

Breakdown of the Summary from The Gathering Discussions

Sunday, February 12, 2017

WORSHIP

General Goals:

1. Child, youth, young adult engagement

Tactics:

- Children's Choir
- Integration into liturgical ministries
- Use age appropriate language

2. Additional Services

Tactics:

- Sacramental –
 - Sun/Sat/Mid Week evening service
 - Family service
- Non-Sacramental –
 - Contemplative – lots of silence for listening
 - Prayer Vigils/services
 - Contemporary Praise

3. Culturally relevant and sensitive

Tactics:

- Preach on cultural events/issues
- Change language
- Less formal

EMBRACING THE WORLD

General Goals:

1. Engaging internationally

Tactics:

- Missions
- Refugee resettlement
- Companion relationship with Diocese

2. Bring others to Jesus

Tactics:

- Training
- Creating evangelism opportunities
 - In community
 - In church

3. Alleviate local suffering

Tactics:

- Engage immediate community needs
 - Southern Hills
- Engage Slavens School

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

General Goals:

1. Spiritual growth

Tactics:

- Small groups
- Classes/seminars
- Mentorship

2. Integrated Discipleship: Faith/Life

Tactics:

- Small groups
 - Affinities: Career, Support, Life Position
- Classes/seminars
- Mentorship

3. Contextual Relevance

Tactics:

- Small groups – life transitions
- Classes/seminars
 - Marriage, Finances, Child Raising, Divorce, Grief
- Mentorship

COMMUNITY LIFE

General Goals:

1. Building Authentic Relationships within Parish

Tactics:

- Social Gatherings
 - Age specific
 - Intergenerational
- Small groups – activities/affinities
- Group Projects

2. Building Authentic Relationships within region/diocese

Tactics:

- Social Gatherings
- Connecting Ministry
- Group Projects
- Pulpit Swap

3. Building Authentic Relationship with the Community

Tactics:

- Hosting Social Event
- Group Projects
- Affinity groups/activities

SUMMARY OF THE GATHERING DISCUSSION

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Question asked:

How do you see God using Christ Church to engage the world?

Summary of main themes:

DU Ministry
Appealing to Treasureland families
Refugee Ministry
Attracting young families
Add mid week or evening services
Small Groups (both spiritual and fellowship)
Fellowship opportunities after church
Need for Intergenerational opportunities
Engaging youth/children more

Things mentioned that are already in place:

Need for a Youth Director and Young Adult Ministry
DU Ministry
Need a volunteer head of Outreach
Family newsletter/communication (emailed weekly)

Summary of discussions broken into ministry areas:

Christian Formation

Main Goals (all mentioned several times)

- Small groups for spiritual growth
- Mentorship program (intergenerational)
- Youth formation
- 24/7 Christians
- Classes that appeal to outside the church folk
- Industry specific formation groups i.e. construction
- DU Ministry/Young Adults

Tactics

- Sharing of knowledge and experience through the generations (mentorship program)
- Embrace the changing family dynamic (DNA) without leaving our foundation (small groups)
- Cross generational activities (youth formation)
- Youth choir (youth formation)
- Teaching on how to integrate our work week and live out our faith in the workplace
- AA, Divorce recovery, parenting classes, biblical financial classes
- More sharing of people's testimonies
- Better communication about groups that are available for people to plug in to
- Job search support group, English speaking skills class
- Add evening service to appeal to young adults/families
- Match newcomers with members to help 'sponsor' and guide new members and help them get plugged in
- Dynamic youth programs that encourage our youth to invite friends in
- Be inclusive
- 3 days of prayer church-wide to listen to God and hear His call
- Pray
- Be relevant in teachings
- Teaching on fasting as a way to develop spiritually
- Teaching people how to share their story of grace and faith outside of the church to the un-churched

Community Life

Main Goals

- Build fellowship
- Intergenerational relationship building
- Become part of the larger church community
- Support of youth ministry
- Industry specific groups
- Supporting families and the surrounding community

