



They remain standing there, in awe at what has taken place before their very eyes.

I was talking with a friend who was relating how he and his wife found out they were going to have twins: During the 28<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy, the wife went into the hospital for an ultra-sound. The husband was standing there, being supportive and eager to see this new babe to be born. The ultra-sound technician quickly found one baby and announced that he also saw another, by saying, "It's not every day I see more than one baby. Let me check to see if everything is ok." My friend, the father, heard, "Let me check to see if the *third* is ok." He fainted.

At various times in our lives, we are confronted with things that are amazing and unexpected. We are shocked at the ways in which God is at work in the world. And our temptation is to faint away, like my dear friend, or to stand looking up to heaven.

Spend some time reflecting (either silently or shared) on your own experiences of amazement. What happened to you? How long did it take before you were ready to move on? After a while, continue.

Yet, the angels appear to the disciples – and through the story, to us. They remind us, "Why do you stand looking up to heaven." The Holy Spirit has come, and we are called to share the Good News, to invite others into living out the Kingdom.

### **AN EXPERIENCE OF MINISTRY**

There is no story today. Or maybe there is. Maybe we are the story. Please list all the assets of our parish from the previous weeks. Next, please list all the assets of the community from the previous weeks. Once the list is as

complete as you can make it, move on to the Ruminating section.

### **RUMINATING**

Cows, goats, and other ruminants all chew cud as part of their digesting of food. Here we are inviting you to spend some time, chewing the cud, ruminating, over the Experiences of Ministry together. Not that anyone is suggesting that any of you are ruminants. Some of us just tend to think through things by chewing. If things later spring to mind, all the better. Share them when you next gather.

Looking at this list of our assets, how is God calling us to be good stewards of them, to share them with others? How is God calling us to move out of our amazement, and into Spirit filled sharing of ourselves with others in the name of Jesus Christ?

**HYMN**                      *Many Gifts, One Spirit*                      UMH # 114  
(or) *Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)*                      UMH #  
583

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Might want to emphasize " ... Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven ..."*

### **COMMUNION**

*Be sure to end with the prayer on UMH p. 11:*  
**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy  
mystery in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Please spend some time reflecting on how these six sessions of spiritual work/action have been helpful. We would like to hear from you. When you have finished filling out the form below (use additional pages, if needed!), please send it to us at the following address:

Town and Country Advisory Team  
General Board of Global Ministries  
c/o Rev. Carol J. Thompson  
475 Riverside Drive, Room 1539  
New York, NY 10115  
[cjthomps@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:cjthomps@gbgm-umc.org)  
Fax 212-870-3948

Thank you!

Name:

Address:

Email (optional)

How many people participated?

What has been helpful to your church?

What could be further refined in this process?

What other information or references could have been helpful?

What didn't work?

Where do you feel God calling you into ministry? (Please be as specific as possible)

May we contact you in six months?

Please contact the Office of Town and Country Ministries at the above address or [cjthomps@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:cjthomps@gbgm-umc.org) or 212-870-3684, if you have any questions, would like suggestions of additional resources, etc..