

A brief outline of the Good to Great process:

1. Disciplined People
Identifying leaders with vision and determination, cultivating a “Who first, then what” culture.
2. Disciplined Thought
Confronting the brutal facts; putting every sacred cow under scrutiny.
3. Disciplined Action
Insisting everything we do serves our mission; majoring in the majors, minoring in the minors.
4. Building Greatness to Last
Making disciples and producing men and women who are even more passionate and prepared to know and serve Jesus Christ than we are.

Last September, Good to Great released a letter to initiate dialogue in three areas –

- a) Cell group ministry
- b) Summer programming
- c) Sunday morning worship schedules

In October, then, Good to Great hosted a series of small home-based meetings where church members and friends voiced questions, concerns, opinions, and suggestions. The data collected from those meetings are listed in this packet.

Since October, a group of seven church members have begun a comprehensive cell leader training program. **Cell group remarks.**

Also, the Education and Worship committees have been involved in discussions about summer programming and Sunday worship schedules. **Education and Worship Team remarks.**

What’s next? Develop a 3-5 year plan for our church. What do we need to do to most effectively help people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ?

From the New England Conference Office of Congregational Development’s G2G packet:

“Great churches are those pivotal congregations where transformative leadership, radical innovation, deep faithfulness, and disciplined action meet. Great churches produce miraculous fruit for the Kingdom. They are the churches that begin hospitals, universities, advocacy groups, or new churches. They are the churches that develop new and innovate ways of being in ministry with new people in a rapidly changing culture. They are the churches that produce whole generations of leaders that serve Christ in thousands of ways throughout their lives in all kinds of churches and ministries. They are the churches that change hundreds of lives everyday in their local community and through their connections around the globe. They are the churches that other church leaders visit for inspiration, ideas and hope.”

Questions of Clarification

Misunderstood need to grow by 40% over 20 years
40% over 20 years = a mixed message?
Differences between small groups and cell groups?
Can any group be a cell?
How are cell groups accountable to the church?
Are cells made up of insiders or outsiders?
Aren't we doing most of these proposals already?
Is this to get people to come to MUMC or come to God?
What does it mean to "disciple ourselves"?
Why do service times change in the summer?
1st G2G letter was largely misunderstood

Important issues

Need to maintain "the social aspect" of the church
Social life of the church is important – builds relationships without 'preaching'
We must find ways to bring people in without 'tricking them'
Kids are listening/paying attention more in contemporary service
More children attend contemporary service
We need to hear from both young and old people
We must respect elderly population
Unchurched people in our neighborhood are 'dissatisfied'
Everyone in church needs growth in some way
We must be "fed" before we can "feed" others
We can't move forward until we handle our staffing issues (office situation)
We can't move forward until we clear up internal issues
We must get consensus before any changes
The 'bottom-up' technique of cell groups is GOOD
The vulnerability and relationships formed in small groups are GOOD
We want to have cells that can be about anything
MUMC is already very well-known around our region
We don't need summer programs because we need a break
Uncomfortable with "taking the summer off" from church
Programs have failed in the past because the process wasn't working

Concerns about G2G

Other churches' cell groups peter out over several months
Discomfort with the term 'cell'
Who gets to decide what cells look like?
Are the cells and leaders accountable to anyone?
We don't want to do cell groups with other churches
What parameters does Methodist Discipline put on cell groups?
Sally wants 'perfection' in the choir; not small numbers
Ways we go about evangelism – door-to-door? Other ways?
People don't know where the church is located
Some people switch for the early service time
Can Children's choir and handbell choir perform in other services?
We see drop-off of children's attendance in 2nd service
Preference for children to go to church, not just Sunday School

Ed. Team is concerned about finding teachers for concurrent Sunday School
MUMC is not big enough of a church for 2 Sunday School programs
If we do concurrent Sunday School, what about adult Sunday school?
Our leaders already suffer from high burnout rates
G2G videos don't convey enough information
Strong discomfort with talking to coworkers about church, God
Don't let the services run so long/late – we need to respect people's schedules
Sermons are too long

