



# Learning Communities Initiative

## What is a Guiding Team?

*Every congregation participating in the Learning Communities initiative will identify a Guiding Team of four to six members. The Guiding Team is the conduit through which the congregation as a whole is invited to participate in the Learning Community. Guiding Team members will receive coaching on how to engage others in their congregations in activities and learning throughout the process. A coach will answer their questions and help them to address challenges that arise during the Learning Communities initiative.*

## Building a Guiding Team

*A participant on the Guiding Team should have the following characteristics/skills:*

- ◆ Ability to work in cooperation with a team.
- ◆ Demonstrated leadership ability in some other context.
- ◆ Willingness to experiment with new activities and behaviours the process will invite.
- ◆ Willingness to personally practice some of the spiritual habits introduced in the Learning Communities initiative trainings.
- ◆ Ability and willingness to personally invite others in the congregation to participate at different points in the process.
- ◆ Commitment to participate in three Saturday trainings as well as all meetings the Guiding Team schedules.
- ◆ Commitment to respond to phone calls, emails and other communications related to the process.
- ◆ Commitment to enter the process as a learner without a particular agenda other than to follow God's leading for the congregation.
- ◆ Guiding Team members together represent the diversity of their congregation in terms of age, ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status.

## Time Commitment

*Each Guiding Team Member will commit to:*

- ◆ Three Saturday training workshops.
- ◆ One meeting per month (on average) with members of your Guiding Team to plan activities related to the Learning Communities initiative. Each meeting will likely include time with a coach; time and place will be determined by the Guiding Team.
- ◆ Time spent recruiting and training other members of the congregation throughout the process. Skills the Guiding Team will learn, practice and share include listening to God through scripture, interviewing other church members, and walking their neighborhoods with a spiritual focus.