Mission Strategy Process in Southeast Michigan Synod:
Community Interviews

God speaks to us in many and various ways – through the Biblical story, the community of faith, the Sacraments, the voice of the "other," etc. And God has something to say to us today! Part of identifying our Assets, Wows, and Needs for the sake of discerning God's direction for us is intentionally listening to voices "outside" of the community of faith. The bishop, members of the Core team, and other synod leaders are encouraged to spend time interviewing people in the community prior to the April leadership retreat. These people could include state & government officials, school board members, community leaders, nonprofit executives, social service workers. But they could also include those people who aren't often heard by those in power: the poor, homeless, members of minority communities, young people, etc. Write down what you hear and bring these responses with you to the retreat. Use the questions below in your interviews:

a. What do you see happening in our city or your neighborhood that you think might be breaking God's heart? In other words, what are the BIG NEEDS we are facing in our life together?

b. Where have you seen God at work out in your community (ex. county, town, city, neighborhood, etc.) lately? In other words, what are the GOOD THINGS happening where you live and work that we should know about…and who is doing them?

c. What could the Southeast Michigan Synod do to help strengthen, encourage, and/or equip you and/or other leaders in our community to make a difference in and for the sake of our city, towns, and neighborhoods? In other words, "Is there anything in particular that you would like our help or partnership in?"

d. What do you think we could or should do together, as a synod, that none of our congregations could do alone that would really make God smile???

Name of the person interviewed: _____

Position of the person interviewed, if any: _____

Name of interviewer: _____

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