**Engagement Team Notes**

April 23, 2024

**Present**: Karen Olson Johnson, Joan Mitchell, Mary Louise Menikheim, Irene O’Neill, Lois Mineau, Catherine McComas-Bussa, Kate O’Connell

**Opening Prayer**: Irene opened with the Table prayer

**ET Discussion:**

* Is it time to hand this work over? To compile what we’ve gathered toward the five elements of Vision, Purpose, Scope of Work, Community-based Leadership Group and Investment?
* There are pieces of each of these five elements on the Forum, which can be brought back to people at the next community meeting.
* For example, should we gather information about Purpose, give it to a table and talk about Purpose and see if anything further is needed?
* We want to present information in a way that encourages thought, reflection, input and consensus, such as with red, yellow, green cards.
* We want to explain to the CSJ Community where we’ve come from & where we believe we are – seems we are having different conversations than the community.
* It’s not clear that people understood what was intended at the 4/13/24 meeting.
* Need to build a consensus.
* Lois and Karen sent a proposal to the ET – could this be a start for identifying the five elements?
* We should talk about a fundamental issue regarding community-based leadership.
* Leadership is not one person or even a group.
* What we need as a community in the work of the CSJ Mission is already among us; it’s just been hollowed out and needs to be revived and reconnected.
* It used to be that St. Joseph people would meet the needs on the ground by actually going out to listen and see what was happening, and then feeding what people saw and experienced back into the CSJ Community, so everyone could gain more understanding, and there could be discernment as to how to respond in the world.
* A while back, that was happening through the Justice Commission, which had connections with many other groups, and was able to connect and collaborate with other groups.
* As has been shared in prior CSJ Community meetings, we want to be nimble, flexible to respond to what is happening now.
* We want each of us to be able to hold space for vibration of the dear neighbor and be supported in the work each person is doing.
* Rather than a Community-based Leadership Group, we want to grow **Community-based Leadership**. We want to support the work we are each doing, in whatever way we are living the mission of *moving always* toward profound love of God and neighbor without distinction.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Need to write up a clear narrative for the May 16 ET meeting with the Community.
* These are the Le Puy tables – where we share what we see as we “divide the city” go out to the world and come back again, supporting each other ongoing.
* We want to be listening, churning, connecting, letting the energy flow, based on what we are seeing *now* – in what directions are people feeling called now?
* Reflection questions at tables could be, for example:
  + What is coming to the surface today?
  + What have you seen/experienced in the world, in light of the Mission?
  + What other groups are you encountering where you have been engaged?
  + How can we support/encourage the ministries we are carrying with us?
  + Open-mic sharing from tables
  + What themes are we hearing as we listen to each other?
  + What are we learning from Partners in Justice?
  + What are we learning from Ministries? Work Groups? Anyone else?
* We want the lace again, with images reflecting moving always, such as driftwood boats moving on water.

**Next meeting:**

* **Tuesday, May 7, 5:00**, CV Family Dining Room
* Come with proposals for May 16 meeting

Submitted by Kate O’Connell

1. Note that the January 2024 meeting identified the following in the “Big Sheet Notes” which affirms this idea.

   CSJ Mission in the St Paul Area: Concrete Responsibilities and Tasks the CbLG to Take On?

   Getting us, the wider we, together

   Animate how the mission is living (alive in the world); identify where the

   mission is alive and thriving

   Build relational groups to collectively further the mission

   Gather to hear how the mission is animated in EACH of us in the wider we!

   Recognize gifts in each other

   Build skills to deepen relationships (and conversation); It’s not what we do

   (Doing), rather who we are (Being)

   Pull threads from ancestry to give us courage now and come alive

   Connect past, present and future as we address the mission

   Address how the mission is carried forward without Sisters at gatherings [↑](#footnote-ref-1)