

THEMES FROM FRIDAY NIGHT'S DEBRIEF OF PAIRED INTERVIEWS:

1. Loved pursuit to openness
2. Fun!
3. Learned we have common views
4. Great to talk with someone new in a safe space
5. Ran out of time because of deep conversation and fascinating answers
6. Complete trust
7. Wondered what life would be like without this church
8. Relationships are critical
9. Nice to hear from a new member and welcome one another
10. Learned about a church tradition that I never heard of before
11. There's always room for everyone
12. Based on love for one another
13. Every person is a different church
14. Every attribute of FCC was tied to a person
15. Did not hear one thing I wasn't 100% in agreement with
16. Despite differences, what we look for is the same
17. Honesty and openness to one another was great
18. Shared, honest experiences over generations was meaningful
19. Reminded of power of prayer
20. Reminded of rich history of the church
21. Our church is open to change

STORIES & VALUES / ROOT CAUSES OF SUCCESS *(Shared Saturday morning in groups)*

STORIES	VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project sacred space • Mission Trips, PADS • PRIDE-lighthouse • Community meetings • Celebrating gifts • Music – open • Outward display of acceptance / justice • Getting involved in “outside” events (Juneteenth, food equity, Harvey project) • Discussing difficult topics • Arts-related events • Women elders • “Community’s House” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing, welcoming • Service, involvements, hands-on active • Accepts, value-driven “yes” • Love – taking risks / unapologetically open • Safe harbor / Embracing whole person • Openness • Not gatekeeping, curiosity, engagement, church without borders, creativity • Own the past to repair/restore; awareness

STORIES	VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool, Sunday school, youth programs, cam gray, tower hill, canoe trips • Prayer chain • Book groups (Sunday, men’s); sermon topics; social challenge; presentations; bible study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in children • Accept our own and others’ vulnerability • Expand knowledge and experience and spirituality

STORIES	VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved gathering outside PADS / open & affirm / anti-racism / hoops Bargain box, Christmas angels, women's and men's, PEGs, Questers Arts and music, choir, art shows, writing group, art displays, artist talks Lighthouse, healing racism, Bethel, food equity, pantry, you matter 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality Willing to lean into difficult conversations, even if not easy Follow through to concrete action Nurturing social and spiritual needs of ourselves and the community Art as spiritual expression Spawned and/or supported

STORIES	VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID response; outreach to church and community; tech upgrades Establishment of PADS 1993 Night Christmas service; kids service; singing and swaying; baby Jesus raised above last row; kids felt comfortable – congregation embraced Church in community house Julie joining in conjunction with Anna on Governing Board; feeling of hope and change FCC showoff for PADS ; raise \$\$; engage community in our mission Julie joining – exciting new era Thanksgiving eve service Night after 9/11 The community house is the community's house 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perseverance Ingenuity Investment time, heart and \$ Service to needs of community – population outside church Working through resistance with love Depth of volunteerism Community Embracing children Acceptance Openness Humor & joy Spontaneous Intimate change of space Use of space for ourselves and community Flexibility Openness to change Spirit of invitation to community; to learn more about us Celebration of diverse talents Inclusion Church open to all to come and grieve together Ongoing commitment to redemption; diversity

STORIES	VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marriage New church family created Drawn in by "anti-racism" zoom calls Welcoming and supportive moving here Youth playing piano in service Loving and caring concerns Katrina – 9th ward church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surrounded their new life and planted deep roots Active commitment and passion All embracing and all ages honored Action and engaging w/community Taking action as congregation Hospitality and making space for new people and making it compelling to step in Sense of active and open arms Be a part of a church to include young people – safe place Meals and active caring (caregiving) Partnered with DuPlessis family and their church in New Orleans. Huge outreach beyond our walls Our community = entire world

STORIES	VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen ministries • Loss great...support, listened, calming • Baby in hospital – visit of minister • We are welcoming and affirming • Outreach to New Orleans / Guatemala • Christmas angels – gave our church members a chance to adopt a family • When we have speakers and music talking about their culture • Bargain box family: Members/non-members come together to price, support, sort, share, lunch, and sell to community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compassion, support, caring, connections • Caring for a visiting family / new member • Reaching / caring • Accepting • Outreach • Church family involvement • Sharing/outreach • Promoting diversity • Volunteers/ing

STORIES	VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve on personnel during pandemic • Mission trips • Appreciating our blessings / highlighting our blessings • Implementing a suggestion • Weathering the storm of the pandemic together • Volunteering at various events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective service • Effective support FCC staff • Satisfying experience • Identifying and using talents and gifts • Generosity • Helping others in far away communities • Gratitude • Welcoming/hospitality • Being heard • Take care of one another as a ggroup • Commitment to the church and each other

STORIES	VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas angels • Resettlement of Laotian family – 1970s • PADS • Lighthouse, anti-racism • Purposeful language around diversity, affirming, and acceptance • Mission trips: Guatemala, New Orleans, Cozumel • Practical application of gospel truth • Shepherding of new members • Purposeful fellowship • Brunch • Museum trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service • Sharing • Building relationships • Welcoming / supporting strangers • Community peace-making • Sustained service / long-term • Boldly living out our mission • Living truth • Awareness / witness • Members caring for each other and strangers

STORIES	VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCC as 1st responders • Racist H.S. event • Funeral • PADS • Grieving for suicide • Last year hote guests • Gifts • You matter 2 • Pridefest / lighthouse • Community youth and young kids fun events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring for each other • Caring for others/community • Praising God through powerful music and liturgy • Passing on the values of FCC to youth /young families and new members

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday music for seldom attenders and community easter • Community / friendships outside of FCC building – meals in homes, etc. • Christmas angels • Share your soles / feed my starving children (intergenerational) • Music – strength to inspire and encourage participation and representing different styles • Passion the peace “a contact sport” – we check in with each other • Stephen ministries (despite out people being reluctant to ask for help) • Adult ed is the glue that holds us here • Anti-racism discussions • Books – Trina/plus: one book • Bible study • Our full life continuum 	
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STORIES	VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Harvey project • Church opened doors and led to current needs of our neighborhood (HF diving team suicides / blackface incidents / healing response / racism conversation • Habitat for humanity • Christmas angels • PADS; leaders • Adoption of refugee families (Syrian fam in recent years / Cambodian fam in 80s) • Mount Nebo Baptist church • Creating fun events for community / building community • Food drive up • Bargain box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in our community / neighborhood • Leading and addressing crucial needs for helping/hurting community • Recognizing/identifying injustice • Investing in the futures of individuals in needs • Responding to crisis • Sharing our blessings • Welcoming invitation; creating community connection for sake of joy

STORIES	VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Christmas Angel • Participation in PADS program • Creating events (work days, supply gathering) for all to participate in • Members bringing their skills and ideas to church and being well received • Mission programs • PADS program / youth group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual foundation of young people • Reaching out to people in need • Support events to help community • Entrepreneurial spirit • Reaching our and helping non-church members • Service, commitment, and passions • Steady leadership