

Trends Observed in World Cafe Discussions

On March 7, the Mission and Vision Task Force convened a World Cafe which was attended by 45 of our member and friends. With rotating groups of people, participants had the opportunity to discuss two questions: Why does our congregation's existence matter to those outside our doors? and How can our congregation make a difference in the world? At the end of the third round of conversation, each table was asked to agree on three or four common ideas that they heard at all the conversations in which they took part. Those were submitted and the table hosts worked to categorize them. Below you will find each category heading and the ideas that fell under that.

Welcoming and Celebrating Community

- Welcoming community without dogma or guilt. Words and deeds
- Celebrating differences
- All people need a voice. Let's build a free and peaceful world in this life.
- Hope and desire to be a more welcoming congregation to more groups. Grow acceptance.
- Intentional home for people of all beliefs.

Be the Change. Do something

- How we "witness": LINK, Topeka, other demonstrations, respond with resources, Community Connections, our statements, education, provide a home/haven for those who need
- UUs need to get the word out more and practice what they preach in the greater community
- Need to be visible by intense involvement in a project that involves an ongoing physical presence
- Emphasis on how we work for social justice now and how we need to continue
- Working for justice: safe, accepting home, witness, community work
- Social Action/Justice- can we do something in addition to monetary giving
- Creating change

Be visible/known

- UFL has played an indirect role in changing our world; individuals have mostly driven the work
- We need to be more visible in our community carefully
- Be known... for who we are, for being people who act, for what we stand for
- Growth leads to visibility leads to influence leads to financial stability leads to growth (cycle)
- Get our message out to the community
- Need to become more visible to impact the world with UU principles

- Tensions between actions and identity as: UUs and congregation, UU groups, UU individuals
- We have value for the community and the world. We must work to make our principles visible to others and get the word out about us
- What we stand for and what we do has a RIPPLE EFFECT— Personal -> congregation -> community ->world
- Need to be visible by increasing our awareness of what we are about/what we offer-marketing
- Visibility of UUs in the community and world. What do we want to be known for?

Connection and Spiritual Growth; Small groups

- Increase small group options
- People want more opportunities for small group interactions and discussions such as this.

Touching the Future: Providing a Foundation for our Children

- Helping children shape values and this continues into future (our influence)
- Known as Educators/OWL education/ Our minister as spokesperson for social justice
- Raising UU children
- Community/Family/Pastoral Care & Teaching it
- Modeling our values to our children through multiple channels

The Mission and Vision Task Force is grateful to all who participated for their openness, candor, and willingness to engage in conversation about what is important to us. What do you think? Let us know.