

## **Fruitful Organizational Structures**

- We can articulate a compelling, Christ-honoring vision for our church.
- We embrace evaluation as normal and natural and work through conflict constructively.
- Our organizational structures are designed to be efficient at making decisions while at the same time building congregational ownership for those decisions.

**Opening:** What is a group you are a part of that you enjoy? Share about where God is at work today.

**#Scripture:** Exodus 18:13-26

What are some key elements of this story from Moses' life?

How could this story relate to the life of a local church?

\*What are you involved in at Faith Church? Where do you volunteer and serve?

\*What would you like to do?

How could the leaders more clearly communicate what is happening at church with the rest of the congregation?

How would you describe the organizational structure at Faith? Is it fruitful? Why? Why not?

\*Faith Community Church is affiliated with the Reformed Church in America. What would you like to know about our denominational affiliation? Do you have any questions about the Reformed Church in America? What benefit can you imagine we gain from this relationship?

**\*Prayer:** Pray for the person who will be called to be our new pastor. Pray that each person at Faith will do his/her part so that ministry is shared by many, not a burden to few.

Pray for the Search Team – Leanne Bough, Ray Dimino, Bill Hatfield, Carole Shaw, Lu Shao, and Edie Tye.

\*Read the Vitality Pathway prayer.

**Write down one thought from each person in your group from this week's time together.**

### **Exodus 18:13-26**

<sup>13</sup> The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. <sup>14</sup> When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?"

<sup>15</sup> Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. <sup>16</sup> Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions."

<sup>17</sup> Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. <sup>18</sup> You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.

<sup>19</sup> Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. <sup>20</sup> Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. <sup>21</sup> But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. <sup>22</sup> Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you.

<sup>23</sup> If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."

<sup>24</sup> Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. <sup>25</sup> He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

<sup>26</sup> They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.