

## The Faith Encouragement Ministries Programs

Faith Encouragement Ministries has two major programs: *Faith Alive* which is the classic, standard program and *Faith Journey* which is the newer program that allows the flexibility to be customized to meet the unique needs of a church. The purpose of this document is to provide open dialog as part of the discernment process in preparation for your Faith Alive or Faith Journey weekend.

### Getting Started

The Worksheet on Page 2 is for your use. The Clergy, General Chairperson(s), and Follow Up Chairperson(s) are asked to complete the worksheet. You may also include the input of the Vestry or other lay leaders. Use additional pages as you may require. After you complete your responses, return the completed worksheet to your assigned Weekend Coordinator or to the Program Office.

**These six basic questions should be bathed in prayer and opened for discussion with your leadership:**

1. *What are your church's greatest strengths?*  
This question helps us to understand and draw on your strengths, including, but not limited to, church-wide meals, music/worship, teen programs, and others.
2. *What are your top 2-4 ministry priorities?*  
This question allows us to understand your current priorities; for example, small group sessions, visitation, or neighborhood groups.
3. *What would you like to continue and encourage?*  
This question encourages your leaders to reflect on areas of nurture and growth. Examples of these are pre-school children's programs, teen programs, adult Bible study, or other areas integral to the future of the church.
4. *What are possible opportunities for your church?*  
This question allows your leaders to look forward to new areas of ministry, including family programs, men's programs, serving and reaching the community, or church-wide programs for the future.
5. *What obstacles do you face for the weekend?*  
This is an important question for us all to address. There may be issues related to scheduling in particular, alternate physical meeting locations, or other areas we need to discuss up front to brainstorm alternative solutions.
6. *Where is the Holy Spirit guiding your church?*  
One way we can all tell where the Holy Spirit is leading your church is if you list the activities planned for the next 6-12 months.

