

## What is a house meeting?

### **What a House Meeting is:**

A gathering of 8-12 people in a person's home, congregation or school lasting for 60-75 minutes that gives the participants an opportunity to have a public discussion of the concerns and issues that families and individuals struggle with in the community (and/or their congregation).

### **What opportunity does a house meeting provide?**

House Meetings provide:

- An opportunity to connect people in the community and break through some of the isolation that exists in society;
- a chance to identify some talented and interested new leaders in the congregation and community;
- a process for identifying potential issues on which to do research and propose action in order to improve our community and build the organization (and/or congregation).

### **What a house meeting is not:**

- a social visit full of chit chat
- a coffee or tea with elaborate hospitality
- an open-ended complaint session
- a lecture session by one or more participants
- a problem solving or therapy session

### **Example House Meeting Agenda:**

#### **I. Opening Business (1/8 of meeting)**

Welcome  
Overview of House Meeting  
Opening Prayer or Reflection  
Brief introductions by each participant (rounds)  
Ground Rules for the discussion

#### **II. Discussion (3/4 of meeting)**

Brief introduction to the question  
State the Question: *What are the negative pressures and forces that are tearing at the fabric of the families in our community and congregation? Tell us brief story or example that helps us understand the pressure.*

#### **III. Closing Business (1/8<sup>th</sup> of meeting)**

Summary of what we heard  
Invitation to sign up to attend OTOC Fall Action or be involved in Action Team  
Closing Prayer