

Knowing Where to Begin

An Assessment Tool

Belong
Believe
Become a Blessing

First United Methodist Church is a community of people who are seeking to fall in love with God, to follow Christ, and to serve others. Our vision is that everyone who has contact with our church will find opportunities to belong, believe, and become a blessing.

There are many guides in our life of faith. What we read, what we hear, who we listen to and the experiences of God in our life all shape us and the paths we take. This tool is meant to be one of those guides that can offer you a path for “next steps,” a call to discipleship from Jesus Christ, and a vision of what we hope that discipleship is centered around at First UMC. Our purpose is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Our discipleship model calls on us to belong, believe, and become a blessing to live out that purpose.

Belong. Becoming part of a community takes some courage, some openness and some willingness to be vulnerable. Jesus accepted all sorts of different people into his circle of love, and as followers of Christ we are also called to welcome the stranger. Belonging is as much about hospitality as it is about presenting ourselves for relationship.

Believe. Our faith journey is a life long undertaking. It requires constant attention. The goal of the journey is not to find all the answers, but to grow in our trust of God, Christ, and each other—even in the face of life’s big questions that we wrestle with.

Become a Blessing. God put us here to love each other, to lift each other up, and to make a positive difference for Christ. There are a million different ways that can happen, just as there are a million different talents and interests and gifts. Understanding your own gifts and putting them to use in God’s kingdom is how we bless the world and honor God’s gift in each of us.

Belong 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____
 Total: _____

Believe 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____
 Total: _____

Become a Blessing 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____
 Total: _____

As a guide for interpreting your total for each area of growth, and choosing next steps, we suggest:

- 40 – 50 I am investing my gifts, knowledge and skills to bless others. While I realize that growth is a life-long process, this is an area of strength for me.
- 23 – 39 I am showing evidence of intentionally living for Christ. I need to consider some next steps to further my walk with Christ in certain areas
- 0-22 I need to reflect more about my lifestyle and become more intentional about my walk with Christ.

Believe

1. As a means of growing in Christ, I practice a spiritual discipline (prayer, reading the scriptures, fasting, worship) on a regular basis. (At least 4 times/week.)

Sometimes Frequently Always

0 1 2 3 4 5

2. I sense God's transforming love in my life, reflected in my changing values, priorities, relationships, feelings, behaviors and reactions.

0 1 2 3 4 5

3. I understand the essential beliefs of the Christian faith and can explain them to a friend.

0 1 2 3 4 5

4. I realize worship is not about pleasing me but glorifying God.

0 1 2 3 4 5

5. I attend worship two or more times a month, 25 or more times a year.

0 1 2 3 4 5

6. I have attended a study or class in the past year.

0 1 2 3 4 5

7. I pray everyday for the Holy Spirit to direct me as I open my heart to God in a personal time of devotion.

0 1 2 3 4 5

8. I would like to learn more about the scriptures.

0 1 2 3 4 5

9. There are sufficient opportunities to grow in my faith journey offered at FUMC.

0 1 2 3 4 5

10. I understand the depths of forgiveness and practice it for people who have hurt me.

0 1 2 3 4 5

Become a Blessing

1. I know my God-given gifts and am actively serving Christ by using those gifts.

Sometimes Frequently Always

0 1 2 3 4 5

2. I serve Christ and Christ's church by being a regular volunteer in a ministry area of FUMC.

0 1 2 3 4 5

3. I have participated in a Community Work Day, a Mission trip, or served as a mentor in the past year.

0 1 2 3 4 5

4. I give back to Christ and the church by faithfully giving a percentage of my income.

0 1 2 3 4 5

5. I am willing to serve in ways that are outside of my comfort zones.

0 1 2 3 4 5

6. There are sufficient opportunities offered to serve Christ and Christ's community at FUMC.

0 1 2 3 4 5

7. I believe God enables me to do things I could not or would not otherwise do.

0 1 2 3 4 5

8. God calls me to be involved in the lives of the poor and suffering.

0 1 2 3 4 5

9. Because everything ultimately belongs to God, I am generous with all the resources I have.

0 1 2 3 4 5

10. I offer a positive impact on the lives of others by offering words of encouragement or sharing authentically in their concerns.

0 1 2 3 4 5

