

## **Visioning Team---Overview of Food Insecurity Survey**

### **Supporting programs that address food insecurity:**

(the first three bulleted items—food bank/food pantry, community dinners, blessing boxes—are the most frequently cited programs)

- Support local food bank/food pantry—donate food, funds, and volunteers
- Participate in community dinners—one church doing this, or multiple churches partnering to have dinners, or church helping to fund community dinners at other local venues
- Blessing boxes that distribute food and other needed products
- Support local Meals on Wheels with volunteers and funds
- Offerings for Presbyterian Hunger Fund, Souper Bowl
- Gift cards for people at local grocery store
- Donations of food and clothing to local shelter, Salvation Army, local canning project of Central Pennsylvania World Hunger
- Support local Backpack programs with food for school children
- Create a community garden for local people to raise their own food

### **Partnering with others in your community:**

(the first two items—local food bank/food pantry, and churches/local ministerium—are most often noted)

- Work with local food bank/food pantry
- Partner with other local churches and local ministerium
- Work with local Meals on Wheels
- Partner with local business
- Partner with Area Agency on Aging
- work with local shelter, Salvation Army, Central Pennsylvania World Hunger, Lions Club

### **Creating connections with the local community:**

(one type of response did not dominate this category—in general food insecurity programs help churches make connections with people in their local communities)

- Meet and greet people who come to community dinners
- Reach out to people in need in the community
- Interact with homebound elderly or infirm people

- Organize trips to agencies that receive our donations so that church members can see the needs in person
- Give people information on other services available
- Our church is known in the local community for our food insecurity program, such as community dinners, food pantry or meal deliveries
- We have become more aware of food insecurity needs locally
- Our support for food insecurity programs shows that our church cares about our community
- Enables our congregation to fellowship with and answer prayer requests from community members
- Enables local people to socialize with each other—social interaction is sometimes more important than the food
- Fosters cooperation with other churches
- Provides an opportunity for some members who don't come to worship every Sunday to connect with our church

**With unlimited resources, what unmet needs could be addressed:**

(Helping the local food pantry/food bank and expanding community dinners were bulleted items most often cited; a number of needs not directly related to food insecurity were also included in responses)

- Help the local food pantry/food bank meet their needs, including with greater variety of food, addressing food costs inflation
- Expand community dinners to be more frequent or over more months, or increase the variety of food
- Create a soup kitchen or local food pantry
- Provide food for school children who need food
- Expand the Meals on Wheels program to more days/meals each week
- Helping with medical bills, electric bills, heating bills
- Helping with job training and housing assistance
- Help with drug addiction in the local area
- Expand the geographic area we serve
- Create a women's shelter
- Address the needs of the elderly

**Sharing your experiences in addressing food insecurity:**

- 19 churches are willing to share information about their programs