

**Sanctuary UCC**

**2016 Annual Congregational Visioning Meeting**

**Sunday, September 19, 2016, 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes:

1. Paul Roberts read the call to meeting
2. Prayers led by Rev. Lambert followed by passing of the peace.
3. Mission Statement was read in unison.
4. Rev. Wendy noted the handout of full list of Sanctuary Values and Vision (circa 2014) and encouraged us to read it again at home. Reviewed the shorthand list on slide four and asked – “Is this still who we are?”. Agreement was unanimous that it still rung true for us.
5. Rev. Wendy noted that the objective for this “Congregational Visioning” as per the bylaws is to check on the viability of the vision and ministry plan for the current years so as to inform the development of budget and ministry plan for 2017. Reviewed the Ministry Plan 2016 (slides 5 – 7)
6. How do we measure success?
  - a. Slide 8
  - b. Does this feel like a viable set of measurements for “success” at this point in the experiment? Agreement was unanimous that it still rung true for us.
7. What seems to be working? (based on the agreements above)
  - a. Slide 9 plus some anecdotal stories re. same
  - b. Carol Luongo asked for clarification of numbers
  - c. Rev. Wendy explained the numbers and participation for:
    - i. Art Church, Art receptions, Dinner Church, Faith Film & Yoga
    - ii. Pastoral leadership, Circles of Care, Pastoral Leadership at Community Events
    - iii. One Time Faith Formation Events
  - d. Something has shifted for the positive over the last few months – increasing numbers, less tension amongst us, Lambert and Linda

beginning to help us to plan more effectively and grow out some of our capacity.

8. What needs further discernment, assessment, consideration, development?
  - a. Slide 10
  - b. Paul commented that we may not be ready to address all of these now (ie: a ministry for families with children) but we can vision now for when.
  - c. Faith Formation
    - i. Lenten Darkbrew most successful; difference of opinion on what people seek and prefer
  - d. Music is a struggle for us.
  - e. Rev. Wendy asks for concerns; questions
    - i. Julie Roberts wonders how we get other people involved – people who now know more about us.
    - ii. Paul mentioned the UU food pantry and asked how we can develop a partnership; Julie mentioned the Community Cupboard
    - iii. Linda is always talking about partnership and collaboration.
    - iv. We have grown and changed so that Wendy no longer feels that she does it alone.
9. Consultant Recommendation:
  - a. Slide 11 - All the recommendations make sense.
  - b. Purchased new database system to better track our activities.
  - c. Will have to consider both sustainability and frugality.
  - d. Are we doing too much? What is the right size for our mission? -- Sustainability
  - e. It has been two years since we moved into Sanctuary and left the church building.
  - f. We have no stewardship tea – we must develop leaders.
  - g. Branwen expressed an environmental concern re: Eco-Palms - Branwen will check the website.

## 10. Prayers

- Prayers of concern for the North Dakota native Americans and their struggle against the pipeline.
- Traveling mercies for Joy, Bruce and Kathy on their journeys this weekend.
- Prayers for the participants in the kickball tournament
- Prayers for New York and their citizens after the explosions.
- Thanks for people of Sanctuary who talked the talk and are now walking the walk.
- Prayers of thanks for our ministers and administrators and staff.

#### 11. Assessing our Vision – a Framework for Discernment for 2017

- a. Slide 12
- b. Agreement was unanimous that this is an appropriate framework

#### 12. The Questions we will consider which will inform 2017 Ministry Plan

- a. Sept. 18: Who are we called to serve? Who is our Neighbor?
  - i. So far, your staff has operated on the assumption that the answer to this question has been those who have shown up and continued to come.
  - ii. But if our vision is something else, then the answers to this will affect what we offer so as to attract accordingly. In other words, we cannot say we want families with kids and keep worshipping at 458 high street only.
  - iii. Charlene asked “who comes in off the street” – “Open Sanctuary”?
    1. Not as much as we hoped it would be – perhaps 1-2 people per week; but for those people it is sanctuary and important; We are not spending money to offer this – sending a message that you are not alone
    2. It was suggested to increase using the term “storefront” as a description – so people know where we are.

3. “Pastor Is In” sign may be hard to unpack for some; do we need to change to “Need to Talk?” something less churchy – is this more inviting?
- iv. Who are our Neighbors?
  1. People with a need for sanctuary – Chaplain,
    - a. Ask the questions, “How can we serve you?”
  2. Artists
    - a. The Gallery is Open
    - b. How can we serve/be chaplain to the artists community?
  3. MOA – recovery community
  4. Giving Back Community -those who have a desire to serve, searching for meaning and purpose (everyone!) – circles of care is the pathway for this
    - a. Do more to get people a role within; find “volunteer jobs for all who come
    - b. Have sanctuary affiliate (not staff) contact and offer connection
  5. What are the demographics of those we want to focus on reaching?
    - a. Our current cong. Is middle aged (and older) and is generally not post-modern of perspective – aka “church people”
    - b. Our current worship still speaks “church” and does not make room for some of those to whom we have said in the past we wanted to reach
      - i. SBMN, None, Done
      - ii. Curious but unclear
- v. Stewardship – it has to happen now! Who are some people we could tap into for help as we do not have a team and it is all falling on Wendy – and as a result, it is not getting done!

1. SCORE – service core of retired persons
  2. Focus on the things we need to do and can do the best – investment brings the most return.
  3. What steps will lead to sustainability?
- vi. How can we build on our connections
1. the recovery community
  2. other partnerships
- b. October 1
- i. What have we learned from the experiment
  - ii. How are we called to Worship
  - iii. What Ministries does God and our neighbor need from Sanctuary?