

# FORWARD FOCUS

Forward Focus is a process designed to help local United Methodist churches and charges study their past, present and future potential for ministry to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## **Forward Focus is a process:**

- To study ministry potential and vitality of the local church
- That requires an extensive study of past, present and potential for ministry
- Based on Paragraph 213 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline (see back)

## **Forward Focus is designed to:**

- Encourage local churches to regularly study themselves, their communities
- Guide local church leadership in gathering data
- Lead to reflection on ministry potential and vitality of the local church
- Create ongoing conversation with congregation to ensure their input
- Increase ministry capacity of the local church for years to come

## **Want to know more?**

- Go to [umcsc.org/forward-focus](http://umcsc.org/forward-focus)
- Contact your district congregational specialist

# FORWARD FOCUS

## **Paragraph 213 UMC Book of Discipline**

“Since every congregation is located in a community in some type of transition, every local church is encouraged to study its congregation’s potential. Upon the request of the congregation, the district superintendent shall appoint a study task force to assist in an extensive study of the past, present and potential ministry of that local church. Alternatively, the district superintendent may appoint such a task force when the future viability of the congregation is in question or whenever he/she deems it necessary for other reasons.”