

## Small Group Leader preparation for One-meeting Listening Campaign

1. **Identify** from within the Congregation or group, people to facilitate small groups in the one-meeting listening campaign.

**Invite** them to a preparatory meeting which may take place immediately prior to or some days before the One-meeting Listening Campaign. Advise that this preparatory meeting will take 2 hours.

**Advise** that there will be one further meeting only - that of the One-meeting Listening Campaign which will take 1 hour 40 mins.

2. **Call together** those identified for one preparatory meeting.

- i. **Open with prayer.**

**Read John 4:5-42 \***

- ask each to identify with either the woman, the disciples, the Samaritans or Jesus.
- ensure each character in the story is identified by someone.
- after the reading reflect on what it felt like from that character's perspective.
- ask what difference did it make to their lives?
- identify how this experience changed the future for that character and for others.

Note that interactions between people lead to new opportunities in life, that the 'other' person is worth listening to, that the very act of meeting and conversation is an act of recognition, that time devoted to an individual is far more valuable than time spent on more conventional activities, that the newcomer to a group, in being invited to share equally, joins in the ongoing creation of the evolving community.

(\*ref: Effective Organising for Congregational Renewal by Michael Gecan, Metro Areas Foundation. A study guide prepared by Rob McFarlane, Director of Continuing Education, UnitingChurch - Board of Education (Synod of NSW & the ACT) for the Sydney Alliance. Version 1: April, 2010.)

- ii. **Outline the aims** of the One-meeting Listening Campaign and of Sydney Alliance.
- iii. **Share** why those present have been identified as Small Group Leaders for this exercise.
- iv. As Leader, **share something of your passion for the process.**
- v. **Step through the process** - for today and the one-meeting listening campaign. (Papers provided)
- vi. **Hold relational meetings** one-to-one around the group prompted by the question:  

***“What is it about being Christian (or your life experience)  
that prompts you to want to make a difference in the world?”***
- vii. Each to **share one thing that inspires** them about the person with whom they have just had a relational conversation.
- viii. **Facilitation skills preparations . . .**
  - that we aim to involve everyone respectfully, identify real issues, but keep to point and to time.
  - ask what happens when someone is too quiet or too talkative - discuss strategies to include all equally.
  - outline the need to clarify issues so they can be purposefully addressed eg., someone might say:  
*“I have trouble juggling transport and work and child minding”* It is important to probe and discern whether it is lack of child minding, hours of work, distance to work, bus/train timetabling, lack of help at home etc., that is the cause or contributes to the problem.
  - stress the need to keep to time and ensure everyone participates. This will be their only chance!
- ix. Finally, **respond to any questions** for clarification.
- x. **Remind everyone of the day, date, time and location of the one-meeting listening campaign. Close with prayer and a blessing.**