Engagement Team Notes

March 12, 2024

Present: Karen Olson Johnson, Lois Mineau, Joan Mitchell, Mary Louise Menikheim, Kate O’Connell

Lois shared a video of 350,000 cranes flying at sunrise

Karen shared a mandala to represent many pieces coming together in an imperfect whole – fractals, evolution over time

Joan shared the work that the Hedgerow Institute has been doing in [(Re)Discovering Beatrice Bruteau](https://www.wisdomwayscenter.org/events-registrations/p/hedgerow-institute-rediscovering-beatrice-bruteau-spiritual-revolutionary)

Opening: Table prayer

Discussed and reviewed Proposal for a One-Year Experiment with a Common Table.

* Many helpful aspects of this proposal, including:
  + This proposal would get things started
  + It would be an experiment for a year
  + People liked Stirring the Fire and the February 10 2024 Community Assembly
  + Helpful structure of Common Table meeting every other month and Engagement Small Groups meeting in between as they determine
  + Opportunities – and responsibilities – for people in the CSJ Community to propose ideas, suggest conversations with the wider community
  + Opportunities to stay more connected, doing together things that energize us
  + Opening the meetings to all who feel called to the Charism and Mission
  + Flexibility for small groups to use Zoom as they are able, to allow people who are not able to drive or be present in person to participate
  + Appreciate the internal and external work
  + Want these Common Table meetings to offer chance for people to say how they are currently carrying the CSJ Charism and Mission in the world – identify Mission Interest Circles
  + This structure would spread responsibilities and move from models where only a few people are “in charge” and running things
  + This is a way to hold the future and allow it to evolve

“Parking lot” discussions:

* Keeping this structure as sustainable as possible (e.g. paying for meals, rooms)
* Think about how we would use Zoom – e.g. an account available? Who knows how? Best practices?
* How do we want to communicate what is shared at the Common Table and Engagement Small Groups meetings?
* “Little Design Group” – part of our roots
* Important to give people places to note what they are currently doing, to name how they are part of this Charism and Mission – to help us understand and expand how we are carrying these CSJ aspects with us
* Affinity maps – collect all of the things that people are doing. Lois is willing to try that out (computer program)
* What do we need to move forward? That will arise from the ongoing conversations
* Ways that Acts of Chapter will be part of this overall process and brought into the world
* How would this structure interact with Staff? Support their work? Invite their ideas? How might Staff people want to be part of this work?
* Who is sufficiently bilingual? How could we connect with La Familia de San Jose?
* Do people know American Sign Language to communicate with people who struggle with hearing? Are there other ways to engage with people who are hard of hearing?
* Intergenerational pieces – St. Kate’s, Food Access Hub, more?

**March 21, 2024 Community-Based Leadership Meeting**

Schedule:

5:15-5:30 pm – social gathering with lemon cake

5:30-5:35 pm – Table Prayer (Joan)

5:35-5:40 pm - Our Ancestors and time at tables to call out by name and hold space for those who have walked on (Lois)

5:40-5:50 pm – Table Discussion with convenors and designated note takers: “What energizes you to keep coming here?” (Lois?)

5:50-6:00 pm – Table Discussion with convenors and designated note takers: “Name your mission interest circles that you are currently involved in? Where are you carrying the CSJ Charism and Mission in your life” (Lois?)

6:00-6:05 pm Door Prize

6:05-6:15 pm – Presentation of Proposal for a One-Year Experiment with a Common Table (Joan)

6:15 – 6:35 pm – Small Group discussions (what resonates, what’s missing, questions, etc.)

6:35 – 6:40 pm Door prize

6:40-6:55 pm Open mic (Karen introduce)

6:55-7:00pm Next meeting details, volunteer sign up to invite participants to May gathering and Table Prayer (Mary Louise)

Invitations for people to come to Community Assembly:

* Appreciate that Dot Walking did a wonderful job for years of calling people to come
* Suzanne Herder offered to call St. Joseph Workers to come (some will participate remotely)
* Call Consociates we haven’t seen
* Relationship and Association help with calling people?
* Rapid Relay – lemon cake and door prizes!

Preparation:

* Joan will show proposal to Province Leadership Team
* Copies of Joan’s prayer (Joan and Karen)
* Copies of Proposal plus a copy with headings only so people can provide feedback (Joan)
* Convenors at each table will ask someone to be a scribe to keep track of 1) mission circles, 2) what is missing, etc. on Proposal
* Open Mics (Karen and Mary Louise)
* Kate O will transcribe mission circle notes
* Mary Louise will transcribe feedback on Proposal

Next meetings:

* None next week
* Karen will work with Karen to cancel this meeting room for next week
* Tuesday, March 26, 5:00 via Zoom – Ask Lacy Sietsema from Good Ground Press to set it up
* April 2 – Lois will be away and will try to participate by phone
* April 9
* Community Based Leadership meeting Saturday April 13 – update on what is heard
* Community Based Leadership meeting Thursday evening, May 16

Submitted by Kate O’Connell