**LISTENING to the LONGINGS and FEARS of this Generation**

**Preparation for 2023 GFM National Staff Conference (aka Mundelein)**

As we prepare for Mundelein, I want to encourage us to sit and LISTEN to this incoming generation of students (Gen Z!), so that we can love this generation of students better.  This listening exercise is meant to help us get some texture the “God-sized-hole” felt by the students we’ve been called to love and serve. The Gospel has not changed, but the deep needs and longings of the students in front of us have, so let us endeavor to contextualize well.

Please Interview two students: one Christian, one non-Christian.  Consider surveying more students, but this is the minimum.  I encourage you to ask open-ended follow-up questions like “tell me more about that.”  For those of you working with faculty, the exercise is the same, but I encourage you to interview younger faculty members.  Listen for bigger LIFE themes like their hopes, dreams and fears like the need for security or meaning, fear of loss or failure, etc.

**Here are suggested questions:**

A suggested introduction to the questions:

Hey \_*student or faculty*\_ , I’ve been tasked by my IV supervisor to survey or spend some time asking questions and listening before our next meeting.  Do you mind if I ask you some open-ended questions?  Feel free to tell me what you feel comfortable sharing!

1. Why did you come to Grad school?  What are your hopes / goals coming out of grad school?  [listen for bigger life themes.. security.. prestige.. life purpose..]
2. Can you tell me about a bright spot in your graduate school experience so far?  Why was that a bright spot?
3. As you think about the next 5 years, what concerns do you have?
4. How have your mental, emotional, and physical health been in graduate school so far?
5. [If they are a Christian] How do you hope to grow in your faith during graduate school?
6. [If they are not a Christian but in our fellowship] What do you like about being part of our group/fellowship?  Are there ways we could serve you better?

Young faculty questions:

1. Why did you get into this career or field?  What are you hopes / goals as a faculty member?  [listen for bigger life themes.. security.. prestige.. life purpose..]
2. Can you tell me about a bright spot in your faculty experience so far?  Why was that a bright spot?
3. As you think about the next 5 years, what concerns do you have about being a faculty member?
4. How have your mental, emotional, and physical health been since starting as a faculty member?
5. [If they are a Christian] How do you hope to grow in your faith in this season of life?

**Bring your answers to the GFM National Staff Conference!**  We’ll share our learnings and stories, looking for themes and similarities.  Let’s listen and learn more about this generation of students and faculty, so we can better develop our evangelism and discipleship for this generation.