Recap and next steps for Christ UMC in Rochester.

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I was amazed at the number of people who attended the training Friday night and Saturday morning. The pastoral leadership is stellar. CUMC is positioned well to make major moves to allow them to re-establish the church in the community. After the discussion with the large group, and then with the pastors Saturday afternoon, here are the next steps I’m recommending:

Action steps to begin working on over the next thirty days:

1. Guest Readiness – It’s clear that CUMC must revamp their current approach to hospitality. I recommend the following:

* Starting a new hospitality team with more gifted people in the area of hospitality. You must establish clear expectations for this new team.
* Rethink the coffee situation in the lobby. Possibly farm this out to the local popular coffee house, or improve what you have.
* Address the kids ministry/nursery challenges you are facing on Sunday mornings. We need to be as welcoming, inviting, and mindful of the younger families as we are with older couples.

1. Simple Systems – With urgency, we must establish a more effective system to follow up with first time guests and get them into a process.

* Create a newcomer’s lunch on the same day each month. This will become your new members’ class
* Develop the next step for that group to assimilate
* Develop a more aggressive follow-up system for first time guests
* Rethink the collection of the connect cards

1. Catalytic Events – CUMC is going through a serious identity crisis. We’re not really known for anything that is of significance outside the walls of the church. Who is CUMC? Who is God calling you to live into?

* CUMC must discern something big that will not only make a splash in the community, but it will more importantly challenge the current congregation to move outside of their comfort zone.
* One possibility that was discussed could be to launch a new church at an offsite facility in a strategic area. This site could be led by Pastor Katy Lee and will focus on reaching millennials. This is just an idea and readiness would need to be assessed by the conference director, DS, and other interested parties.

If the pool of outward focused servants isn’t expanded, the group of leaders will crash sooner than later.

We will have a follow-up conversation in 30 days.