

Congregational Conversation Notes by Table 11-12-23

Phil Lehoux's Table

What are our strengths as a faithful community? What are the essential character traits of our church – our DNA if you will?

- Many (Disproportionate) members in healthcare
- No hierarchies, no top down direction
- Welcoming
- Inclusive – gender, political, social (class)
- Humor in worship
- Sense of community
- Tolerant of differences
- Accommodative of differences
- Free to form individual faith journey

What makes us different from other faith communities? – No Answers

What drives us to come to church? What gets you up in the morning to come? What do you appreciate most about FCC?

- Fulfil our commitments
- Sermons
- Contagious enthusiasm
- Sharing Joys & Concerns

Do you think we have enough social connections between church members? Are there ways you would like those to improve? In the last few months, our congregation has been trying to do a little more in that category. How are we doing?

- Yes

Alice Stephenson's Table

What are our strengths as a faithful community? What are the essential character traits of our church – our DNA if you will?

- Friendly
- Willing to help
- Willing to interact with other churches
- Don't have all the answers
- Minister is guide – but we take part in running church
- Link to pilgrims
- Courageous
- Compassion

What makes us different from other faith communities?

- Interpret Bible in own way – more freedom
- Democratic select our leaders
- No judgement/guilt from others
- Happy, accepting

What drives us to come to church? What gets you up in the morning to come? What do you appreciate most about FCC?

- Positive message
- Seeing friends
- Reinforce our belief
- After service – go home feeling good

Do you think we have enough social connections between church members? Are there ways you would like those to improve? In the last few months, our congregation has been trying to do a little more in that category. How are we doing?

- Joint activities with All Saints
- Breakfasts

Karyl Bennion's Table

What are our strengths as a faithful community? What are the essential character traits of our church – our DNA if you will?

- Openness and acceptance
- Support each other
- Work together despite our differences
- Respect each other
- Carries over into community
- Just like All Saints

What makes us different from other faith communities?

- We are accepting others point of view
- We have no dogma

What drives us to come to church? What gets you up in the morning to come? What do you appreciate most about FCC?

- God accepts us how we are
- We have made a commitment
- Gives us room to grow
- We do not feel pushed

Do you think we have enough social connections between church members? Are there ways you would like those to improve? In the last few months, our congregation has been trying to do a little more in that category. How are we doing?

- We get weekly emails
- Social Media communications with interactions
- Geographically spread out
- More social events i.e.: potluck to socialize
- Hikes/Walks

Glenda LeHoux's Table

What are our strengths as a faithful community? What are the essential character traits of our church – our DNA if you will?

- We like each other
- We take of each other
- Help each other
- Fellowship is strong
- We look to our surrounding community to see where we can help – Outreach
- Are faithful
- We have a diversity of theological views and accept that and embrace that
- We are not a structured denomination but an association
- Work together despite our differences
- Respect each other – carries into the community – like working with All Saints
- Allowed to have humor in worship
- Respect each other's rights to their opinion
- Courageous - imaginative

What makes us different from other faith communities?

- Not a doctrinal church
- No hierarchy of church government
- No literal interpretation of the Bible
- Requires more of a personal commitment to figure out what to believe – no right answers
- We have an open table at communion
- We don't exclude people from other religions from participating

What drives us to come to church? What gets you up in the morning to come? What do you appreciate most about FCC?

- Great relationships
- Not going to be judged
- Famil – friends – fellowship
- Feels like home
- Have a commitment
- Reinforce our beliefs
- Positive message
- “Where can we improve?”
 - We don’t pay much attention when people stop coming
 - Need to create better visibility for FCC in the community

Do you think we have enough social connections between church members? Are there ways you would like those to improve? In the last few months, our congregation has been trying to do a little more in that category. How are we doing?

- Civility Training?
- Expression of differences?
- Would like a few more informal events
- Men’s breakfast
- women's breakfast
- interest in Shove Tuesday and Maundy Thursday at a set time (Bob Baird will make pancakes)
- do better at extending personal invitations to people who haven’t been participating
- like the social media – like to get the weekly emails
- walks, hikes

Summary of Table Notes (Short Version)

Phil LeHoux Summary:

Strengths of the faithful community include a disproportionate number of members in healthcare, no hierarchies, a welcoming and inclusive environment, humor in worship, a sense of community, tolerance of differences, accommodation of individual faith journeys.

Differences from other faith communities are not specified.

Alice Stephenson Summary:

Strengths of the faithful community include friendliness, willingness to help, interaction with other churches, a lack of absolute answers, active participation in running the church, courage, and compassion.

Differences from other faith communities include freedom in interpreting the Bible, democratic selection of leaders, absence of judgment and guilt, and a happy and accepting atmosphere.

Reasons for attending church include a positive message, socializing with friends, reinforcing beliefs, and leaving the service feeling good.

Social connections within the church seem to be improving with joint activities and breakfasts.

Karyl Bennion Summary:

Strengths of the faithful community include openness and acceptance, support despite differences, respect for each other, and a carryover of these traits into the broader community.

Differences from other faith communities include acceptance of other points of view and the absence of dogma.

Reasons for attending church include God's acceptance, personal commitment, room for growth without pressure.

Social connections within the church involve weekly emails, social media interactions, and efforts to increase social events like potlucks and hikes.

Glenda LeHoux Summary:

Strengths of the faithful community include mutual liking and support, strong fellowship, outreach to the surrounding community, diversity of theological views, humor in worship, and respect for differing opinions.

Differences from other faith communities include lack of doctrinal rigidity, no hierarchical structure, no literal interpretation of the Bible, and a requirement for personal commitment to beliefs.

Reasons for attending church include great relationships, lack of judgment, a sense of family and fellowship, and a positive message.

Suggestions for improvement include better visibility in the community, attention to those who stop coming, and more informal events, such as men's and women's breakfasts, Shrove Tuesday, and Maundy Thursday activities.

Social connections seem to be addressed through personal invitations, weekly emails, and organized walks and hikes.