

Contents and Encounters Along the Way

From Here to Community contains twelve journeys whose destination is to transform individuals and groups into a more vibrant community with a greater understanding of living with Christ-like love and care. Christians can best live out this vision if they are supported, nurtured, and encouraged by a community.

SESSION 1 The Connecting Link

- My Faith and Life Journey
- Envisioning an Ideal Christian Community (a modern story, a Biblical story, and our story)
- My Journey from Here to Community

SESSION 2 The Balancing Act – Me or Us?

- Individualism? Concern for the Common Good? (Charles and Arland)
- Four Historical Strands

SESSION 3 The Culture of Separation – What about Others?

- Revisiting Charles and Arland
- Relating to Others
- It's Not Either/Or

SESSION 4 Social Capital – Lost and Found

- Social Capital (Bill's Thanksgiving Story)
- Decline in Social Capital
- The Future?

SESSION 5 Who We Are? Where Do We Find Identity?

- Apphia and Philemon
- The Christian Community – A Contrast Society

SESSION 6 Why Community? Good News in Difficult Situations

- The Relationship between God, the Individual and the Community
- Life-Crisis Ministry (for a Tragedy and for a Dilemma)

SESSION 7 Expect to be Different!

- Christians Have a Different View of What's Important (Jimmy)
- Christians Have a Different View of How to Act
- Encountering Our Community

SESSION 8 Using Our Gifts

- What gifts help other people and help renew community? (Alice and Hope Church)
- Individual Commitment

SESSION 9 Small Groups

- What People in Small Groups Do Best (Jesus' Apostles, Noah's Family, Forgiveness)
- Vital, Not Always Perfect, With New Possibilities

SESSION 10 Our Church: Isolated, Partnering or Full Service?

- A Theology of Community (Eva and Peter)
- Connecting to the Larger Community
- Overcoming Barriers

SESSION 11 Working for the Common Good

- Moving Towards Action
- Partnering at Hope Church (Connections: Neighborhood, Rural, Inner City, National and World)
- Partnering at Our Church

SESSION 12 A Better Community: Dreaming and Acting

- My Dream for a Better Community (Where is God leading us next?)
- Sharing My Dream for a Better Community
- Our Dream for a Better Community