



Trinity Dreams Conversation

*A guide for Trinity Community Groups, and others
wanting to talk together about our shared future*

October 2014

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Facilitator's Notes/Outline

Three questions give shape to this conversation. They are questions from a process called "appreciative inquiry". Each question should be offered, and then folks given some silent space (3-5 minutes) to reflect and write a few notes on their participant sheets. Then, stories or insights are to be shared around the circle. As the Facilitator, pay special attention to inviting everyone to share. We're interested in a wide range of responses, so encourage people to feel comfortable whatever they wrote down (whether it's very concrete or very abstract). The conversation will move from the past to the present, and then to the future. Make sure you have time left to talk about the future - because that's the most important part! Ask in advance for someone to be a 'recorder' for the evening. The group's input will be submitted at the end.

Introduction:

- Brief introductions (if needed)
- Identify the "recorder"
- This is part of an overall visioning process for Trinity - your input here is important

Goals of the Conversation:

- to hear from people what aspects of Trinity's life have been important to them in the past and present
- to dream together where God is leading us as a congregation

Opening Prayer:

In your own words - acknowledge God's presence here, and ask for the Holy Spirit's leading as we reflect and dream together.

[Pass out blank paper and pencils/pens for participants to jot down notes]

First Question: Invite people to take a look at the first question....

Remembering your entire experience at Trinity, when were you most alive, most motivated and excited about your involvement? What made it exciting? Who else was involved? What happened? What was your part? Describe what you felt.

- Hold 3-5 minutes of silence - encourage folks to write a few notes
- Share stories around the circle

Second Question: Invite people to take a look at the second question....

What do you value most about our church? What activities or ingredients or ways of life are most important?

- Hold 3-5 minutes of silence - encourage folks to write a few notes
- Share insights around the circle

Facilitator's Notes/Outline (continued)

Third Question: Invite people to take a look at the third question....

Make three wishes or dreams for the future of Trinity.

Specifically, think about Trinity in 2025.

Maybe it's a wish for our worship life, children's or youth ministry, community life, transformational presence in the neighborhood, etc.

- Hold 3-5 minutes of silence - encourage folks to write a few notes
- Share wishes or dreams around the circle

Closing/Followups:

1. Trinity Dreams - pass out instructions for little writing project (page 7 of this packet) - encourage folks to continue to share insights in they have through that.
2. Invite everyone to be praying for our church as we are discerning God's leading for our future, and especially for the Nov 8th leadership retreat

Close in Prayer:

In your own words - thank God for the time of sharing, for the stories shared, and for God's work among us. Then ask God to continue to stir up dreams in us, and to give us ears to hear where God is leading us into the future together.

Please have your "recorder" type up your group's notes and have them send in an email to: dreams@tpctacoma.org.

Trinity Dreams Conversation Recorder Sheet



Facilitator's Name: _____

Recorder's Name: _____

To the designated recorder:

*This visioning process is meant to be a process where all are encouraged to participate. For the following questions, please record everything that people share. Use extra paper if you do not have room on this sheet. **Please type up your notes and email to: dreams@tpctacoma.org OR drop these notes by the church office by October 27, 2014.***

1. Remembering your entire experience at Trinity, when were you most alive, most motivated and excited about your involvement? What made it exciting? Who else was involved? What happened? What was your part? Describe what you felt.

2. What do you value most about our church? What activities or ingredients or ways of life are most important?

Trinity Dreams Conversation - Sheets for Recorder to Take Notes (continued)

3. Make three wishes or dreams for the future of Trinity.