

Status of Active Visioning Committee Initiatives

Sharing Spiritual Moments – No action due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fall Study Program – Rich pointed out that the Racial Reconciling Movement (RRM) provides an opportunity for small group study. One such study, for example, is called “White Like Me.” Rich will contact Linda to suggest it for the fall study. If Linda is already invested with another small group study, we’ll consider one related to the RRM for a later time.

Natural Church Development Survey – The 3 ways suggested last month to make it easier for congregants to tell others about their feelings were (1) to set an example by our actions with others, (2) to use our listening skills when engaging with others, and (3) to try to understand how others feel when we are with them. We discussed how we might put these suggestions into practice. Other than we Committee members ourselves modeling those behaviors, there were no ideas.

Dealing with the Pandemic – This was not on the agenda, but discussion digressed to it due to a general feeling that progress by this committee is being greatly hampered by the abstention from in-person gatherings. We turned our attention to what we can do to help the church and its members through the pandemic. Jo mentioned that he had experience with “parish partners,” where congregants were paired up to help one another when needed. Rich pointed out that asking for help might commonly be more difficult than providing help, and if we are to initiate such a scheme, we put some effort into helping people feel more comfortable with asking for help. Pastor Craig suggested that we need be creative, and it might help to think along 3 lines of thought: fellowship, support, and worship. He will contact the chair of the Ad Council to suggest that the Visioning Committee suspend its existing focus, and instead, concentrate on responding to the crisis in those areas.

Racial Reconciling Covenant – Rich drew attention to the fact that agreeing to this covenant is going to involve more than simply paying lip service to the existence of racial inequity; it will involve concrete efforts our church will make to help overcome those inequities.

Calendar – Some committee members believe the pandemic is going to ramp up considerably in the coming months, requiring an extended period of social isolation. The August potluck has been removed from the calendar.

Next Meeting Date & Time – The next meeting, possibly via Zoom, is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, at 7:00 p.m.

Calendar of Visioning Committee Events

July	•	January	•
August	•	February	• Pot Luck (Date to be set)
September	•	March	•
October	• Bring a Kid to Church Month	April	•
November	• Pot Luck (Date to be set)	May	• Pot Luck (Date to be set)
December	•	June	•