

# Attachment 3

Answers to "What do you feel is our greatest ministry challenge or opportunity?"

Reaching younger generations

Opportunity to reconnect with Kentucky Wesleyan College in significant ways. The college's president is a member. We should take this opportunity to conjoin our efforts.

Getting younger people involved and diversification of membership

Youth

Greatest ministry challenge is how to minister to all God's members.

With such vitriol among members of the community, it is necessary to follow the loving example of Christ and not resort to negative opinions and attitudes that surround us.

Our greatest challenge is our greatest opportunity! We need to be honestly open and welcoming to all, regardless of their social status, educational background, economic level, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or any other differences. God created all of us, each and every person on the face of the earth, in His image. Who are we to discriminate a child of God?

"Judge not that you be not judge." Viewing every person as an individual with respect and dignity.

Young single adults and divorced parents with children

Involving more members in serving others

Keeping youth or young families attending and being active in our church ministries

Youth & community outreach.

To be a welcoming church to all different kinds of people.

Address diversity and promote unity

I remember thinking about this when our children were young and it still remains the greatest challenge and the greatest opportunity -- bringing the kids back to church.

Teach what is right and what is wrong.

growing our church and building Shout back up

Faithfully following Scripture in spite of the consequences.

At this moment in time, keeping and building our congregation. With time and patience, I think all of these current "issues" will work themselves out.

Scheduling is challenging as everyone is busy. So youth groups, choir, Bible studies, etc are difficult to plan.

All the Church giving to do...

Not fond of worship change of times

Ministering to our youth and young adults

Getting new members and getting them involved in the church.

Learning how to "agree to disagree" but still work together to show God's love.

Providing a safe place to worship.

I think our aging population is a challenge. It seems like there are a lot of active members that are getting along in years and I don't see as many younger folks getting involved.

I believe our greatest ministry challenge is providing multiple avenues for young adults (single and married) to connect with Settle despite busy schedules and work/family schedules. If that means offering discipleship opportunities on times other than the Sunday morning Sunday School hour, continue to experiment with other options.

Continuing to grow the church in a society where churches seemed to be valued less.

Reaching our neighborhood and people who don't know Jesus

Maintaining tradition while meeting today's needs

Welcoming to all regardless of religion, race, gender, etc...

I think the separation of the traditional service and shout is the greatest challenge. Instead of feeling like one church it can feel like separate churches depending on the service you attend.

Finding ways to bring more people into our church family.

Reaching out to others who look and act differently than we do. Moving out of the comfort of a white upper middle class gathering.

Bring Shout! Back to where it was before

Chasing cultural movements while moving away from Biblical principles.

Continuing to remind us of the relationship with God and Jesus that we as people need to have

Respect people of all persuasions.

Willingness to be hands-on in our community

Bringing new people in and getting them involved

Even though we have many ministries in the community, I feel there should be more emphasis on more of our members being involved. Service to others instead of "serve us". Looking more outward to opportunities to serve right in our neighborhood.

Maintaining tradition while meeting modern needs

Youth

Keeping our young people involved

Growing our church and getting more young people involved

Growth of our supporting congregation

#### HOW DO WE CHANGE OUR DOCTRINE AND RETAIN AND GROW MEMBERSHIP

Gathering new members to join with current members in spreading the gospel

Growing our congregation.

Staying unified during denomination changes.

Missions- both local and regional

I do believe that small groups and Sunday school classes are the backbone of any church. This is where you developed a sense of belonging and fellowship. If these programs are strong, the churches discipleship program will blossom.

Bringing in new members

Recruiting more youthful members in this day and age.

Lack of staffing and organization for various ministries. (I understand this has been recognized and continuous efforts are being made to address it.)

Meeting the new social norms

To revitalize in-person membership

Lack of Volunteers

Standing against the egregious decisions made at Conference

Staying strong and relevant in today's society

Ministering to our youth

Have Sunday School classes for ages 18-35. There might be classes available and I'm just not aware of them.

Connecting with youth and young adults and keeping them engaged.

Our current youth program

Staying true to the Bible and leaving the UMC

Getting members engaged. Settle has a lot of 1hr Christians. Groups for singles, young couples, etc. We have a tendency to let staff handle everything.

Getting our membership to grow in numbers.

Youth and young adult ministry

Keeping true to the Bible's teachings even when some want to try and change them.

Reaching those in the community that don't know Jesus

From speaking with our children, who grew up in church , it's not about belief in God but distrust in the church establishment that keeps them away. How do we get a younger generation to trust us again?

Involvement with Kentucky Wesleyan College students throughout the school year.

Providing an opportunity for all to share their concerns and develop a plan if possible to address these problems

Would love to see the church really on fire for Jesus unashamed in worship with convicting and challenging messages that dig deep in scripture and uncover stories in the Bible

Greatest challenge AND opportunity is to minister to local persons (close proximity to our church). Settle does a good job proving outreach missions, e.g. back-to-school, coat giveaway, etc., but there does not appear to be an interest in ministering to locals. While attending the Dinner Church training led by Chris Toney a comment was made that Settle may prefer "those people" go elsewhere. I was angered to hear this comment and am saddened that we do not heavily encourage inviting locals to our services.

Sunday School needs to be shored up. Having three adult Sunday School classes is embarrassing....one is open to men only. No emphasis is given to the importance of Sunday School. We should make every child's class so inviting that kids want to invite their friends. Youth should be asking parents to go.

Discipleship training for current and new Christians

Reaching out and being inclusive to those on fringes of our community; homeless and Food Insecure individuals.

Building up the Shout Contemporary Service

Greatest ministry opportunity is the kids outreach that Settle has and the many different opportunities there are to help serve others.

Seeing that everyone knows who God is and what he requires of each of us.

I feel we are lacking in ministry for our young adult singles and married couples. I realize that age has lots of responsibilities as well as holding jobs; but I feel that something like a small group setting once or twice a month to be involved in to form a bond with other believers would be helpful to their spiritual growth.

Continuing to be a welcoming and inclusive congregation.

Dealing with all the divisiveness prevalent in our society today.

Bringing in more sermon series that preach on Jesus's love. It is awesome currently, but worried about the future.

Building up the youth program

Young adults and youth

To reach younger people

Perhaps lack of diversity.

Regular 65 years and older ministry.

Making each person that walks through the door feel The love of Christ, wanted and a part of the Church family.

Reaching out to our young congregation.

The UMC Crisis

Drawing young adults into our church family. We have 3 children. 1 out of 3 is a regular church attender and has moved her membership. When I speak to young adults that I know have a Christian belief, they are of the opinion church is not needed to be a Christian. We need young adults and couples in our church and I believe this is the cry of many denominational churches. I will say one of the things that kept us motivated as young adults was to attend Wednesday night activities (kids choir of course) and studies that helped us in our every life. The Stormie Omartian series of studies: Power of a Praying Wife, Power of a Praying Husband, Power of a Praying Parent. These were all real life things we needed help with, support for and to hear others struggles.

I feel Settle's greatest ministry challenge is maintaining unity in our own church to be able to effectively pursue our ministries. I feel this is also an opportunity to become more focused and have unity to work in our efforts to shine outside of the church and bring others to Christ.

We need a Youth leader for church!! We need an associate pastor!! I would like pastor who gives sermon to go to the front door to shake hands and speak to the people.

Our youth ministry

Strengthen the programming offered to our youth which is critical to the outreach for young families to become members of Settle

Building our youth program

Reaching our neighborhood, and the unchurched

Preach the biblical gospel

Children's ministry program was excellent

Children's ministry

Through Settle I was introduced to Walk to Emmaus.

Showing the youth how to be involved in the church