APPENDIX C. QUESTIONS TO UPC'S CONGREGATION DURING ITS MISSION STUDY

During the Mission Study process at UPC, church members and participants were asked to respond to a number of questions that sought to stimulate thought and conversation about (1) what's core to the identity of UPC and (2) how might God be calling us further into ministry — or Who are we? What are we called to be and to do? These questions were posed in a number of contexts — typically in congregational emails or posted to the Mission Study Team's web page to allow those participating in conversation to come prepared — and are gathered below and enumerated consecutively for ease of reference.

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

1. Why do you participate in the life of University Presbyterian Church?
2. What do you think God is calling UPC to do and be?
3. How can we strengthen the congregation to respond to God's call?
4. What skills, experience and personal characteristics in our new pastor would be most supportive of our work in response to God's call?

Note that the Mission Study Team decided that the fourth question would not be pre-posted so that "our new pastor" would not become the sole focus of any conversation.

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: My level of involvement and financial contribution accurately reflects my long-term commitment to the work of UPC.
6. Which ongoing ministries and activities should UPC absolutely continue in order to support your growing faithfulness, discipleship, and/or service in our wider community?
7. What ministries or activities should UPC start doing or do more of in order to support your growing faithfulness, discipleship, and/or service in our wider community?
8. Please share a specific personal experience or story about UPC at its best or most meaningful for you.
9. Please consider telling us a little bit about why any of the ministries have stood out to you.
10. What is God calling UPC to do or be more of?
11. What is God calling UPC to do or be less of?
12. What are two or three of the most important challenges facing UPC? What makes them important?
13. What are the pressing questions or underserved populations in our community that UPC could be addressing?
14. What would you say in a 30-second "elevator pitch" about UPC and what it means to you?

FROM THE "MARKS OF THE CHURCH" SERMON BY MARGARET LAMOTTE TORRENCE

15. What's the word or words that you need to see in the mirror to remember who and whose you are? What word has God written on your heart that needs to be shared with the world, as a public statement? In effect, what would your tattoo say?

16. Is it important for UPC to ensure that every member feels engaged in the life of the church?
17. How would having younger adults feel connected and engaged make UPC a stronger faith community?
18. What could UPC do to better connect you — or a group that you identify with — to the rest of the church?
19. Is it important for UPC to ensure that every visitor finds a warm welcome and that every participant is embraced by our faith community?
20. What more can our congregation do in these areas?
21. What are ways that we can reach out with active invitation and affirmation (i.e., going beyond living with open doors)?
22. In what ways can UPC serve as "good soil" that nourishes the growth of seeds planted by God to address these issues? (How can our strengths and resources bear God's fruit in the world?)
23. As a "downtown urban church," do we have special responsibility to be involved in roles of advocacy on issues of economic or social justice?
24. How can we follow Christ's example while avoiding the pitfalls of partisan political issues and transient secular movements?

A FINAL QUESTION FOR ALL SETTINGS

The Mission Study Team attempted to end each gathering or conversation with the following powerful question:

25. What's the most important thing that you heard today? What one thing should UPC do in response?