

# THE EXAMEN(ED) CHURCH WITH MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

Beginning next month our church is going to begin participating in a Marquette University sponsored program called, "The Examen(ed) Church" at Marquette University. We will be joining five other congregations from the region as part of this new endeavor to help our congregation look toward the future. Pastor Scott is already working with Marquette in a program designed to help support clergy called "Companions in Ministry". He has been meeting on a monthly basis with an ecumenical group of clergy from the greater Milwaukee area for over a year. Because Scott was already working with their "CIM" group, our congregation was given an early invitation to take part in this program designed to support the whole congregation.

The "Examen(ed) Church" program starts on January 21 and maps out a series of meetings and events over the next 18-24 months. The church is being asked to create a "Thrive Team" to attend these gatherings and to help bring the materials back to the congregation, so that the entire church might learn and grow from the experience. The Thrive Team, consisting of 5-7 members of the congregation, would participate in training sessions, workshops, and a series of guided conversations seeking to clarify the church's mission and values, to deepen Christian practice, and to enrich our congregation's engagement with the community around us. Throughout this process the church will receive updates as well as ways for the whole congregation to share in the experience.

We are looking to create this "Thrive Team"! Does this sound interesting to you? The process is designed to engage individuals on the Thrive Team in prayer and spiritual growth through use of Ignatius Loyola's "Daily Examen" which then grows into spiritual discernment work with the congregation. If you would like to grow spiritually, if you have been curious about the future of our congregation and to what ministries God is calling us, then this might be a great opportunity for you! Please talk to Pastor Scott ASAP to discuss getting involved. Space is limited!

Participating in this program, with all the resources, staffing, and support that we will receive comes to us free of charge because of a grant the University received through the Lilly Endowment. Furthermore, because this is a "pilot" program upon completion of the 18-24 month "Examen(ed) Church" process, the church will receive several thousand dollars, plus if we come out of the program with specific ministry directives, they will even give us seed money to get the ministry started.

