

Faithful Action Council
September 27, 2016
Notes

Welcome

Justin

5 minutes

Gates of Hope by Victoria Safford, read by Parker Palmer

Small Group Work/Reflection: Review “Choice Point” Document. How might you use this in your work on the Council, in your working group, with your partner organization, in general? All *20 minutes*

(This sermon: “Choices, Choices, Choices” explores this idea in detail; if you have time, listen to it prior to the meeting: <http://firstuniv.podbean.com/e/october-18-sermon-by-rev-justin-schroeder-choices-choices-choices-1445462837/>)

- We talked about how we could have used choice points as a guideline for team leads to choose speakers during spotlight series. Talked about: client if possible, person with charisma.
- What reminders/procedures/routines can we implement to change habits in this group?

Choice points could be used for the following decisions:

- holiday giving
- evaluating partnerships & choosing new partnerships (evaluating the work that we do in terms of impact for achieving equity)
- potential tier systems of pop-ups/allies/partners
- one year vs two year partnerships
- internal equity
- spiritual reflection
- recruitment for the committee
- Evaluations: how to advance equity through evaluation – using a partnership model vs “we’re evaluating you” model, because evaluation creates a power dynamic.

Working Group Updates:

- **Partnerships** *Marjorie 20*
 - We have committed to support the team leads through this year.
 - **There will be a meeting Nov 10 to discuss calendar, hear needs, sharing wisdom, review partner Sundays – anyone who can be there, please join.**
 - See “Discussion Guide for Team Lead Check-Ins” handout
 - Use conversations to better understand what the Faithful Action budget should look like. Perhaps use part of plate collection for First U activities?
 - Proposed calendar:
 - Nov-Jan, have check-in conversations with team leads.
 - March – evaluate one-year partnerships, check in with two-year partnerships.
 - April 1 – application for next year
 - May – announce next year partners
 - At end of year, all team leads will submit formal eval re goals, achievements, volunteer engagement. For check-in – more conversational, helpful, supportive, non-threatening.
 - Next steps: look at tier system (pop-up/ally/partnership) – look at Joan/Justin current process for pop-ups

- **Evaluations & measurement** *Charmagne 15*
 - Proposed new name: Learning & Evaluation (as we still have a good amount of learning to do!)
 - How broad/narrow are the evaluation needs of this Council?
 - Subcommittees can contact this working group with specific evaluation needs
 - Proposed: principles-based evaluation. GUIDE goals (Guiding, Useful, Inspiring, Developmental, Evaluable) – see handout. Compare current principles to these guidelines.
 - Evaluate partners based on a list of principles (different from our list?) and have partners evaluate *us* based on principles
 - Next steps: work on a proposal for November meeting.
- Other working group updates?

Faithful Action Partner Sundays – Update 9/11 to 12/4 *Matt 20 minutes*

- *Feedback from Council Charmagne*

- 9 responses to survey. Very positive response. Speaker was powerful, connected to sermon. Overall messaging received good feedback. Social hall was harder to assess, but seemed like there was some interest. Video placement maybe not ideal.
 - Need customized support for partner based on what they need / want to get out of the experience.
 - Council members could generate energy by circulating in the social hall after the service.
 - Make sure team leads know who contact people are for various needs.
- However – we’ve created high expectations & workload for team leads. Team leads may not have support from other engaged folks – may be doing it alone. Need to help team leads lead (delegate) instead of just doing it all.
 - Volunteers may not be engaged in the First U side – recruitment, etc. **Do team leads actually have teams?**
 - Have meetings of leads with organizational goals in mind / maybe part of spiritual reflection.

2016 Faithful Action Partner Sundays:

Sept 18: EMERGE

Oct 2: Project for Pride in Living

Oct 9: Simpson Housing Services

Oct 23: Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light

Oct 30: Augsburg Fairview Academy

Nov 6: Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Dec 4: Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

From Cindy: Check out the Rainbow Research report (link in last week’s liberal or in August board packet online)

- Closing: Justin *5 minutes*
- Working group huddles *30 minutes*