

Room at the Table
Leader Discussion Guide
One hour Sunday School Class or a Study/Fellowship Group

Goals:

...To provide a unique opportunity to share plans and dreams of a future that possibly includes new faces and voices in your congregation.

...Learn about the connectional nature of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the distinctive role that the Synod of the Trinity plays in these connections. Discover how the Synod supports and encourages vital ministry and mission in each Presbytery, as each Presbytery supports and encourages the congregations within it.

...Consider how to serve God as a church leader in the missional church.

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome one another and make sure everyone has an opportunity to speak his or her name.
3. Read 14:16-23
Discuss what was read:
 - ...What thoughts came to your mind as you heard these words?
 - ...Have you ever hosted a party or a dinner and no one (or very few) came to it? What would that be like?
4. Reflect on this question for a few moments: "Who invited me to church?" What happened? Who did you meet that day? Did you go back?
5. Reflect on this question for a few moments: "Who have I ever invited to church?" What happened?
6. Reflect on this question for a few moments: "How did it feel when I visited church while I was away from home - or on vacation or or staying with family?" What were the good and the not-so-good things that happened?
7. Reflect on this questions for a few moments: "How does our congregation react when a stranger comes into the sanctuary?"
8. According to this scripture verse, who is God inviting to His Table?

9. How is the Presbyterian Church (USA) structured?
Review – Members; Congregation; Session; Presbytery; Synod; GA
10. How do you think these parts of the church interact?

Watch DVD – “Room at the Table” – About 12 minutes

11. As you watched the video, do you learn ways that the Synod is enabling Presbyteries and congregations to meet the call of Christ to welcome all to the Table? What were they?
12. For the next three years, the Synod is focusing on Leadership Development. What do you believe is leadership? How does a church leader lead?
13. How might a church leader promote inviting others to share in the good news of life abundant and life eternal?
14. What is meant by the words “missional church”? “Connectional church?”
15. How shall we nurture young people and help them learn how to be leaders in the life of a missional church?
16. How are relationships an important key to our congregational life, as well as our connectional life in the larger church?
17. Are there specific things we might want to begin doing in ministry and mission in order to meet the call of Christ? How could our connectional church help us to accomplish our goals?
18. How will you specifically interact with someone new this week? How will your faith in Christ as Lord and Savior help you? How could this congregation help you?
19. Are you willing to have a conversation to follow up on the important things we have been discussing?
20. Close with prayer.