

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS TEAM UPDATE

Please check back for an update from our PPR Team which met most recently on Thursday evening, March 23.



EXAMEN(ED) CHURCH: OUR THRIVE TEAM'S JOURNEY

In January, the church started out on an 18-to-24-month journey toward long-range planning and exploring our church's call to discipleship. A seven-member team was put together to work with the Marquette University sponsored program, "The Examen(ed) Church". Terry McManus, Louise Mollinger, Karl Pradel, Scott Symes, Gary and Meg Tackes, along with Pastor Scott, first met in January at Marquette for an initial training session. The group has been spending the months of February and March engaged in personal spiritual "disciplines" such as using the model of daily prayer called "The Examen". This method of prayer was developed by St. Ignatius Loyola back in the 16th Century and has been used by Christians for hundreds of years to discern the movement of God's Spirit in their lives. The group has gathered once a month to get to know one another better and share the joys and struggles of spiritual life.

As the program leaders wrote in their message to the group last month, "the goal... is to for your Thrive Team as a 'community of reflective discernment'. For most of us, this requires the development of a different set of spiritual skills than our experience to date has formed in us. We might think of this like taking up a new physical activity that works a different set of muscle groups than our current physical condition has employed. The activities in these early months of The Examen(ed) Church program are intended to work and tone those distinct 'spiritual muscle groups' to prepare for the work of communal discernment later in the program."

The group is getting into spiritual "shape" for the work that is to come. They meet again at Marquette University with several other churches on April 22 and will report back to the church again next month. Keep the team in your prayers!