

Hay Mills Congregational Church (Congregational Federation) “engaging with the community and seeing opportunities”



THINKING ABOUT:

engaging with the community and seeing opportunities



WATCH THE VIDEO and as you do ask:

- In what ways is Hay Mills trying to be an inclusive community?
- How does Hay Mills listen to its community when planning for its future?
- In what ways is Hay Mills a story of hope for us?



DIGGING DEEPER Read Acts 17: 16-34

Acts 16:16-34 is the account of Paul’s visit to Athens where in the midst of a very religious city he shares the good news of Jesus Christ. He brings together religious leaders of different traditions and begins to share with them the love of God he has found in Jesus Christ. Paul meets with the leaders in the public square where it is not unusual to hear debate and argument about the latest ideas, but Paul surprises them with the claims he makes for Jesus.

- How does Paul make connections with those who come to debate with him about religion?
- What is surprising about Paul’s message?
- What are some of the responses to Paul’s message?



MOVING FORWARDS: So now think about how this could apply in your context

- The apostle Paul and Hay Mills community were each open to new opportunities in mission. What opportunities are open to your church community?
- Who are “the people next door” in our community who we unintentionally overlook or forget about and who we fail to engage in mission?

- Stefan speaks about “Paying attention to the language we use, making the environment comfortable, and having open hearts...” what would this mean for your church community?