of things going through... All of us, meaning the three of us, have lots of things going through our heads and lots of responses. I can't speak for you all, but I do at least. I want to make sure we take these notes. We are going to take these notes with us. I will put them together, and I will send them out somehow. I don't know yet how that will happen, but it will get sent out. I'm wondering, do we want to take a moment to open it up a little bit or is it too quick?

JACOB: I think it was most important to hear from you all and given the time. I came to listen. I do have several things. I will say this, communication can be tricky. When changes take place, those who are in my role and some of the other roles, we're not at liberty to disclose some of the changes that you see. I'm sorry? No, he's talking to us like- Oh, I see. So even tonight, I hear some ambivalences. So this is the thing, decisions are hard. An incision means to cut in. A decision means to cut out. And sometimes we want what we want, and we want it deeply and passionately. And there are times when we can't have all the things. And so very difficult decisions sometimes have to be made. So I've heard this evening the time change. We had no alternatives. There-

CONGREGANT: Can you explain why it was changed?

Yes. Because at that time, there were two clergy persons, and the person who was the worship leader for this service, Drew, was leaving. For obvious reasons, I couldn't be in two places at one time. I was not trying to replace Drew, but someone had to be here, and I couldn't be in the sanctuary and here at the same time. And so what we did do was ask the question, in part, why was C2 created? So we went back to the original mission. It was in part to include younger families. I know it seems counterintuitive, but it happens to be the case based on my personal experience and a member who was concerned, from C2, did a survey, an unofficial survey in Vero Beach on Facebook, asking for adults or families with children under the age of 50: If there is going to be a time change, and the service meets at 10:30, would you prefer it to be earlier or later? There were 69 responses. 65 of them said earlier. So you may have been one of the four on- But that raises another interesting question. Lori, it does. Sorry, that wasn't appropriate. It's okay. But you do, and I don't mean this to be inappropriate- Oh, okay ... what I'm getting ready to say. Okay. A worship service begins with a mission and vision. It is outward-oriented. Almost invariably, if there is not intentionality, it becomes inward-focused. It becomes not about who we're trying to reach, but who we're trying to keep. We have to be careful about that. And so again, when we were making decisions, there's always this balance between certainly you don't want to isolate the people who are committed and who have been a part of a service. At the same time, we're asking, okay, why was C2 created? For many reasons, but in part, for families with youth, and based statistically, Lori, with some exceptions, but I'm not exaggerating the point, of the 69 in the greater Vero Beach area who replied to that survey, 65 of them said they preferred an earlier time than later to 10:30. Why wouldn't the survey have been to the members of the church? So that's the point I'm trying to make. I see. C2 was created to reach people who are not currently in church. So my experience over my life is young people like to party Saturday nights. So Sunday morning early church isn't their first choice. I think that was the case with the band and probably families of teenagers. That's just an observation over my adult life. So it surprised me. But what broke my heart the most is people like Doris Henley, who lives in our community, we would drive her to Rockford Sanctuary. We'd come in here. Other people in our community, the wife goes there, the husband comes here. That got broke up. So like I said, and someone said, we

made Choices. We made decisions. There were reasons, and so I'm sharing some of those reasons. What I am hearing here this evening, and that's fair enough, the priority are the ones who are here. Fellowship opportunities between C2 and Sanctuary. And I know this is not a hard sacrifice. There have only been a couple tables who said we would like to have a live sermon. I don't think that's the vast majority of people. We've had that for years. Right. Fair enough. And so in terms of hearing, some of the steps can be to go back to having services simultaneously. Because what we can't do is ask the youth minister to be the worship leader again, because what happened was, about 80% of Drew's attention, the circus leader, about 80% of Drew's focus was on C2. There was no way to do middle school youth, high school youth, and C2, and it was not Drew's fault, but youth ministry suffered as a result. We cannot put another person in that same position. What I am also hearing is that Drew by and large served as a de facto pastor. Right. And so some questions are beginning to emerge that there are not any easy answers to. What is the relationship between the various services? What is it that makes community church, community church? These are things for us to ask. I would go back to the original questions that I led with, and that is, what is worship? The early church understood church as presenting our whole lives as living sacrifices. In other words, sacrificing something that's important to me to give life to someone else. I ask the question, what does it mean to be a worshiper? Who is being worshipped when we arrive in a worship service? When we arrive in a worship service, who is the recipient of worship? Forgive the preacher in me. Jesus said, "If you love me," that's worship, is it not? "You will obey my commandments. My commandment is this, that you love one another as I have loved you." Now, the greatest applause has come, and I think this is something, regardless of what happens, and I am committed within what I would believe to be integrity of offering faithful solutions to the longings that I'm hearing. My hope is that we will continually grow, and that as part of when we come for worship and what we'll receive, we're as mindful of how we show up for worship, the presence we bring when we enter in those doors. That if someone needs an iPad to remember, if someone misses a note, the disposition is one of not finding fault, but loving as one would want to be loved. Worship, in its highest form, is how we treat one another. It's not merely what happens for an hour on Sunday morning. It's who we're becoming in the process. It's an opportunity for transformation so that the disposition shifts, and I'm going to wrap up with this. It doesn't ask primarily the question: What is it that I want? What is it that can edify the person to my left and

to my right? And if we come to see Jesus, there's not a person we will look at that Jesus doesn't love, and that loving the person in front of us is the best way to see Jesus, and that is our highest form of worship, especially when worship that day's just not for me. The greatest love of God and the church is to remain devoted in those times when it's most difficult, it seems to me. As I often say, I'll just say for me, that is my prayer for me. May it be so. Amen.

BEV: I invite you to stand and join me in saying the Lord's Prayer together. I hope each of you found this to be not just a chance to vent, but a chance to grow, and to grow in the wisdom and the knowledge of who Jesus Christ is and who he calls us to be as individuals and as worshipers. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.