

Community Assembly November 13, 2019

Weaving the Wider We

We began the evening with a sung prayer of gratitude for all creation as we remembered that we are all part of one cosmos born out of the love of God.

The Karen Olson Johnson and _____ facilitated the evening. Eric Celeste and Cathy Steffens gave a recap of the September Assembly. Several slides were shown of the results of the work the assembly did when placing stickers to indicate where our 2019 Province Chapter directions and the 2019 Congregational Chapter Commitments coordinate. The slides showed a close coordination between Congregational and Province goals for ministry in the coming years. The connections on the slides between Province and Chapter directions looked like a weaving of a tapestry. The visual impression was that we are indeed weaving a wider we across the Congregation.

Results of a years long process of close evaluation of Province ministries was shared by Anita Duckor and Mary Louise Menikeim who represented the Ministry Commission. The participants at the tables were asked to look closely at the reports we received with the Assembly mailings to notice who else is doing a ministry, where are the gaps, what are the opportunities for future ministry efforts and what recommendations could be shared with Ministry Commission. We were reminded that ministry is always a work in progress because realities and needs change. The Commission provided the Assembly with a comprehensive mapping of how and where St Paul Province is serving our community. The groups at the tables submitted on paper their reflections regarding where we as a Province can do the most good and where we can simplify or partner with other entities. A session of open mic allowed people to share insights and questions.

After a short break with cookies provided as treats, Jill Underdahl lead the Assembly in a discernment process on the Racial Justice Proposal. The proposal from the Commissions requested endorsement of a formal process in which St Paul Province would undergo a close examination of ways in which our community can grow into a more fully inclusive and welcoming place for people of the many cultures and races that enrich our local community. Sessions of table talk and open mic helped the gathered community discuss the proposal and share viewpoints. After a rich sharing of thoughts, a counting of colored card demonstrated that a wide majority the the Assembly did endorse the proposal and wanted to proceed with implementation.

The evening closed with remembrance of Sisters and Consociates who have died in the past year. Pictures of these loved members of our community were placed on each table. We shared memories of each person and viewed a video which honored each deceased person with a short summary of their life and gifts. May they all rest in peace as we gratefully remember them and their place in our own communion of saints. submitted by Peg Schwendeman and