

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Determining the Future

Rev. Helen Zidowecki, January 2018

Opening words

Are the best years behind us or before us?

Change is sometimes planned, sometimes forced upon us....

If only we could keep everything that we like.....And get rid of what is not going well.

If only we could stay with the comfort of the familiar.....The unknown can be unsettling.....

If only we could see what the future would hold....But only if that were all good....

If only.....If only we could change “if only” to “what if.....”

Would that make a difference.....?

We can take control of our own destiny,

Make our own choices,

Design ministry for our own community – even in the midst of change!

Check in:

If used in a usual group, use the usual check in, like “How are you today?”

OR share a contribution that you make to the congregation.

Topic/Activity:

Discovery: Appreciate the best of what is.

Share a favorite experience that you have had in your congregation. What made it so vital?

Dream: See new possibilities for the future.

What more could we offer?

What wonderful things could be happening?

Design: Changing the design.

What are some of the challenges that you see in the future?

What are the strengths that the congregation has to live into the future?

Destiny: Designing and creating the future

How can you celebrate what is in place as you move into the change?

What impact can the vision of the future have on your own involvement in this congregation?

Check-out/Likes and Wishes: How was this session for you? What are you taking from the session?

Closing:

What if we act on our dreams? What if we see commitment as part of our spiritual journey?

What if.....

Each of you is invited to finish that statement, “What if.....” [allow time for response]

For these possibilities, Amen and Blessed Be.