

Scenario Response Worksheet

A group of white friends are having lunch together after church. A couple of the friends begin to talk about how the social justice committee has been so successful in making changes that they don't recognize the service anymore. They complain about the new musical director, how they don't know the songs, and that the sermons seem to be more story-telling than informative. One person says things are changing too much, and that it's only trying to cater to the folks of color. A lament is that they don't seem to be making connections between people as much as focusing on the differences between groups. The person then suggests that if the church is dedicated to this way of doing things, then the 10AM service should remain more traditional, and this new contemporary service should occur at 8AM. Another couple of the friends try to provide a different perspective, arguing that the new music has helped them experience the church in a new way, and they appreciate that change might be necessary if they want a truly multi-racial congregation.

1. What are the tensions in this scenario?

2. To what degree do the themes in this scenario play out in communities of which you are a part? Where do you think they come from (culturally, theologically, etc.)? How are they supported?

3. How is privilege and/or racism manifesting?

4. How would you feel if you were in this situation?

5. What would you say in response? (*For faith communities: What spiritual/theological beliefs help ground you in that response?*)

In small groups:

6. How would you hope people would respond to this situation?

7. How could the use of “both/and” thinking inform the response?