Tactics

- Monthly supper groups
- Gatherings in non-church settings (brew pubs, etc.)
- Engage isolated church members
- Mentorship
- Visit other churches and bless them with our choir, bells etc.
- Annual picnic for community
- Host a fair for the local neighborhood
- Taking on a local school that needs help with feeding the children or supplies
- Lunch groups that meet after church on Sunday
- Coffee hour after church
- Small groups that meet on Sundays following church even if only for 30 mins
- Intergenerational activities – game nights
- Provide daycare for evening activities
- VBS activities on Saturdays once a month for non-churched kids
- Kid friendly community groups at church
- Family friendly events
- Informal team games outside of church (becoming part of the community)
- Have a system to engage new folks into a small group experience that provides both fellowship and some teaching. Short term commitment.
- Transition groups (empty nesters, family, older kids, newly married, etc.)
- Have youth offer techie classes to older generations
- Join other churches outreach efforts

Embracing the World

Goals

- Provide more mission opportunities (local and overseas)
- Support refugees
- Reach the un-churched
- Treasureland outreach

Tactics

- Short term and longer mission trips
- Welcome committee that goes to airport to meet refugees
- Provide ESL classes
- Provide job/interview help
- Invite friends/work colleagues to church
- Share our stories of grace
- Teachings on how to reach the un-churched, in an authentic gentle way, not churchy
- Be relevant
- Identify one or two specific groups to reach (e.g. International students, single mothers, Latin community, homeless etc.) so that we are more focused
- Reach out to brew pubs, missions, etc.
- Set up a sister parish with a Latin or Central American Community
- Set up teams that get the average every day person out to engage with others who are different
- Loving on children outside our walls (schools, children's homes)
- CC Food and coffee truck
- Create more awareness of what we're doing in the world (faces to go with ministries)
- 'Hungry' backpacks (partnership with local businesses)
- Outreach to the neediest individuals in the area
- Hold a community fair/picnic
- Attract DU students
- Start an evening service/mid week service
- Hold family community groups with childcare
- Teachings on how to share Jesus with everyone
- Industry specific outreach
- Create programs to encourage community youth to attend

- Use social media to show our sermons and activities
- Soup kitchen
- Serving the needs of Treasureland families
- Expand music ministry, hold concerts to attract outsiders
- Let people know where we stand on their over arching concerns
- Become part of a community team (baseball, etc.) to help bring people into the church
- Theology on Tap: Christian speakers in a local bar monthly
- International Student Ministries
- Involve current groups in outreach activity
- Have donation baskets available every Sunday for Metro Caring and St. Francis Center
- Host community service groups, AA etc.
- Have a Volunteer Coordinator who organized groups to go into the community and helps people get plugged into groups at CC
- Single parent ministry
- Have outreach groups that go out to meet needs of the community (raking leaves, shoveling snow, fixing things on homes for single moms)
- Intentional invites to Treasureland families (Christmas choir, Epiphany pageant, classes)
- Build children's outreach opportunities
- Clearer communication from Outreach about organizations people can serve at
- Become part of a movement – Black Lives Matter, etc.

Worship

Goals

- Children's Choir
- Weekday/evening service
- Relevant Teaching
- Prayer Vigils
- Engage young families/youth

Tactics

- Hold an Easter vigil service with the lessons presented dramatically by children and youth
- Stop using church language and make it more familiar and relevant
- Share our experiences/stories of how Christ has shaped our world
- Engage youth in the service
- Offer services other than Sunday mornings at times that work for young people or families
- Hold a Saturday night youth music contemporary service
- Give thanks through music
- Stream service on social media
- Hold prayer/listening services
- Invite friends to join us for worship
- Bathe the sanctuary in prayer
- Put mechanism in place to listen to God to gain insight for His vision and plan for us
- Quiet contemplative Sunday evening service
- Serious life questions addressed especially geared toward younger generation and issues they face
- Get children more involved in worship with a choir, musical instruments, occasional family service
- Make church fun for children so families want to come

This is all the ideas/information taken from group papers and cards broken into ministry areas

