
Thirty or so people came to our combination potluck and community conversation. Unfortunately, younger and newer members of our congregation were not well represented, so the information gathered was mostly from people over 70.

After reporting the information gathered in the Visioning Groups, where board members met in small groups with over 50 people from February to May, we asked each lunch table to consider the following question and then to share their responses with the larger group.

*How does the North Chapel attract and engage more people in the activities and mission of the church, and garner adequate financial support in the process?*

On a sheet of newsprint people’s ideas were noted.

After that, we asked them to consider the following categories which were written on newsprint taped to the wall:

1. Re-engaging our community,
2. Attracting newcomers,
3. Increasing financial support,
4. Engaging Youth and Families and
5. Engaging with the wider community

Under each heading we had written action plans that had been suggested in our small visioning groups.

We then gave each person six red stickers and asked them to put the stickers on the items listed on the newsprint that were most important to them.

Here are the items in the five categories that got the most stickers.

1. Re-engaging our community - Coming together around food and music. More fun/more play.
2. Attracting newcomers - Let people know who we are and offer activities that appeal to a wide variety of interests.
3. Increasing financial support - Educate the congregation about the church’s finances and increase our rentals.
4. Engaging Youth and Families - Reach out to adolescents, create intergenerational groups and activities and offer younger/newer members a place to express and implement their ideas.
5. Engaging with the wider community - Connect with other religious organizations and have more social justice activities.

Lastly, we asked people to fill out a card with their interests and what they would be willing to organize.

On another note, in our report *Board Study of North Chapel Organizational and Financial Challenges*, we proposed the following steps.

- Need to establish priorities for action; activities to highlight as move ahead
- Increase willingness of members to take on short term projects as well as longer term committee commitments.
- Create ways for people to get together. Particularly hearing the ideas of our newer members. Invite them to join with us, rather than waiting for them to volunteer.
- Establish tighter monitoring process for revenues and costs, including identifying progress metrics (membership levels, attendance levels, major revenue and costs) and targets, and steps that need to be taken if targets aren’t met.

We have reached out to the finance committee asking them to help us identify progress metrics. At our retreat we talked about organizing “a new/younger members get together”. We feel this is a priority. Now we should seriously consider implementing some of the other suggestions.