

Visioning Task Force

January 31, 2016

Those in attendance:

Bo Gordy-Stith
Doyle Tiller
Dee Waud
Bob Contino
Drew Boyce
Donald Fry
Rita Fry
Tim Stark

Ann Spence
Heather Childers
Kay Conaway
Sondra Satterfield
Kris Knarr
Charlotte Fraser
Margaret Cahall
Tom Cahall
Chris Glenn

Pastor Bo prayed Isaiah 6 ending with “Here I am! Send me!”

We are at the “trailhead.”

Exercise 1: What is our aspirational goal – the next step after being (1) accepted/welcome and (2) growing in spirituality and relationships?

We brainstormed (votes in parentheses)

servanthood (2)
sharing
value others
The Other Outreach
Grace (1)
Outside-Missions
Community- Neighborhood (1)
Service (5)
Discipleship (1)
Neighborly (4)
Example (1)
Evangelism (2)

Exercise 2: Postmodern Christianity – the cultural climate in which we live. Characterized by the phrase: “Spiritual but not Religious.”

Spirituality (what do we/others mean by this word?)

- Eastern mysticism/restoration of awe/ to counter over-familiarity of God!
- Spiritual relationship with God
- Absence of doubt & fear = hope (religious community w/ a spiritual person)
- Something more/beyond—something outside of ourselves
- Transcending boundaries
- Life of faith (not rules/creeds)
- Open to feelings / experiential
- Connection to another realm/experiential not explainable
- Inner peace
- “Encounter”
- experience

Religion (Bad)

- man-made rules
- structure
- ritual for the sake of ritual
- judgement (ours)
- church (building/walls/boundaries)
- hubris (pride/ foolishness)—God patent
- very exclusionary
- corporate- business
- method

Discussion – what do you feel when we have this conversation?

Tim Stark was “Happy it’s in the open.”

Some religious things prevent us from life in the Spirit

Structure not always a bad thing

Struggling a bit

Somethings in our ability to change-some are not

Three Little Bakers

United@ Schwartz Center

Big Box

Exercise 3: Distinguishing between the Mission (timeless/unchanging) and the Method (culturally relevant, negotiable – the means but not the end)

News

Entertainment

Education

Worship

Communication

Missions

Pastoral Leadership

Evangelism

Printing Press

Dinner Theater

SS- VBS- Youth- MYF

Sunday services

Newsletters- Radio- Internet

National Organizations (Giving)

Full-Time, 7 year trained

Tracts- reduction of a relationship to a transaction

- ❖ Relationships = Growth & Spirituality
- ❖ “Seeker church”- “horse drawn”
- ❖ Pastor/Church relationship: at 4 years the gloves come off (because now the relationship is worth being honest – the pastor is staying). If the pastor and congregation can make it to the 7 year mark, they will do what God has called and equipped them to do together.