Christian Formation

- Bridging adult and young adult outreach
- Accessing new members (Brew Pub conversations, put sermons on Utube)
- Small groups for spiritual growth
- Assess physical barriers to being in church
- Sharing knowledge and experience through the generations
- Mentorship program
- Embracing the changing family dynamic (DNA) without leaving our foundation
- Youth formation – cross generational activities, youth choir
- Reach out to children. Parents will follow children.
- Teaching on how to integrate our work week and live out our faith there.
 - 24/7 Christians
 - Sermons that provide direction
- Classes on brokenness that appeal to outside the church folk
- Better communication about groups in the church available for people to plug into
- More sharing of people's testimonies
- Biblical financial classes
- Youth outreach to community
- Job search support group
- Active teaching of life skills to help people live life with more ease and efficiency
- Young Adult Ministry – DU and outward
- Involve 20 – 30 age group more
- New extra service for young families
- Wed. evening service with Community groups
- Industry specific worship/formation i.e. construction
- Engage Fr. Terry with all age groups times other than Sundays
- Match newcomers with members to help 'sponsor' and guide new members
- Youth are the future – better education for youth group

- Be inclusive
- Reach out to other churches
- Transition groups: from family to older kids to empty nesters
- Invite others to come to church with us
- 3 days of prayer church-wide – hear and listen to God’s call
- How can we be relevant?
- Pray
- How do we harness potential growth – Missions, Outreach, Treasureland etc.
- How can we be relevant? Listen to God
- Become part of a movement – Black Lives Matter, ask what are peoples’ needs, engage with people
- Engage with people who are in need spiritually (poor, marginalized, under-serviced)
- Expand music ministry as an outreach program
- Inter-generational outreach, include reaching out to youth
- Teaching on fasting as a part of developing spiritually
- Spiritual gifts identified
- Saturday VBS activities throughout the year
- Spruce up Children’s classrooms and hallways to look more fun not tired and dated
- Develop training for having 24/7 integrated faith in daily lives
- Relate scripture to real world
- At end of services have 30 min small group meetings

Community Life

- Hold supper groups that meet bi-weekly in members homes to build fellowship
- Identify what makes people feel safe
- Gatherings in non-church settings (Brew pubs etc.)
- Engaging isolated church members (e.g. disabled, elderly)
- Intergenerational small groups
- Mentorship is crucial. Christ Church's inter-generationality is our strength
- Equipping people to share their stories of grace outside of the church
- Equal ratio of financial investment and time/talent resources given by people into the community
- Connecting with other churches (visiting with youth choir, bells, to bless other congregations)
- Annual picnic to invite others
- Weekday service to accommodate young families schedules (e.g. dad's out of town on weekends)
- A fair for parish neighborhood
- Taking on a school that needs help feeding the children
- Sharing our experiences with others help build their faith
- More help for youth in organizing events and finances
- Industry specific outreach
- Small groups after Sunday service for people to get to know each other
- Inclusiveness with other believers and non believers
- Variety of missions
- Need to be relevant
- Be actively involved – social justice, volunteering
- Intentional listening and conversation to the unseen, undesirable and forgotten
- DU ministry
- Intergenerational activities
- Let our building become a haven for engaging with God and others
- Wed. service with daycare for attendees
- Bring the world to the bible, not the other way around

- Strategic growth
- Kid friendly community groups at the church
- Earlier services
- Family friendly events
- Informal team games outside of church (becoming a part of the known community and becoming less intimidating)
- A system to engage new folks in a small group experience – maybe short term commitment that has a goal of both teaching and fellowship
- More potluck suppers to build fellowship community
- List last names of people we pray for to make it more personal
- Do a questionnaire to determine unique talents of parishioners
- Once a month have small groups all gather together for a potluck dinner
- Have a volunteer ministry coordinator to help place people in small groups and ministry groups
- Offer techie training to the older folks (youth may be able to help)
- Coffee hour after church
- Lunch groups after church
- Supporting families and communities

