

KNOWING THE COMMUNITY

Community Ministry emerges from a deep understanding of the people and place.

GEOGRAPHY

Explore the ways the landscape shapes the community.

How do the roads, railroads, and waterways set boundaries in the community?

How are neighborhoods defined within the community?

What draws people to this place?



MONEY & POWER



Understand how money and politics order the community.

Who holds official power and who has informal influence in community decisions?

Who has the money and who does not?

What industries drive the local political economy?

RITUALS & SYMBOLS

Interpret how the community marks time and space.

How do official and unofficial symbols reveal what the community values and expects?

How do celebrations and events tell the story of the community?





RACE

Explore the racial makeup of the community.

Where do the ethnic groups live in the community?
What is the history of race relations in the community?
What is the current tenor of relationships between the different ethnic groups?

WELL-BEING

Note where people go to care for their needs.

Where are the grocery stores in the community?
How far do people need to travel for quality food?
How accessible is health care in the community?
Where do people in crisis go for support?



RELIGION



Connect with the religious groups in the community.

What religious organizations are present in the community?
What community ministries already exist?
How do congregations, temples, and synagogues collaborate?

Prepared by Discipleship Ministries of the Church of the Brethren

