

SYNTHESIS OF VISIONING EVENT & QUESTIONS FOR GOALSETTING

SHARED VALUE: Transcendence

METAPHOR: The Sages & The Elephant

OPENNESS WITH HUMILITY

Humility is/should be our response to encounters with the Transcendent. There are limits to what we know and to what we can know, but UUs can exhibit a lack of humility even hubris. Sometime this appears as elitism or shows itself in a lack of acceptance of other paths or openness to new ideas. It can even appear as a fundamentalism. We are all Seekers. None of us knows it all. How to foster a sense of humility and walk our own talk about inclusiveness?

A COMMUNAL YET PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Experiences of Transcendence elicit wonder and awe and have qualities of both discovery and connection with that which is greater or of ultimate concern and with the heights of human potential. In pursuit of these experiences, we look to nature, music, arts, new ideas, elevated language and a willingness to push boundaries. While these are deeply personal experiences, we wish to share them with other Seekers which will require listening, recovering language of Transcendence and engaging in spiritual discourse. How do we respect our uniqueness while nurturing our unity? How might we use social media and other venues to share these experiences more often and more broadly?

SHARED VALUE: Connectedness

METAPHOR: Beacon of UU Values

BEACON OF UU VALUES

We are eager to get our message out more broadly to share the UU faith with others, to get ourselves out into the wider community in meaningful ways, to make our resources available to other organizations that share our values or are marginalized in society, and to spread our values in the world. We expressed support for continuing our work with LifeNet4Families and BOLD Justice and our mission as a Welcoming Congregation. We wish to consider The Green Sanctuary program of our UUA and become knowledgeable about and responsive to sea-level rise. We acknowledge that we must exemplify these values in our culture in order to spread them. How can we use social media and branding to be better known and to share our values? How should we target our service in the community? Should we consider changing our name to something more evocative of our values and less tied to Christian culture? How can we equip our members to represent UUism effectively?

CONNECTEDNESS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

We are glad to be a church of many small groups and acknowledge that we cannot know everyone. Still we have a concern that we have an effective way for newcomers to become part of the church and to participate meaningfully. We feel that we are lacking in social cohesion and voluntarism. We are deeply aware that transportation is a barrier to participation for many. We are also aware that mobility and ability issues are detracting from the experience of many attendees. Are we using best practices around joining and connecting to include newcomers into our congregation? How can we include a growing variety of people in a meaningful way, build relationships, and promote a culture of service? How might we use volunteers and ride sharing services to ensure that everyone who wishes to participate is able to get here without financial hardship? What changes do we need in our physical plant and audio visual equipment to accommodate special needs? How can we use social media to offer remote participation in classes, worship, social events, and discussion in a way that serves us now and during the sea-level rise diaspora to come?

SHARED VALUES: Conscientious Choice

METAPHOR: Pebble Dropped in a Pond creates Ripples & Think/Do/Reflect/Repeat

CHOICES MATTER

Mindful of our personal and collective responsibilities, we wish to make wise choices, to engage in a cycle of action/reflection, and to promote the dissemination of Truth. We want to take the time to explore the facts as we understand them, consider the consequences of our actions, and reflect continuously on what we are learning. We wish to be adaptable. We are grateful for our Congregationalist heritage that encourages all to participate in discernment and decision-making. How might our governance and decision-making structures allow for these processes? What topics in our personal lives and the life of the larger society are worthy of our collective reflection and how might we build meaningful community partnerships while we study them? How will the decisions we make today benefit those who come after us in our UU faith and at UUCFL?

SHARED VALUE: Compassion

METAPHOR: A Caring Community with A Caring “Caring Committee” & The Magic Bus

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

We wish to see the caring and concern that we feel for one another expressed in the culture and organization of the congregation. We are aware that our Caring Committee is understaffed and, therefore, under-functioning. We realize that each of us has responsibility for care for those in need. We feel that we lack vehicles to express this caring. How can we rejuvenate the work of Caring Committee, Membership Committee and Socials Committee to build the culture we want to see? What role can phone trees, social media, disaster preparedness, ride sharing, social gatherings, new support/interest groups, and other tools for connection play in this work? How can our small support groups (UU Sisterhood, Men’s Group, Choir, CUUPS, etc.) play a role in building a culture of caring through intentional practices?

CARING FOR THE LARGER COMMUNITY

Through continued and improved participation in BOLD Justice and Lifenet4Families, we wish to show compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves. We want to do more to support the aging population and children. How might we choose what social service projects to support including other UU groups (UUSC, UU-UN, Fla UU Justice, etc.)? How will we assess our effectiveness in these efforts? How can we partner with our affiliated groups like International Baptist Mission’s school in Haiti or East Coast Academy to offer support to children? What can we learn from our own aging members about the needs of this community?