

## Stewards' Meeting Notes

February 7, 2021

### The State of Seekers:

#### A. **Positive/Good Energy**

1. Sunday worship in all manifestations – preaching, children's word, 2-minute story, etc.
2. School for Christian Growth
3. BLM Vigil and anti-racism work beyond the vigil
4. Earth & Spirit outings
5. Weekly prayer list/session
6. Taking care of each other – rides, visits, groceries
7. Poetry nights
8. Vita Poetica – Julie
9. Encouraging each other before election
10. Coronavirus resources
11. Men's breakfast
12. Women's gathering
13. Giving
14. FB posting (by Julie) – both visual images and words
15. Erica has benefited community; lots of good energy from lots of newer people
16. People on SL Working Group – group full of energy
17. Mission groups have energy – Eyes 2 See, MSG
18. Newer people stepping up with meals
19. Sacred Conversation group
20. SCG short classes
21. Making children more integral in services; crying baby (from time to time)
22. Hear better with Zoom
23. Bring in new people

24. Upgraded website
25. Activist emails to whole community, allowing us to act or not
26. Special services - Thanksgiving, Kennys memorial and others
27. Faithfulness of folks to build and sustain community
28. More awareness of disparity and inequality
29. More interest in doing things on line

## **B. Waning/No Energy**

1. Carroll Café
2. Care Packs
3. Bokomosa workshop
4. Men's and Women's retreats
5. Lack of community meals
6. Ash Wed. and similar – Maundy Thursday (challenges)
7. Fewer opportunities for retreat (zoom?)
8. Tiring of zoom connection
9. Gallery/Art Hop
10. Sunday School for older children (Oslin age)
11. Liturgy dated – 19<sup>th</sup> century
12. Immigration issues

## **C. Challenges**

### **1) Past**

1. Covid – building being closed; worship and SCG
2. Maintaining support for external missions and ministries
3. Reintegrating Jake back into community
4. Offering new opportunities for younger children
5. Increasing our numbers even while in lockdown

6. Overcoming technical challenges to allow us to be together in satisfying ways

## **2) Present**

1. Worship - praying and singing is solitary
2. Dayspring and use of Dayspring Retreat Center
3. Response to needs of building and school
4. More musicians
5. No coffee hour (even with chat)
6. Mental and physical challenges; cognitive issues due to aging
7. Loneliness, even if involved in Seekers
8. Aging mission groups – e.g., Celebration Circle and Time & Space – need new and younger people
9. Tiredness, zero energy for more
10. Fun needed!
11. Communicating to community what SLT does
12. Demographic imbalance
13. Integrating haves and have nots (financially)
14. Need computer training for Zoom
15. Use more tools for hybrid model
16. Teach common values to new people
17. Pastoral care -- vaccine
18. Financial challenges - though giving is strong
19. Communal grief work on what has been lost and can't do
20. Not made case for why mission groups are needed
21. Passing on our values to newcomers - send hard copies of certain documents to all newcomers?
22. Meeting needs of those sick etc within the community

## **3) Future**

1. Building use – returning to worship, classes
2. Other’s using building
3. Leadership challenges
4. Apprenticeships needed; mentoring; e.g., hosting on Sundays
5. Caring for children
6. Mission group capacity; need for new ones?
7. Deepening spiritual director capacity – group
8. How maintain connection with people coming from a distance? How to hear each other?
9. Connect with black church(es)
10. Gift not task to offer services
11. Hybrid model
12. Zoom plus in person when back in the building; keep out of town folks
13. Need new normal for gatherings
14. Christian commitment to climate justice and climate change (equal strength as 2020)
15. More deaths in coming 10 years than in the past
16. Giving may diminish with losses; encourage commitment by newer people
17. Figuring out what to do with SL Workgroup; how meet possibilities and make happen
18. Carroll Café – hire support?
19. Room for new leaders to emerge; existing leaders step aside to make room
20. More people with health and aging problems; limited finances; how to serve them all and in balance
21. Shorter SLT terms?
22. Re design of Sunday school - for very young children only?
23. Greater connections with other CofS congregations and CofS ministries
24. Related to #70, how to make service available to those who are not able to be there Sunday, either virtually or in person
25. More outreach to Black community - changes in worship - partner with black churches

26. Not going “back” to the old ways of being - identifying and implementing the lessons of the covid/zoom era.

27. Parking