**United Methodist Community Ministries**

**Possible Outreach Components**

**When creating new ministries, the following may help guide the planning for your ministry.**

1. Do you have a mission, vision, and strategic plan for your ministry?
2. Does your ministry hope to foster discipleship and spiritual growth of participants, transform community, and/or provide a way to sustain the ministry going forward?
3. Does your ministry reach out beyond your walls to build relationships with those in the margins through acts of radical hospitality? Reference [www.SeeAllThePeople.org](http://www.seeallthepeople.org/) for more on welcoming those often overlooked.
4. Does your ministry send their members out to serve the root causes of poverty in risk taking acts of mercy and justice? Do members demonstrate their willingness to change and take risks.
5. Does your ministry participate in partnerships, shared ministry, cluster ministries and/or covenant groups?

**Definition of key words:**

1. **Radical hospitality-** congregation seeks out persons from diverse backgrounds in a welcoming atmosphere and programming
2. **Risk taking service and mission-** persons get involved in hands-on service opportunities
3. **Discipleship-** helping persons grow in their faith in obedience to Jesus Christ-with the goal of transforming the world one person at a time. The power of love through service, genuine relationship, and gentle encouragement may be the beginning of someone’s journey to walk with Christ.
4. **Transforming Communities** – What is the ministry’s long-term impact on the community served? So often we enable and don’t empower. To transform communities, it takes risk, guts, and hard work. Do you know why those you serve are in the position of requiring whatever assistance you offer? Have you really asked the right people the right questions to know what the needs in your community really are? Or are you making your own assumptions and offering what is easy and seems like a nice thing to do? Our communities are ill. And just like any illness, they can‘t be treated until the underlying cause is found. Is it lack of jobs, or lack of job skills? Or is it even more basic than that, language and reading barriers? Find out what is really going on in your community and build a ministry to address the foundational issues which prevent people from helping themselves.
5. **Sustainability** - Is there a plan for the ministry to sustain itself both financially, and with volunteer and material resources for the long term? All missional ministries have funding challenges. The needs are great, the money can be tight. But beyond the money, there is the matter of volunteers. A ministry is not sustainable if it is the vision and passion of just a couple people. Volunteers need to be recruited by evidence of the value of the ministry, trained so they feel useful, rotated so they don’t feel taken advantage of, also allowing the opportunity for others to learn the joy of serving.