

CoSM, April 28, 2022

7:00-8:15 p.m.

In attendance: Hap Wheeler, Jerry Bates, Jo El Miano, Nancy Lewin, Nicoline Guerrier, Ulrike Galasinski, Ursula Jones

Host: Jo El Miano

Scribe: Nancy Lewin

Item	Discussion	If a task is involved, who is overseeing it?	Deadline
Opening Words	(Jo El read from Buehrens) (was not taking notes then!)		
Check In			

<p>Question 1: As a leader, what do you need from time spent with other leaders?</p>	<p>Constructive criticism and feedback Commitment to a shared cause Creative outlet in conversation Thrive on “energy” - a “Yes, I’m in” Communicate and share ideas ... share ideas with others [brainstorm process] Sum of ideas that arise are stronger than individuals’ Support and appreciation Opportunity to volunteer and share Communications Team can stay up to date Support and mutual understanding Generate ideas and results through teamwork Non-defensive back and forth with others Affirmations from other leaders - working together Many people develop ideas and plan Spaces to think about the bigger picture - intersectional Excitement in interest in the big picture, not just individual projects Enjoy that excitement in meetings when everyone “shows up” and can be themselves (versus folks waiting to get through an agenda)</p>		
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<p>Question 2: What does this congregation need to better move it along the road to becoming the Beloved Community?</p>	<p>Appreciate the big picture - transcend ourselves to a broader, world-wide lens to Becoming the Beloved Community Cut through individual prejudices and feelings toward others - all in this together (Heartbroken that a BIPOC expressed he felt unwelcome) Individual energy levels wax and wane - when reengage, takes time to orient Big picture Outdoor gathering - remembering who we were being together Small Beloved Community opportunities - individual connections - being together Small group conversations Let go of old to make room for new (chrysalis ultimately produces something new - old parts turn to goo in the process) How can leadership and membership be “turned inside out and reimagined”? Consider a congregational audit? “We need to question everything in the structure we had” Return to the Think Tank model Have glimpses of many types of people feeling this is relevant Not know how to get from here to there Intentional about creating many opportunities in small spaces Vision of being out in the streets of Plattsburgh, inviting reflection on things that</p>		
<p>Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legacy Society Important to lay foundation for future generations, as Engelhart's created Produced brochure Numbers of folks who say “I’m in” will help sell to others - Role of Communications Team Standardize communication with our “branding” Michelle Ouellette, Jo El, Arran Morton Provide coherence within our group and to the broader community - make UUFP (and UUA) brands “recognizable” All working groups can (should?) use Communications group to develop coherent messaging and packaging 	<p>Review brochure content and provide feedback Consider own legacy giving Communications will work with Legacy Society brochure</p>	

<p>Closing Round</p>	<p>Want to think more about “Beloved Community” - its MLK roots and relation to 8th Principle; Keep in mind our commitment to the 8th Principle - visible in our mission Beloved Community is abstract - need to explore it more Heard many of us appreciating the “brainstorming” process where bigger ideas and actions arise from individual sparks - the process of transcending our individual and participating in something greater (at the heart of a religious organization) Inward looking versus outward looking : previous desire for “sanctuary in the woods” versus updated vision of accessibility to all in the public square - reaching out to others as we are all hurting and in need of connection and sense of transcendence Liked being together - hearing people’s thoughts ... liked the breakfast on the beach Welcome Communications input Looking outward - inviting in Fly fishing weekend: June 25-26 are free fishing days! (Circle back to that idea) Hard to talk about Beloved Community (because it is abstract, hard to name) What is the future of COSM? Will it morph, be tweaked, be let go of, need more people ... Something significant happened tonight in our conversation ... But who makes the next thing happen? Think Tank was a similar model - conversations that touched people personally (grounding the conversation) but also about our church Something important also happened in Think Tank conversations, but there was no mechanism for follow through, as they were not part of a structure Presence is the sacred ingredient Beloved Community is inviting many into a space of intimacy and sharing</p>	<p>What will emerge from COSM’s chrysalis? What “structure” will emerge that brings sacred conversations (that are both personal and relate to our large project of “church”) to guide our path forward? Who decides? How does this “structure” emerge?</p>	