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## Maybe Hospitality Is . . . “What it’s All About”

### I. Mission or Serving – Begins with “The Right Relationship” – An Abrahamic Core Faith Value

- “The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:33-34).
- Jesus answers the question, “Who is my neighbor?” with the story of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).
- The Qur’an tells us that we should “do good to...those in need, neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer that you meet” (4:36).
- The Hindu Taitiriya Upanishad (Non Abrahamic) tells us: “The guest is a representative of God” (1.11.2).
- Look at both Internal and external
  - Internal – Focusing on the foundations of mission
  - External
    - Doing Mission – “To believe is to care, to care is to do.”
    - “Taking Back” biblical welcome of the stranger – biblical self-defense in conservative communities
    - Address current issues
      - Immigration
      - Hate Speech
      - Israeli/Palestine

### II. Worshipping – Prayer – The Foundation

- Thomas Merton – “Prayer is the hospitality of the soul entertaining the most high God”
- These I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Isaiah 56:7
- Behold I stand at the door and knock. (NRSV) Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. . . . Rev. 3:20
- Look at both Internal and external
  - Internal – Praying
  - External – Becoming known as a place . . .
    - Where people can come to pray
    - Where people can come to request prayer

- Consider the Importance of rituals that demonstrate this

### **III. Generosity – Giving – The Risk of Hospitality – “What if I don’t have enough for myself?”**

- Elijah and the widow
- Jesus and the Widow – Maren Tirabassi (Daily Devotional)
- Look at both Internal and external
  - Internal – Giving campaign
  - External – Becoming known as a place that nurtures generations of generous young people

### **IV. Invitation/Welcoming . . . . Consider learning as a welcoming event – The hospitality for the 21<sup>st</sup> c mind**

- The luggage story
- What too us so long?
- Look at both internal and external
  - Internal – Look at systems that ensure we . . . .
    - Invite outsiders
    - Welcome them then they come
    - Follow up
    - Give them the “sticky stuff” that makes them remember us
  - External – Becoming known as a place that stretches . . . .
    - Mind & Heart
    - Spirituality – Don’t forget this aspect of church
  - Tell history story plus those of your own local church

### **V. Fellowship or Connecting – Is Everyone Welcome?**

- Internal better tracking and follow through systems for people who visit and participate
- Look at ways to include everyone
  - i. Variety in events
  - ii. People skilled at working the room at every event (For remember . . . you were once strangers . . . .) Can you think of a time when you went somewhere and you were the “odd one out?”