

Small group and plenary group notes from Friday afternoon 1:30-2:20 discussion

### **Small group 1**

- Book of Faith Advocates would be helped by knowing what other people are doing to initiate the initiative. Need help to feel like we aren't reinventing the wheel.
- What has resulted from this gathering other than scheduling the next meeting? Networking of how other theological education are providing instructors.
- Desire to know how discipleship is being taught in lay school and other institutions - where are practical applications as well. How can we work together to get this topic out there?
- What resources are out there - don't want to reinvent things that already exist - curricula, etc.
- How do we get people involved actively in the network - encourage the "want", the desire to seek things out.
- How do we help people know that the resource is available - the face-to-face network to the online network?
- Is the Ning site the way to provide information to the 50+ crowd? And is it feasible to communicate in all the different ways? Is the Book of Faith being marketed to the older individuals using the younger crowd's communication methods.
- How do we help people organize and disseminate their information?
- How to introduce BFI to educators for K-8 and find materials that are age appropriate.
- One of the things we hope for is that some of this face-to-face network would continue outside of here and if some of us venture into deep water - someone else would be willing to help us. Response and support.
- We may have tried it once, but we may need to keep trying if one thing fails.
- Network builds the relationship that helps us to do the ministry - the focus must be the relationships. The accountability - then someone asks how something went - feel need to follow something through and then take stock of what its outcome is.
- Stand up and introduce yourself and state a topic that you have a particular interest or concern - and then provide some time to get together.
- Speed dating introduction - sit across from someone for 2 minutes and tell your story - builds a sense of community.
- Has to be results oriented - no time or resources to get together and make each other feel good. Be clear about what our goals are and how we will meet these goals.
- A mission/vision statement and goals

### **Small group 2**

1. Churchwide staff will shrink. Outsource to networks.
2. Connections between lay schools and college and seminary faculties are very helpful to synod staff.
3. Lay persons need to be present. Gives them a window into how the church works and it is helpful for those of us in academia to hear their perspective.
4. Resist all temptations to formalize structures.
5. Adequate time needs to be set aside for people to just be with other people. We need more free time. OK not to have presentations. Our need to create relationships trumps speakers – even though the speakers we have had this time were excellent! I loved what they did. But not really central to us getting to build a real network.
6. Front load the sharing and getting to know about each other's programs.
7. OK to gather and only do Bible study and relationship building.

8. Continue the excellent worship.
9. Continue the excellent hospitality.
10. Intentional passing of the baton. Keep it in play. Should the next group go 4 years? Maybe only 2?
11. Technology person like Tim Fehr is a must. He has made this a class event!
12. Who needs to be at the table and how do we pay for that to actually happen. Good to pay for the two from campus ministry this year. More should be done.
13. Camp people were missed this year. I know the one had to drop out for unknown reasons.
14. Reps from the other two clusters should be invited.

### Small Group 3

- Where is it that you have an idea for partnering?
- OR where is there a need that needs partnership to address it?
- What kind of network do you want this to be?
- Network of lay schools of theology?
  - For people who are doing work on-line education.
  - Curriculum ideas, teachers, evaluation instruments, recruitment, effectiveness of internet
- Calls for courses to support AIM who don't have BA's. Coordination of efforts?
- Satellite campuses for theological education?
  - A place to facilitate conversation about overlap for 3/4 programs? Can the Cluster facilitate that conversation?
- TEEM programs: Is it possible for the Cluster to have a role in setting standards for lay academies for people who want undergraduate or seminary credit?
  - Can that be done while still having a place for those who want to study for their own edification?
  - Can we coordinate knowledge of options available for such programs--or at least talk about that--in the Cluster.
- Enrolling undergraduate students in lay school experience?
  - Experience with people not their own age?
- Cluster could go about training lay people to teach?
- Cluster could help raise to awareness programs that are out there (e.g. Just Faith)
- Cluster already **does** work to network people. Could have breakout groups of like people to meet and dream together, to support one another at this meeting.
- Tired of talking about HOW to be a network.

### Small Group 4

- Education Network—what we can bring back to own synod and use them “at home”
- Cluster Web Site
  - exchange of ideas

- schedule of events and welcome to come and see
- webinars for training with churches/sites that are participating
- sharing information
- search engine to find information
- Encouraging Lay School grads to do some teaching in congregations with pastoral connections
- Lay School Alum course on teaching Bible Study at congregational level. Do the practical experience of the various methods with 1-2 texts
- Special needs groups—deaf, blind, etc
  - bring resources together to meet needs
  - Translated resources—video versions of studies, sermons, etc (Nooma, Church worship)
  - Non-English speakers
  - Bring these resources into Select curriculum
  - Homebound persons

### **Group 5**

- Lay Academy for Mission/Synod Staff
- Book of Faith is going well.
- Want a way to talk about what it means to be Lutheran, vocationally.
- Being Lutheran in a campus context
- Networking—speakers—need broader representation leading the conversation
- Theme of vocation related to different delivery systems

### **Ideas and Interest from and for the Covenant Cluster**

- Desire to keep lay schools connected with seminaries and colleges.
- Desire to coordinate lay schools with each other.
- Synod staff people and colleges are not always sure how they fit in to the network; how can they be involved? How can there be broader representation?
- Maybe next year we should have two things happen: 1. relational, 2. experiencing a variety of Bible study. All in an effort to build a deep trust.
- Teaching of Bible study. Teach the graduates of lay schools to be teachers. Include a developmental piece to teach junior high, senior high, etc.
- Problem: Why is this gathering different than all other gatherings? Is it that we are practicing the future organization of the ELCA?
- Centering around a common problem, issue (e.g. vocation); what does that look like from the prospective of college, lay school, synod staff, etc.?