WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, OPENING PRAYER (3 minutes)

SONG - congregation’s choice (5 minutes)

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP AND DS (20 minutes)

I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back. So let’s keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you’ll see it yet! Now that we’re on the right track, let’s stay on it.

Philippians 3: 13-16 The MSG

For continual updates about the denomination consider signing up for the conference eNews at www.umcnic.org (scroll to the bottom left of the page and click on “Newsletter signup”) or the United Methodist News Service www.umnews.org.

SHARING CONFERENCE SHEPHERDING TEAM VISION (5 minutes)

Goal 1: To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ.
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ~ (Matthew 28:16-20)

Goal 2: To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teachings
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ~ (Matthew 22:36-39)

Goal 3: To Increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations.
All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body. ~ (1 Corinthians 12:27)

HOLY CONFERENCING (22 minutes)

Assign groups for discussion. If there is a large group, you could also break into multiple groups. For example, there could be two groups discussing goal 1, and two groups discussing goal 2, etc.

Goal 1: (Please note: new people come from new ideas. Suggest something you are not already doing).
• How many baptisms has the church had in the past year?
• How many new members?
• When was the last time you had a conversation with someone that has no faith tradition?
• Where are non-Christians hanging out in your community?
• What is the church doing to connect there?
• What new things should we be doing to grow to reach new disciples of Jesus Christ?

For some good ideas please consider the resources that Discipleship Ministries have provided at www.seeallthepeople.org.

Goal 2:
• Is it easy or difficult to talk about race? Why?
• What conversations have you had about racism in the last month?
• What is one thing your congregation can do over the next year to begin to grow in its anti-racism work?
• What is your understanding of privilege as it relates to the church and anti-racism work?

For some good ideas, please consider exploring the resources at www.gcorr.org/category/resource-types/discussion-guide

Goal 3:
• Where does your church fit into these quadrants Where would you like your church to fit?
• What are the demographics (race/ethnicity, economics) in your church neighborhood? How does your congregation reflect these demographics? What is the plan to reach the people in your neighborhood?
• What are the felt needs in your community? How does your congregation respond?
• What are some things that will need to be done differently in the next 3 years to help you change or to allow momentum to continue?

Check out UMdata.org. Is your church’s information accurate?

REPORT BACK FROM GROUPS (5 minutes)

SONG - congregation’s choice (5 minutes)

BUSINESS OF THE CHURCH CONFERENCE (15 minutes)
Leadership Nominations and Election * Clergy Compensation * Ministry Recommendations
* Lay Servant Reports * Add’l Business

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING