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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 1/16/2019

“Inviting People Into God’s Goodness” A One-Day Workshop for People Seeking Authentic Ways to Share the Gospel

SATURDAY, MARCH 2 AT 8:15 A.M. AT BIRMINGHAM FIRST CHURCH

Birmingham, MI, January 16, 2019: -- Birmingham First is hosting a one-day workshop, “Inviting People Into God’s Goodness.” Led by Rev. Dr. Mark Teasdale, Professor of Evangelism at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, this workshop will help participants clarify what we believe God’s grace is and then operationalize that to extend invitations. In doing so, participants will find ways to be more comfortable sharing their faith individually and be more effective, drawing people deeper into God’s grace as a congregation. The \$15 registration fee includes breakfast and snacks. Free childcare is available for children 4 and under for those who register by Wednesday, February 27, 2019. Registration is available at Birmingham First both prior to and the day of the event. Register to attend at fumcbirmingham.org/invite.

We try so hard. We put on big events to attract people. We advertise. We offer specialized programs to reach specific audiences. We try to be friendly when people show up. We individually invite people to join us at church. And, in the end, we know it is just a simple matter of relating to people in an authentic way that shows our faith in a real and simple way. Yet, for all this, inviting people into God’s goodness remains maddeningly elusive and ineffectual for many of our congregations. Why?

Inviting people into God’s goodness and experiencing God’s grace go hand-in-hand with each other. We invite with the hope that people will experience God’s grace. Without a clear ability to articulate what we mean by grace, we are aimless in our invitation efforts. We cannot talk about our faith individually or equip people to go deeper in their faith as a congregation because we do not know how to define the goodness that we want them to experience.

Don’t miss this opportunity to learn directly from the author of the thought-provoking book, *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists*.

Teasdale is a professor, author, and pastor who focuses on evangelism, church leadership, mission, discipleship, and Wesleyan/Methodist studies. In addition to teaching, he has served as consultant to several local churches and denominational bodies, including the Connectional Table of The United Methodist Church.

He is the President of the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education and served for six years as the editor of Witness: The Journal of the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education.

For more information, go to fumcbirmingham.org/invite or contact Lindsey Hall at 248-646-1200 ext. 3150. The church is located at 1589 W. Maple Road (between Southfield and Cranbrook) in Birmingham.
