



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Cultural Competency in Congregational Leadership Video Series

Video Title: HOSPITALITY AND WELCOMING

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### Pastors and Pastoral Team Members

- Pastor Wallace referred to the “cultural moat” around his “friendly church.” Is there a "cultural moat" outside your "friendly" church that makes it inaccessible to visitors or those in your neighborhood? If so, describe the “moat?”
- Are you and your congregation conscious of that moat? What specific adjustments could be made to create a more welcoming and inclusive space for visitors, newcomers, and diverse groups? How might these changes foster a sense of belonging for visitors and newcomers?
- In what ways have you personally or congregationally worked to make others feel included or create space for them in your ministry? How have you fostered and built the relationships needed to understand someone else's culture or context?
- Who within your congregation can you identify as someone who might serve as a bridge to help diversify church activities and events, and how can they contribute to educating the leadership team on cultural issues? Because this individual will be undertaking significant emotional labor, consider compensating them for their work.

### Lay Leaders and Church Boards

- Pastor Wallace referred to the “moat” around his “friendly church.” Is there a "moat" outside your "friendly" church that makes it inaccessible to visitors or your neighbors? How might your congregation bridge that moat?

- How can you help lead your congregation to gain a deeper understanding of the community around you and your church?
- What are ways that your church strives to embody Jesus' hospitality? What are some areas for growth?
- Pastor Dezo stated, "Inclusion matters." What specifically could be done in your faith community to better include those who remain outside or on the margins?

## Church Members

- Pastor Wallace referred to the "moat" around his "friendly church." Is there a "moat" outside your "friendly" church that makes it inaccessible to visitors or your neighbors? Describe your moat or moats?
- How can you as an individual and your congregation help bridge that moat and make your church more inviting and accessible to your neighbors?
- In what ways can you make others feel included or create space for them in your worship space or in your programs and ministries?
- What steps can you take to gain a deeper understanding of the community around you and your church?
- How can you foster and build the necessary relationships to understand someone else's culture or context?

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