



## How does your congregation listen?

The year 2020 has impacted each of us in deep and profound ways. Isolation leaves some depressed. Others explode in violence. How might faith communities lead the way in listening?

### The Gift of Listening

Listening is a gift we give each other

### The Power of Story

Telling our story begins to release our pain and the negative power of stories which bind us. Each of us has the capacity to tell our story—to name our feelings, thoughts, and memories. Sharing our stories connects us with others and creates community.

### The Path towards Healing includes

- Others: Someone who listens to my story and offers support
- Hope: Expectation of a positive future
- Meaning: That which gives purpose to life

### Baton Rouge Faith Communities: An Opportunity

Hopefully, people who bear difficult stories feel like they can connect with a local faith community to find healing through the three-fold gift of others, hope, and meaning. *Question: How might your congregation expand your capacity to listen, blessing others with healing and hope?*

### Call to Action: Listening Posts

- Take an inventory of how your congregation listens
  - to those within your congregation
  - those near (family and friends)
  - neighbors (around your house of worship as well as your home)
  - those who are different from you
- Brainstorm ways your congregation might expand its capacity to listen (within and beyond your congregation)
- Make plans for the month of March to promote your congregation as a *Listening Post*
- Share with the Interfaith Federation your plans to be a *Listening Post*
- Follow the Federation website for updates and opportunities
- Keep praying for each other and our community

### For More Info

Website [ifedgbr.com](http://ifedgbr.com)  
Email [info@ifedgbr.com](mailto:info@ifedgbr.com)  
Address Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge  
3112 Convention St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
Phone 225-267-5600

**FOR MORE IDEAS**  
**[ifedgbr.com](http://ifedgbr.com)**

**PLANNING to be a LISTENING POST**

How does our congregation currently listen?

To each other

To our neighborhood

To our community

Brainstorm: What are possibilities of ways to LISTEN during the month of March?

To each other

To our neighborhood

To our community

Narrow the above suggestions to the top 2-3 ideas.

1)

2)

3)

Who do you need to get their “blessing” in order to move forward?

What is your plan to publicize your listening post opportunities?