The Zoom Meeting was called to order at 12 noon by President Pastor Ben Shaeffer. He introduced the speaker Gary Weldon who is team leader of Men’s Ministries at Ginghams burg UMC. He then led in the opening devotion and prayer. The devotion was based on Isaiah 55:1 “All of you who are thirsty, come to the Water”. Pastor Ben reminded us that at Lenten we need to come to Jesus who is the living water that brings everlasting life.

Gary Weldon then opened by sharing their story. About 3 years ago he got involved in a men’s bible study and the group asked the question, what next? They formed a team to explore what next. To form this team they looked for men who were showing evidence of God’s call. After 1 year they held a men’s retreat where they could pray, fellowship and learn together. In the fall of 2017 they reached out further to men to host a BBQ at the church. One hundred showed up for food and fellowship. On February 2018, they held another retreat. They met August 9th and had 10+ activities in what they called GUYS NIGHT and they are planning about 9 of these events each year.

They set up small groups of men asking all men in any leadership positions and met bi-monthly for disciple growth. These meetings were set up so the leaders got to know one another and to train for leadership development. Retreats were set up where these men could pray and listen for God’s call and these have been very helpful. They have been able to grow as friends and leaders.

Strengths are found in another’s brokenness. All have suffered great losses and want to make a difference in others’ lives, sharing through redeeming experiences. They have a diversity of experiences. The one thing they lack, is diversity of ages.

Mission statement – “Changing the World, one man at a time”. As a ministry of Ginghamsburg, it is the mission of the men’s group to intentionally guide men of all ages into a transformational relationship with Jesus, grow them into spiritually mature men.

For GUY’S NIGHT they have dinner/live music/worship/ and good speaker helping men grow with relationships. They have had anywhere from 40 to 120 men attend these events. They now have developed small groups of 8-10 men for building disciples...

Resources used are “MAN IN THE MIRROR”, “NO MAN LEFT BEHIND” studies and “NO REGRETS” men’s 1 year series, and “Pastoring Men” by Patrick Morley. They have also used “Emotionally Healthy”

What’s Next – Focus on leadership development? They plan a Leadership retreat called WILD AT HEART retreat at Camp Wesley in Bellefontaine area.

Questions and Comments – By Ken Hudgins - To get younger men, work through scouts to find young men who are or have been through Eagle Scouts program. Comment from Pastor Ben- younger men like doing things with older men. Maybe dodge ball could bring them together.

Question – Is there a Disciple pathway? Answer-Gary Weldon responded yes, in small groups, they are set up for men’s topics after the 1st to 4 weeks.
Question – Is there an effort to reach unchurched men?  Answer by Gary – Right now no but they need to leverage into this area by getting men already involved to invite their acquaintances to join them.

Comment by Pastor Keith Dill – First steps that might be a good tool is 101 Discipleship. Pastor Ben shared that younger men will go out to lunch and/or play golf. Next month the topic will be on how to attract younger men into the men’s programs.

The Zoom meeting closed at 12:45 PM with closing prayer by Gary Weldon.

Notes provided by:

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