Embracing the World

- Mission Trips – Haiti
- Outreach locally and abroad
- Ministry based on food
- Set up a sister parish with a Latin or Central American Community along the lines of sisterparish.org
- Become more relevant “What do we do that is more geared to those outside our brick and mortar?”
- Reach out to the scattered – brew pubs, missions, etc.
- Talk to friends and invite to church
- Do a good job in our ministries but also want to bring in the outside world
- Practice sharing our stories of grace and equip each other to go out in the world with our story
- Serving in the world and for the world is transforming
- Teams that get the average every day person out and engages with others who are different
- Better communication from outreach and who is in charge (CC needs a volunteer coordinator to organize outreach)
- Teaching on how to transfer the gospel and do it in a gentle, authentic way not churchy to folks who are not interested in hearing it
- Extend the CC family outside the walls
- ‘Loving’ on children outside (schools, classrooms, children’s homes)
- Christ Church food and coffee truck
- Create more awareness of what we’re doing in the world (faces to go with those ministries)
- ‘Hungry’ backpacks (partnerships with local businesses)
- Mission outreach to the neediest individuals in the area (youth and adults)
- Have a community parish fair
- Attract DU students
- Have a 5 p.m. Sunday evening service
- Restore Wed. night service
- Be a bridge between scripture and the world. Stand up and do what is right and not just conform

- Offer family community groups with food and childcare
- Become 24-7 Christians
- Share Jesus with everyone through on-going training
- Industry specific outreach
- Welcome/serve refugees
- Change service times – Sat. evening, Weekday evening, Sun. evening
- Create programs to encourage community youth to attend
- Use social media to show our activities and sermons
- Reach out to the unchurched
- God-directed (all listening)
- Reach out to Unity Church (joint picnic?)
- Be attractive to outsiders (strong youth program, music program, community needs programs)
- Invite others to join us at church
- Be relevant to the times
- Soup kitchen
- Opportunities for older folk to teach classes for those who need help finding a job, interview skills, learn English. Provide childcare.
- Wider range of mission opportunities for all (include short term missions)
- Reaching out to the parents who bring their kids here and serving their needs
- Finding the needs of the homeless and stepping in to meet them
- Reaching out to DU
- Expand music ministry
- Sunday night contemplative service
- Be friendly
- Letting people know where we stand on their overarching concerns
- Become part of community teams (baseball, soccer etc.) to help bring people into church
- Theology on Tap: Christian speakers in a local bar monthly
- International Student Ministries
- Involve our current groups into some form of outreach activity

- Baskets available every Sunday for non perishable foods for Metro Caring and clothing or hygiene items for St. Francis Center
- Host community service groups AA etc.
- Partner with Hispanic church in low income area to support through outreach
- Need a Volunteer Coordinator to organize groups to go out into the community
- Connect with single parents who are often in need of support when working outside the home
- Have outreach groups that go out to meet needs (homeless etc.)
- Offer dinner quarterly with childcare and invite Treasureland families
- Education for current members on how to invite people to our church
- Focus on a specific group of people to bring into the church rather than everyone
- Offer a church service on DU campus on a Sunday
- Make key investment in international student ministries starting at DU
- More community involvement – help others rake leaves, shovel snow in the winter
- Offer a date night once a month to Southern Hills families
- Ongoing mission opportunities for the parish (in our community and outside of Denver)
- Two way giving basket. If you are in need, take from the basket
- Refugee outreach/ESL classes

Worship

- Create a children's choir
- Have an Easter Vigil service with the Lessons presented dramatically by children and youth
- Engage people not in our building but cast our net out further
- Stop using church language and make it more familiar
- Help people understand what church is about
- Should we set concrete goals to grow the church membership?
- Make sure no one feels left out
- Share our experiences/stories of how Christ has shaped our world
- Engage youth more in the service
- Offer additional mid-week services
- Sat. night youth music contemporary service
- Build children's outreach opportunities
- Giving thanks through music
- Stream service on social media
- Have everyone listen to hear the voice of God
- Invite others to join us in worship
- Need a strong music program
- Hold prayer vigils bathing the sanctuary in prayer
- Intentional invitation to Treasureland families (share talents, Christmas choir)
- Put mechanism in place to listen to God to gain insight for His vision and plan for us
- Sunday night worship services – quiet spirit filled, steeped in prayer
- Serious life questions addressed especially geared toward younger generation
- Hold hands during the Lord's Prayer to build unity
- Teach Jesus' radical love which the world is starving for
- Hold a worship night once a month on a Friday or Saturday with current music to attract youth and young adults
- Youth/children's choir
- Praise and worship services to let us know what's going on