

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF PLYMOUTH CHURCH  
AT WORKSHOP ON MARCH 27, 1971

(Suggestions are arranged under the three major questions which were considered by the buzz groups at the workshop.)

I. HOW CAN WE STIMULATE MEMBERS TO GREATER INVOLVEMENT?

1. By developing warmth and spirituality in our worship service through:
  - a. A stable order of service around which the vast majority of members can unite.
  - b. Use of UCC ritual for communion service, reception of new members, baptism of children and other rites of the church.
  - c. More congregational singing.
  - d. Familiar songs for processional and recessional.
  - e. Sermons relevant to the times which appeal to young people as well as to the older members.
  - f. Youth participation in the worship service through reading of the scripture, special observance, etc.
  - g. Better use of church bulletin and outdoor bulletin board.
  
2. By exhibiting greater care and concern for members in distress through:
  - a. System to take attendance at Sunday morning worship service so that the absentees will always be known.
  - b. Cards or letters from church letting members know that they are missed.
  - c. Visitations by an organized group to insure that all ill and shut-in are visited regularly.
  - d. Visitation by individual members.
  - e. Sending of cards or other messages to the ill and bereaved.
  - f. Organized group and individual members who volunteer to perform whatever service is needed and acceptable to the distressed member.
  
3. By formation of interest groups.
  - a. Formation of a youth church.
  - b. Formation of umbrella type of organizations -- one for men and one for women -- which in turn could foster various interest groups to perform such services as:
    - (1) Visiting members who are ill or shut in.
    - (2) Contacting new-comers to the city for possible church membership.
    - (3) Canvassing for new members in various neighborhoods.
    - (4) Volunteer workers in Plymouth Settlement House.
    - (5) Providing worship services for patients in convalescent hospitals and persons in nursing and care homes.
    - (6) Organizing weekday neighborhood bible or study groups.
    - (7) Supervising and servicing the church nursery.
    - (8) General responsibility for supervision and inventory of kitchen equipment and supplies.
    - (9) Forming a pool to provide representatives from Plymouth Church to UCC meetings.
    - (10) Developing recreational or fun groups to foster fellowship.
    - (11) Recognition of memorable days and outstanding achievements of church families or individuals.



- (12) Forming groups for do-it-yourself projects such as painting walls, cleaning woodwork, etc.
- (13) Organizing "big brother" and "big sister" activities in the community.
- (14) Fostering special church projects involving capital outlays.

4. By increasing the out-reach of the church through:

- a. Greater involvement in the mission programs and special observances of the UCC.
- b. Greater interest and involvement of the church in the programs of the Plymouth Settlement House.
- c. Greater participation of the church in interdenominational activities.
- d. Formation of a volunteers' bureau in the church to acquaint members with opportunities for volunteer service at the Settlement House and in the community generally.

5. By increasing opportunities for wider participation of church members in existing boards and committees through:

- a. Compulsory rotation of members on all boards and standing committees of the church.
- b. Election of women to the Trustee Board.
- c. Election or appointment of youths to all policy making boards and committees of the church.

6. By the formation of new boards or organizations such as:

- a. An Usher Board of girls.
- b. A young adult organization.
- c. A Men's Fellowship.
- d. Future workshops.

7. By increasing attendance at Sunday School through:

- a. Parents bringing instead of sending their children to Sunday School.
- b. Greater attendance by adults generally.

II. HOW CAN WE RECLAIM OR REACTIVATE INACTIVE MEMBERS?

- 1. By implementing the seven items under question number I. (HOW CAN WE STIMULATE MEMBERS TO GREATER INVOLVEMENT?) to give Plymouth Church a new and more attractive image.
- 2. By constant contact with inactive members at which time the new image is stressed by:
  - a. Individual members
  - b. Members of Deacon and Deaconess Boards and other organized groups.
  - c. The Pastor
- 3. By putting the reactivated member to work immediately in some activity or activities to his liking.

III. HOW CAN WE SECURE NEW MEMBERS?

- 1. By implementing the seven items under question I. (HOW CAN WE STIMULATE MEMBERS TO GREATER INVOLVEMENT?) to give Plymouth Church a new and more attractive image.



2. By organizing visitation evangelism teams to seek new members.
3. By striving to get every member to seek new members from among persons not now affiliated with or attending any other church.
4. By reorganizing the reception of new members to make such reception more meaningful to both new and old members alike.
5. By insuring that new members are involved in some organization and activities immediately.