

North Valley Friends Church
Visioning Meeting
January 9, 2010

The meeting opened in a time of devotion and silent worship led by Lynn Clouser Holt.

Peggy Hansen and Steve Fawver introduced themselves and explained the visioning process. Peggy led and Steve facilitated.

Section 1: North Star

“As a community, what is your hope? What is essential? What are you about?”

Images created – authentic (Mona Lisa), multigenerational, many ministers with opportunity to lead (gifts, packages, hands), gifts with the light of Christ within, ministry willing to pay a cost (blood, sweat and tears), reaching a hand out to our community and in to help each other, teaching our children, helping children to learn to minister now and later, genuinely worshipping community that fuels the outreach (light in the middle that pulls it all together and sends it all out), intercultural and interracial, acceptance of diversity in our community (not just racial), accepting ministries of reconciliation, heart for social justice (hammer, islands connected by bridges), Biblically based with scriptural teaching, willingness to be pushed beyond our current understanding and comfort zones (climbing out of a box, pushing through a bubble), deep care and supporting each other (woman with a plate of food), small communities giving deep care to each other, new faces (invitation card), my bucket is being filled while I’m filling others’ buckets with Christ at the top, listening with hearts and minds, waiting (antenna), Quaker and not just evangelical

Section 2: Snapshot

“Where are we today, January 2010? What do we see in a snapshot of ourselves?”

Images created – lost or frozen or lack of shared vision and direction (road with a question mark), stretched thin financially/people resources/time, wonderful released staff and great ministers, sitting and thinking about great things that we don’t have the time/resources to accomplish, physical facility and space is a good resource, healthy community that like each other, depth of individual calling without an umbrella that pulls them together, aware of other ministries going on and feeling calling, need to pay attention to discern calling together (pair of glasses to see), diverse ministries, searching for perspective, feel of connectedness with small groups (dotted line circle), support and family, racial and ethnic diversity among children and aspiration to deepen understanding of diversity (leaves as area where we want to see growth), committed to our kids as a huge part of who we are and who we want to be, casual sense (smudged finger prints), holding a Bible with question marks about what to do with it

Section 3: Reviewing the Snapshot

“Look at the snapshot and talk about what feelings come.”

Not willing to rest and accept status quo, seeking the most we can be for each other and God, appreciation, hopeful, tired, warmth, nervous about stretched resources, looseness (lots of choices, relaxed, nothing pushing down on me), disillusionment, discontent, different expectations and ideals, longing, frustration, disappointment, anxiety, scattered, gratitude, driven to make it work, committed, cultural rebellion and being ok with being off center of broader society as a good thing, scared with how little scripture was discussed

Section 4: Reviewing the North Star

“Remember what feelings came when we thought about the big picture and what is essential.”

Peacefulness from being in God’s will, desire to be deeply rooted, grounded, strong, desire for the group to dig into the Bible together, joy, energy, hope, praying, excited, respect, relationship, love, committed

Section 5: January 2011

“Make believe you’re in a time machine, getting out in January 2011.

Describe a possible and positive scenario.”

- Relationship(s) established or deepened with another community with a different culture from our own in a way that would enrich both parties, focus on diversity
- Awareness of what’s going on in our own body (diversity, needs, ministry), internal connection/communication, mutually supportive relationships
- Clearer understanding of the role of Scripture and the communication of the Spirit in our lives... deeper disciplining program for adults... spiritual growth has been a focus
- Our priorities and our time/money/resources match, our staff are actually released, a sense of peace... via an intentional process that we completed in 2010
- Reshaped kids’ programs
- New faces

Section 6: Strengths

“What will allow you to have the strength to remain on the path?”

We love Jesus and desire to follow him. We’re educated, intelligent people capable of ministering well, We accept noise in our worship services. We’re flexible and we like each other. We have commitment. We respect each other. We’re consistent. We have leaders and doers. We’re a wealthy church by standards the world would use. We have land resources. We’re authentic and accepting. We value listening. We think. We’re resourceful. We’re here together willing to work on this.

Section 7: Enroll

“Who, not here now, needs to be on board to make this plan happen?”

Our youth. The Latino church that meets at NVFC in the evening. Our partner ministries. Busy people. New people. Old people. GFU students. Administrators. Missing people (those who are in the congregation but are missing from the big picture). Full bucket people with passion, knowledge, wisdom, and experience with Jesus. God.

Section 8: Path

Look at the January 2011 list. Prioritize it. Start working backwards.

In Fall 2010, the work of the Spring and Summer 2009 and the goals and next steps will be communicated to the broader community.

In Summer 2010, specific work will be done to establish and structure relationships and programs.

In Spring 2010, we will begin the first steps of formulating groups, naming people specifically and dates to accomplish this work.

Upcoming Dates

Scot Headley announced the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 13 – worship service for the purpose of listening, seeking God's will for the health of our community
- Monday, January 18 – Administrative Committee meeting, all are invited, with expanded discernment group
- Wednesday, January 20 *and* Sunday, January 24 (at church and retreat locations) -- small groups will meet around the visioning process to determine next steps
- Wednesday, January 20 – meeting to approve a minute on immigration
- Other times will be announced, as well