

**2025.03.02 Sanctuary Merger Leader Meeting Recording**

With support from Don Remick

Responding to [Hillside Email of Feb 19](#)

**2025.03.04 Sanctuary Team - Officers, Trustees, Merger Team, continues...**

**Agenda**

**7:00 - 7:15 pm - Opening Prayer & Circle Check-in** (*60 seconds - how are you arriving?*)

[\*Rend Your Heart. Jan Richardson\*](#)

**7:15 - 7:45 pm - Creating a description/picture of what we need** to create something beautiful (and purple) to bring to a conversation with Hillside leaders.

Is this the question: *What are the agreements we need to continue?*

**7:45 pm - 8:00 pm - Commissioning a subgroup to make this approach** - Liz will approach asking for a listening session to understand what happened and what changed that engendered the Feb 19 email from Hillside

## 2025.03.02 Sanctuary Officers, Trustees, & Merger Team

*Merger Team Members noted with #*

*Christy Miller, Erin Sennott#, Liz Douglass# (officers)  
Paul Roberts#, Paul Sennott, Aaron Olapade (trustees)  
Terri Bracy#, Susan D'Arcy# (merger team members)  
Rev. Wendy (pastor), Rev. Don Remick (consultant)*

### Purpose of Meeting: How does Sanctuary proceed?

[Audio Recording of this meeting](#)

### Agenda

#### 4:30 - 5:00 pm - Prayer and Circle Check-In (3 min each)

##### A Blessing for the Brokenhearted by Jan Richardson

*There is no remedy for love but to love more.* —Henry David Thoreau

Let us agree  
for now  
that we will not say  
the breaking  
makes us stronger  
or that it is better  
to have this pain  
than to have done  
without this love.

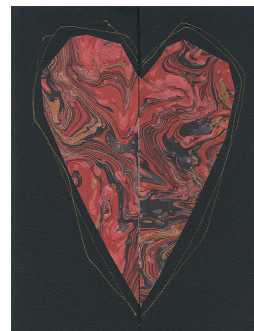
Let us promise  
we will not  
tell ourselves  
time will heal  
the wound,  
when every day  
our waking  
opens it anew.

Perhaps for now  
it can be enough  
to simply marvel  
at the mystery  
of how a heart  
so broken  
can go on beating,  
as if it were made  
for precisely this—

as if it knows  
the only cure for love  
is more of it,

as if it sees  
the heart's sole remedy  
for breaking  
is to love still,

as if it trusts  
that its own  
persistent pulse  
is the rhythm  
of a blessing  
we cannot  
begin to fathom  
but will save us  
nonetheless.



A word about "Revolutionary Love" – Taking our temperature

*Given this moment in the merger discussion and partnership, what are you bringing to this moment?  
How are you arriving?*

**5:00 - 5:45 - How do we proceed?**

- 5:00 - 5:15: What does God need from/want for Sanctuary?
- 5:15 - 5:30: Does Hillside's desire for realignment and current non-negotiables affect that?
- 5:30 - 5:45: What do you need to proceed? ie: data, information, viewpoints/skills, time, trust...

**5:45 - 6:00 pm - Circle Check-out (2 min each) / Closing Prayer**

*Where are you and what do you want to do next?*

**TBD:**

- Reschedule Next All Hands (currently 3/7)?? Or proceed with an update
- Discernment: Some options include agree to Hillside position, negotiate with Hillside (merger/partnership), develop alternative path(s), or something else...
- Response to/update Hillside Email/Invitation
- Proposal to full Committee of the Whole/Leadership Circle for vote and decision
- ???

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***References: Background Information & Links in One Place***

- [2023 Discernment Process Background](#)
  - Stakeholder interviews and reflections on Sanctuary Ministries
  - Community partner responses and summaries
- [2023.04.30 Discernment Work - Flip Chart Details](#)
  - [Recording of this presentation](#)
- [2023.05.17 Presentation for Congregational Decision](#) - Options for the Future
  - See page 9: **Current Ministries**
    - A. Pastor in the City
    - B. Faith & Art
    - C. City Partnerships
    - D. Merged Ministries
  - See page 10: **Options for Sanctuary**
    - 1. Sanctuary as is;
    - 2. Outreach & Arts,
    - 3. Dynamic Merger
  - [Recording of this Meeting](#)
- [2024.01.21 Presentation to Joint Meeting on Possible Model for Merger](#) (*note this document is dated Jan 21, 2023, but it took place Jan 21, 2024*)
  - [Better Together Merger Models Explained](#) (adoption/integration vs absorption)
  - [Don's Options for Coming Together](#) (Where Purple Came From)
- [2025.02.19 Hillside Email "Clarifying next Steps & Invitation to Alignment Conversation"](#)
- [2025 Hillside Annual Meeting Packet \(w/budget\)](#)