

UUCGV Visioning 2030 Meeting

January 26, 2020

1. Meeting called to order at 12:27pm
2. Centering Words by Rev. Wendy Jones
3. “Build a Better World” Invocation Song by Paul Teerlinck
4. Welcome by UUCGV President Elizabeth High:
 - i. Acknowledges Safety Team having met since July and developing systems to insure our safety, via a written a safety policy approved by the board.
 - ii. Defines Vision 2030’s essence as an outgrowth of the UUCGV Mission and Vision.

UUCGV Mission:

We unite to create an accepting, religious community which fosters lifelong learning, diversity, and spiritual growth. By reaching out to the larger community, by nurturing one another and the Earth of which we are a part, we live our Unitarian Universalist Principles of justice, reason and compassion.

UUCGV Vision:

A place for liberal religion, diverse thought and community action.

- iii. Clarifies the meeting agenda and details where the different groups of six will meet for discussion. Introduces the group leaders: Janet Cummings, Laurel Carpenter, Melissa Humphrey, Abbey Leinbach, Steve Watson & Elizabeth High.
 - iv. Asks that the meeting attendants form into groups of six at assigned locations throughout the sanctuary.
 - v. Explains what the dot stickers are for: Each person is to place three dots on parts most important to them, of the mission and vision statement exhibited at the front of the sanctuary.
 - vi. The fourth dot is for the safety question on the chart on the chancel.
5. Elizabeth summons everyone to post all four of their dots at 12:40pm.
 6. Elizabeth calls to order the small group discussions, beginning with Question #1, allotting 10-15 minutes.

Question #1: What impact would you like UUCGV to have on the Grand Valley community by the year 2030?

- *Our location gives us many opportunities. We are right next door to the Library Discovery Garden (“by the community and for the community”) and we are near the downtown area*
- *Projects that we have been involved in during the last 10 years include:*
 - i. *Working with Grand Valley Interfaith Network (GVIN), the Interfaith Coalition for Social Justice and 17 other organizations to promote the GJ Proclamation of Inclusivity. Participated in anti-racism activities through GVIN, the Interfaith Coalition for Social Justice, Black Lives Matter (BLM) and the Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP).*
 - ii. *Working with the Western Colorado Alliance to promote clean energy and a healthy balance between economic development and the natural environment.*
 - iii. *Offering Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education courses to youth in our community*
 - iv. *Soup kitchen volunteer day once a month at Catholic Outreach*
 - v. *Domestic Violence Action Team*
 - vi. *UU presence in many different marches, rallies and parades, including GLBTQ+ Pride Parade, Martin Luther King Jr Day March, Women’s Day March, Lights of Liberty rally for immigrant rights.*

7. 1:00 pm - group members place their dots on the three *impact ideas* they feel strongest about.

8. 1:05 pm group discussions of Question #2 begin.

Question #2: By 2030, what is one concrete action you would like UUCGV to have taken (as a part of its Green Sanctuary certification process) to work for a sustainable and clean world for everyone?

- *So far the Green Team has accomplished several projects, including: Green Team Worship service, Green In-gathering Barbeque, switch to Green Cleaning Products for UUCGV (thanks to Sterling on this one!), Green Store where people can purchase environmentally-friendly cleaning products, and UUCGV table at the Climate Rally.*
- *The Green Team needs input from the congregation about other projects that the congregation would like to get involved with.*
- *The “Environmental Justice” project in particular is a huge but inspirational endeavor that the Green Team needs to hear from us about. This is described by UUA as “A congregational activity promoting environmental justice and conducted in solidarity with one of the communities affected by climate change. Intentional work the shifts us from ‘charity to solidarity’: thinking and partnering with negatively impacted communities instead of providing short-term assistance”*

9. 1:15 pm Elizabeth announces in the next couple of minutes leaders of small groups will present to the larger group, and for the groups to choose a leader who will present to the larger group.

10. 1:20 pm leaders of small groups are presented to the larger group:

Question #1 Discussion:

- i. Peg Oswald recaps her group's priorities from question #1:
 - Building community within the Hispanic community.
 - Accepting spiritual community for all ages.
 - Attaining more young adults and young families.
 - Working the interfaith coalition.
- ii. Janet Cummings recaps her group's priorities from question #1:
 - More involvement with CMU.
 - Connected with Handy Chapel.
 - Fostering diversity in GJ.
 - Educating ourselves and the larger community about green living.
 - Facilitating green living with solar energy, ride sharing, community garden, buying local foods, educating community about green living, & using less single use plastics.
- iii. Abbey Leinbach recaps her group's priorities from question #1:
 - More outreach to young people, CMU, & high schools.
 - Building a kinder and more welcoming community.
 - Inclusivity, raise awareness on poverty in our community, building bridges without burning bridges.
 - Climate: achieving clear air, water, and food, educating children about environmentalism, teaching about recycling, offer recycling, reduce not just recycle.
- iv. Laurel Carpenter recaps her group's priorities from question #1:
 - Continuing all projects listed under Question #1 and broadcasting info about these UUCGV projects to our friends and members.
 - Expanding the reach of our OWL program.
 - Growing our reach to young families and shaping our visual appeal to young families.

Question #2 Discussion:

- i. Group #1 recaps priorities from question #2:

Reduce, reuse, recycle, create a gift community, free stuff, object sharing, etc. Promote reducing single use stuff at events that we attend. Create reusable picnic kits that can be borrowed. Volunteers take children during coffee hour to the garden to volunteer and take care of our plot.
- ii. Steve Watson recaps priorities from question #2:
 - Post service projects, such as the community garden.
 - Relationship with Hispanic affairs, antiracism work.
 - Facilitating OWL with the Congregational church.
 - Contact Xcel Energy to explore programs we can participate in regarding wind and/or solar power. Recycling at church and at home. Less food waste.
- iii. Melissa recaps priorities from question #2:

- Increase revenue (not only through stewardship) by hosting community events for a low cost, such as \$2 movie night. Using strong social media outreach.
 - Stronger clear community awareness of who we are to the larger regional UU community and the GV community. Sharing what we are about, strengthening our image in the community. Increasing and widening our image in the UU community, to be looked at as an example.
- iv. Group #4 recaps priorities from question #2:
- Annual energy audit. Organizing an event to facilitate recycling of hard to recycle items such as hazardous waste. Improve recycling habits in congregational habits. Increase emphasis on solar, expand involvement with the community garden, provide food for the food pantries. Make storm windows for low income households.

11. 1:40 pm Elizabeth facilitates a large group discussion of Question #3.

Question #3: Is there anything else you would like to share about your Vision for UUCGV for the year 2030?

Question #3 Discussion:

- i. Peg: Playground for the children.
- ii. Miriam: Welcoming new members was very helpful when she first started.
- iii. Peg: Welcoming needs to be stronger, it is everyone's duty to go up and talk to new people, improve how we talk to new people.
- iv. Glenn: The planet needs to keep its blood and not glow in the dark. Mother earth needs to be happy.
- v. Sante: GJ City offers recycling pick and drop off.
- vi. Patricia: More use of the building.
- vii. Andrea: Becoming more aware. Spread the word about events happening at our congregation? Post to FB.
- viii. Steve: When we see new people, talk to them individually.
- ix. Micah: Create a business card size message that is really inviting, for people in need or looking, that we can hand out. Simple words can be powerful.
- x. Elizabeth: A church in town has card that says, " You are awesome and are enough, have a great day."

11. Closing words: Frerick Gilles read by Elizabeth High at 1:41 pm.

12. Meeting adjourned at 1:46 pm.