

October 15, 2010 Meeting Notes

Group 1

1. Membership culture/discipleship culture

? arc ones of identity

D. Culture is more inclusive –we share the journey

D no “us” and “them”

D = change, redemption, transformation

D = work! No defined roles – encouraged to do different things

M = defined roles – the “entertainers”/the “entertained”

M = like a lake – has defined edges, confined water

D = like a river – flows

M = comfortable

D = discomfort in some ways

D = may involve a level of rigor – doing things well/high quality

D = involves self discipline

D = Model is “wishy washy” – there is a choice made - there is a sense of identity - even in this openness

D/M? We attract the people who are like us?

D/M is a continuum. It is not “black or white”

D – is a state of mind

2. What is Our Purpose?

- To change lives for the better
 - In terms of the purpose, what is our vision?
 - Beliefs, priorities, what are we doing and why?
 - Faith without works is dead
 - How do we change lives, why? do we do what we do?
 - p = directional change moving toward hope – spiritual growth
 - Is p individual or group?
 - What do they have in common?
 - Sometimes we are unaware of the levels of purpose.
 - p = connection > relationship > spiritual development
- P* - evolution of the Spirit can happen together in a way that we cannot do individually.

Membership

We are different than the 50s & 60s

Members think we are 75 % Membership

We lack Foss' 6 items:

Daily prayer

Weekly worship

Regular reading of the Bible

Service to others

Spiritual friendships

Generous giving

Faith journeys

Established

Inherited from parents

Minister serves

Discipleship

We are figuring out who we are

Some say we are 25 n- 40% Discipleship

People who are looking at spiritual needs

Open, thinking

Teaching parish

Faith learner

People have joined because of singing

We are not sharing prayer

Conversations about what prayer does for

us

We need to expand Robinson's definition -

p. 104

Continuing relationships between people

Supporting spiritual journeys

Intentional

1. Faith is a result of seeking

2. Choice

I am looking for a group of people who want to support me on my spiritual path

If OCC were no longer here, what kind of church would we look for?

Looking for thinking people who are funny and kind – authentic

Near home

With friends

Doing the most to alleviate pain and suffering

Companion on faith journey

Music

Being creative

We are agents of God's love

We need an annual faith fair

Give it to God

Group 3

1. Membership; versus discipleship culture

- Inclusion vs. exclusion
- w/dis. More sense of purpose
- M. earned through participation
D. accomplished through connection with Christ & principle as well
D. more “demanding”
M – more ego involved
- Rolling up your sleeves more in D n- Talked about the REASONS for doing things.
- Keeping score with number of years of membership
- D. more dynamic than static

2. Purposes for the church

Which passages speak the loudest?

- LOVE Has 0 to do with power, influence or control – MARK
- Need to look at “How do we love everybody?”
- GENESIS But, it’s about power/anointing
- I like MARK but it hints at the addictions of our culture. I want an alternative.
- MARK Need to get to KNOW people (yes!)
- Self improvement
- We seem to be shying away from ACTS (typical UCC)/ It’s evangelical and asking you to DO something.
- MARK powerful scene
- “As I was typing this GENESIS was the one that resonated for me” (Kurt)

3. What implications do you see for centering your congregation’s life on Mark’s passage?

- * You would spend forever working on the last part.
- * It means SERVICE – a WIDER view of service
- * Holding others’ interests equal to yours.
- * Love all that’s around you. Animals, earth, oceans, ETC.
- * Self love, self acceptance too. Feeling you’re acceptable to God”

* Accept the idea that God accepts you. You “earned”/”deserve” the love of God. A culture of Grace in your church + acceptance.

* Worth measured by achievement vs. just BEING.

Look at the risk of not measuring up/guilt