Suggestions

Summer youth programs
More Men's groups
Can MUMC meet with other churches during the summer?
Can soloists sing throughout the year (2nd service)
More concerts and cantatas for outreach
Use Name tags
We need to help people grow into leaders
Cell groups are great for visitors who have already expressed an interest in the church
Church softball, basketball teams, bowling leagues
Change services to 9, 10.15 and let people interact between services (concurrent SS)
We should do concurrent Sunday School because "every church" does it
Evening services would give more options for worship
Outreach should target 'vulnerable people' such as the needy, the illiterate, etc.
Homework help nights for kids
Wii nights for kids
Literacy and writing programs
Put visitor cards in visitor folders
"I would go to a different service for 4 weeks to teach a concurrent SS class."
Like other churches, why don't we have youth worship?
Wednesday night for worship, classes, meetings (although wasn't popular in the past)
Coffeeshouse program for teens and young people
Lets do retreats, camping, vacations during summertime
We need more consistent, dedicated Bible studies
Could we start a radio program? Increase our radio presence?
Let's start by capitalizing on what we're already good at
Wanakee-style Sunday school for the summer
"Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ"

Worship Committee

January 26, 2009

From the Worship Committee

Members of the Worship Committee talked with me on an individual basis about Good to Great. A few did not really understand what the plan actually is and were anxious to hear the results and thoughts that will be brought up tonight.

The hours and placement of the two services were mentioned by most. Switching them around was not popular. Traditional people like the 10:45 Time frame; First service people like the early time of 8:30. Some thought 9:00 would work, but only if some other changes in the morning schedule were considered, such as Sunday School at the same time as first service.

The idea of having a third service, at some point in time, was also mentioned.

People understand the Cell Groups concept, but have trouble with that name. How about Home Gathering or Cluster Group, which sounds more inviting. They also understand this idea appeals to some but not to all.

We need to be a bit flexible and to keep the big picture in mind. Most feel that we are a good church and slowly moving toward Great in many ways. Great is the goal, and we can achieve that one step at a time. Let's continue to be a loving and welcoming congregation and looking forward.

Education Team
Summer Sunday School Program 2009

Begin: June 21st

End: August 23rd or 30th

Staffing needs: 2 Leaders each Sunday
1 person from Education Team to oversee operation

Time: Summer Sunday School will take place between the two morning services.

Location: Sanctuary for first 30 minutes then move outside for games.

Format:

- Open with music videos and songs from "WOW 2009."
- Kids put prayer requests up on the prayer wall and sign in.
- Draw one or two kids for a door prize. (Oriental trading type)
- Big circle prayer time.
- Split into 2 groups to hear and participate in age appropriate devotional reading and discussion.
- Regroup for Bible verse competition. Two teams compete for small prizes. (Hangman, Charades, or Fill in the missing words)
- Closing song.
Games outside.

Supplies:

WOW 2009 DVD and CD

"The One Year Everyday Devotions" by Arteburn and Florea, "God's Amazing Creatures and Me" by Haidle.

Poster Board and markers for Hangman.

1 Sand bucket for name drawing.

Poker chips to write student's names on.

Oriental Trading Company prizes.

Kick ball, volleyball, basketball.

Cell Ministry Leader Training

A cell ministry is simply a way for the Milford United Methodist Church to “help people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ” by organizing our relationships.

The building block of cell ministry is called a **cell group** - “a group of 4-15 people who meet regularly outside the church building for the purpose of evangelism, community, discipleship and service with the goal of multiplication.”

Cell groups are holistic in two respects:

- they incorporate the entire person (body, soul and mind)
- they can potentially lead people through all levels of the discipleship process

Cell groups are small to provide an environment for intimate relationships.

Cell groups spill outside the structured meeting times into ‘real life’.

Who?	Breaking the ice and building relationships	10-15 min
Why?	Casting a vision	5 min
What?	Applying Scripture	30 min
How?	Praying and Serving	20-40 min

Every meeting should address four questions - Who? Why? What? and How?

Who is ministering and whom are we ministering to?

Why are we ministering and why is the cell group meeting?

What are we offering, or what is the life-changing message of Jesus Christ?

How are we accomplishing our ministry goals?

Who?

This section uses an icebreaker to help cell participants get to know each other.

Why?

Here is where the leader gives a brief explanation of why we use the cell model and what he/she hopes to accomplish. This is where the leader gives news about service projects the group is involved in, updates about multiplication, and where the basic philosophy of cell ministry is reiterated.

What?

This is where cell members apply Scripture to their lives. Here leaders make the explicit point that our service projects and cell meetings are motivated by our joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ. Social activism is great, but only Christ can transform lives.

How?

This is how we live out the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ. We serve our community because of our love for Jesus Christ. We want others to be touched by the love of Christ, too. Occasionally, this component can be fulfilled with a focused and extended prayer time for a neighborhood, a specific situation, or a family.