

House Meeting Overview

Sample Introduction:

“My congregation is part of a county-wide effort to involve our citizenry in solving the region’s most pressing problems. Please take a minute to think about the question: ‘What is one thing you would change to make life in Greater Cleveland better for your family and your community, and what story can you share with us in less than two minutes which illustrates why you care so much about that issue?’”

Ground Rules:

- Let everyone have their chance to speak
- Listen respectfully and attentively
- Respect differences of opinion
- Search for common ground.
- Tell stories that illustrate your concern for the issues

Questions to Keep the Conversation Moving:

1. Why is that issue so important to you?
2. What have you done to act on that concern?
3. Do you know anyone else who feels the same way?
4. How does the story you just told relate to the story Ms. _____ told earlier in the meeting?

Conclusion: What are you going to do about it?

1. Organize another house meeting of people you know who care about that issue?
2. Attend the April 7 issues convention with me?
3. Stay in touch around opportunities to act together in the future.

Evaluating your House Meeting:

People

- Which participants stood out for their passion, creativity, charisma, or deep social networks?
- Which participants really seem like they want to do something?
- Follow up individually with those people, or pass along their information to a member of your congregation’s core team for follow-up.

Issues

- Which concerns came up the most?
- Which concerns elicited the most passion and anger?
- What were the most memorable stories?