



## Meetings Matter – Community Development

A compelling, unifying and well-defined purpose or goal is a key to building community. There is also an unspoken but very real desire for relationship and community. Few people, especially volunteers, want to complete an agenda or leave a meeting without feeling more connected to people.

1. **Faith Story** – Pre-arrange for a meeting participant to briefly share their faith story or 4-5 major life turning points at the beginning of a meeting. Then pray for the participant who has shared.
2. **Single Word Focus** – Ask meeting participants to think of a single word (or phrase) focus that best summarizes their life since the last meeting. You may be surprised by what you learn. This exercise will likely surface deeper issues that can impact the meeting or be opportunities to care for one another.
3. **Question of the Day** – Have each participant respond to an interesting question before business begins (i.e. what are your holiday plans, what are you reading these days, what did you do for fun this week?)
4. **Encouragement Circle** – End a meeting with an encouragement focus. Choose one participant and ask the group to share some words of encouragement about the person – i.e. what do you appreciate about this person's involvement? Then, pray for the person. Rotate through each participant in future meetings.
5. **Activity Time** – Do a road-trip, service project or fun activity together. The time on the road or alongside one another provides invaluable opportunities for relationship building and memory making.

*Written by Dr. Steve Brown*