

## Mission Conversations

### Horizon House Responses

#### How important is engagement in the broader world?

It's our main purpose. We need to be engaged beyond giving money. Examples: demonstrating at the Detention Center, working toward socially responsible investment through Trillium, Mary's Place changed, moved and transformed us, changed our lives.

It has a major role. We need to be able to push beyond our comfort zone, beyond our cultural and geographic borders. Being in the city has given us unique opportunities to serve. We talk about diversity but do we expect others to change for us?

Engagement is basic to our Plymouth life. Limitations – what are we missing? We have to take care of ourselves in order to help others.

The broader world is at the top of the list. How can we support younger people? We need to change how we engage. We are all so busy. We want more personal connection in our engagement with broader world.

## How do we translate this into resources?

Use our building differently to support mission work. Serve the workers and residents of downtown. There will soon be a public school downtown. Serve those kids.

New sanctuary, attract more people, welcome brochures.

Involve our Time and Talents. Use mission moments in service to tell about service opportunities. Living longer. Use our time.

We are a “thinking church”. Intellectual and academic. Waning interest in traditional church. Study progressive theology. We can redefine religion. We need a PROGRESSIVE message.

## What are we excited about?

Create a coffee shop and bookstore.

Use our daycare space for homeless kids, or children of low-income workers nearby.

Internationally renowned speakers. Music events in sanctuary.

The justice leadership provided by our interns. Involve youth.

Becoming a peace and justice church.

Inspirational trips for youth. Use tools of the digital age.

Music: expand, all forms, bring in quality outside groups. Have more services with different kinds of music.

## **Plymouth Responses**

### How important is engagement in the broader world?

Plymouth is dedicated to mission. Hope in motion, working forward. In compassion to homeless, action has transcended faith.

We value our downtown connection. We are a congregation in a community. We want to be involved in social justice action, caring for others, and self-care.

Partner with Pilgrim and Prospect churches.

Do we spread our support too thin? Should we go deeper? Are we ready for risk? How do we welcome the stranger and engage genuinely?

Prioritize faith-based agencies. Reviewing and evaluating grant proposals. Do we have good metrics and measurements?

Connection with and service to others is foundational and fundamental. Jesus was out in the world. Remember why we do what we do. Stay in touch with the real needs of people.

Faith formation and external action are deeply linked. We need both. We inspire and support each other in our varied areas of service. Learning together to be people of faith, look beyond our walls, and respond to needs. Many of us, but headed in one direction, rooted in our space here at Plymouth.

## How does this translate into resources?

Plymouth has been a “mother church”. Sourcing other UCC churches.

Use the building to serve, shelter, shower etc.

Give to support agencies where Plymouth members are already involved. Find ways to involve more of us.

Relationships are valued. It feeds us to serve. Plymouth Housing started from faith, noticing needs.

People want to be asked. Craving to work together on one issue. Service and justice actions build relationships and bring in new members. Vitality.

Mission spending can show up in many areas: direct giving, youth projects, how we use the building and allocate staff time.

Mission can be a focus in faith formation, fellowship and parish care. Action transcends and transforms hopelessness.

**Plymouth members represent a huge bank of skills. How do we access that, utilize and coordinate efforts?**

**Our purpose is to comfort the distressed, and to distress the comfortable.**

**Relational mission is important. It helps us and the others. Stay resilient. Don't hold back. It's what got us here!**

## **What are we excited about?**

**Intergenerational church. The connected feeling of N-Sid-Sen in the city.**

**New opportunities and outreach in music and the arts.**

**Daycare for the homeless or low income workers.**

**Our justice interns and their leadership.**

**Adult Education as a means of social action.**

**International travel for youth and adults, service and global awareness.**

**Claiming our identity as progressive Christians.**

**Including and empowering young adults and welcoming their contributions.**

**Look honestly at why hundreds of formerly active members have stopped feeling engaged here, and why they left. Ask them.**

**Does how we see ourselves and our faith come through in our worship, social and service activities? Would people like us be attracted to this church?**

**Excited about relationships and about these conversations.**

**Excited that we seem on the edge of change and transformation. That we are getting unfrozen.**