

## Appendix 6

### IDEAS FROM DREAMING SESSIONS AND FORUMS

#### Summary of overall themes that emerged from Dreaming Sessions and Forums

##### Worship and Music:

- Great Music
- Expand the ways and times we offer services (technology and time and place)
- Inspiring preaching with expanded message – the word in the world
- Expanded liturgical arts and embodied expression of worship

##### For Christian Education and Spiritual Growth we yearn for:

- Continued active Sunday programs for children and youth
- OWL for all ages
- Seabeck
- ? Campus ministry
- Opportunities for adults to engage in personal spiritual growth, faith development, and “going deeper” spiritually in small groups
- Lecture series, book discussion groups, and other more “intellectual” events

##### For our community, ourselves, we dream of:

- Multigenerational community devoted to the thriving of all of our members (fun and supportive). Belonging for all ages, doing things together with a centering in faith
- Ongoing engagement in small groups of various themes and duration
- Active, authentic welcome for people of all ages with a desire for more diversity

##### We Imagine being actively engaged with our neighbors:

- We are leaders in social justice and racial equity efforts in our community, well connected via ecumenical and interfaith and community partnerships
- “Talk, Learn, Do” groups tethered to UCUC and the neighborhood; a hub for education and service opportunities in wider community.

## **Individual Dreams & Vision statements** collated from Seabeck sessions and Forums at UCUC

### **Worship and Music**

- Music and sermons that bring the Holy near and are an invitation to/call to Love
- More embodied worship services – dance, art, spoken.
- Children and youth are a part of worship services; offer a youth service or make service more meaningful for youth and young adults
- Paint/Art as a part of every Sunday activity; musical component to Sunday programs for kids and youth
- We are passionate about using music of other cultures, appreciating and honoring and feeling more at home with music other than white European “classical”
- Vibrant worship experience: music that resonates with spiritual roots will be in tension as diversity expands. Worship that inspires one to action
- We celebrate challenging preaching from a team of pastors
- Inspiring liturgy and perhaps more movement;
- Perhaps more call and response or spirituals
- Traditional format (so that one does not need to consult the bulletin)
- Lively music with new music and arts and an active group(s) to support
- Most Alive when prayers and sermons included the word “and the world”
- Strong Music program, organ music, choral music of a variety of styles
- Incorporate Liturgical art, dance; Expanded liturgical arts in the sanctuary
- Acknowledge the historical background of African American and other music
- Lord’s prayer revised: Why “lord” and why “kingdom” in touch with current speech.
- Spanish fluency
- Good preaching!
- Meaningful worship with a strong message to help me with the rest of my life; will need faith even more as I get older.
- Church that is about others (and/with us, not just about us).
- Expanded service offerings, different times of the week, small chapel services, Friday service, streaming worship, video recording of services, available on-line and to “house churches”
- Integrated technology to expand (streaming services, etc.) audience
- Friday worship, or worship at other times; small chapel services
- Evening prayer via zoom?
- Let go of religious traditions that don’t work anymore. Push boundaries and break with norms. Be more diverse, more multi-faith, rooted in spirit not in religion

### **Christian Education and Spiritual Growth**

- We value religious education and are constantly engaged in learning from and listening for the teachings of Jesus in a variety of places and times (eg camping trips, trail maintenance)

- Strength and truth in racial relationships via programs, discussion groups and other dialogue
- Skilled in non-violent/compassionate communication.
- Active campus ministry
- More and active adult education program offered at various times; small groups. Intellectual and theologically challenging. Nudges into action.
- Bible study with trained facilitators
- Loving invitation to question one's faith; help adults learn to speak about one's faith
- Support opportunities to meditate or go inward e.g. Taize.
- Vibrant Sunday groups for children
- Active, strong youth program especially to address self esteem, social justice and leadership development
- OWL program, OWL for all ages
- Inspiring lecture series, speakers and events; bigger and better – wide audience
- Help each other trust and answer one's call
- On-line education, book groups and bible study
- Engaged in Bible study, particularly understanding Jesus and responding to today's world
- Lively and colorful "Farmer's Market" for Christian Education and Action. Think of a CSA "box" with book groups, discussion groups, multiple age appropriate offerings, linked with engaging service opportunities
- Continued traditions: Seabeck, Advent workshop, Christmas pageant, Lamb Day
- Racial justice education (microaggressions etc .)
- Blogs for young people by age groupings
- Acknowledge the native land we live on and benefit from
- Balance between comfort for the afflicted and affliction for the comfortable

### **Church Community**

- Intergenerational caring community that inspires one another to feel alive and joyful.
- Involvement throughout life – meaningful ways to contribute for everyone.
- Belonging for elderly and young, doing things together with a centering in faith
- We reach out to families and elders, offering multiple ways to engage for all ages. "Radical, Out the door" Assertive welcoming culture"
- A place to feel closeness, deepen faith and explore one's call; retreats and family events
- We judge ourselves by our devotion to the thriving of all our members. If we succeed in this, then our actions in the world will make a difference
- Self-lessness, Joy and Union.
- We love ALL our children
- Authentic welcome for people of all races, ages; everyone has a place at the table, empowering visitors, new members, intentionally, actively engaged
- Keep and value all people, invite and give something meaningful to do.
- A community that makes music together, sometimes by the skillful few and often by the joyful many

- We make a place to engage around words and thoughts; both those that resonate and those that don't. Safe place to struggle with difficult things.
- Reconciliation and resilience when things don't go right
- Small groups that are a vital part of church life, ongoing rather than in waves
- Somehow, we have to become more diverse; we must reflect and interact to change ourselves so that we can listen and be more welcoming of diversity.
- A community of study and play at Seabeck and at home.
- Discussions around movies, current events, crafts, books, problem solving social issue, raising children.
- Culture of Yes; fund new ideas.
- Mix-supps for families with different age ranges of children
- We will know how to celebrate and sing with heart and how to have a lot of fun.
- Satellite communities and invigorated outreach – ask the megachurches how they do it
- A community where people can be real (take off masks)
- Time/space for intentional connection; skillful at listening to and supporting one another. Spend more time together beyond Sunday service.
- Community that feeds our souls; and feeds one another – food is still a draw
- Healthy playgroup (lunch) for young children after worship service on Sunday – to allow parents time to bond and talk. More parent groups (9 am, 9 pm via tech)
- A loving and caring community, reaching out, listening and working together; so engaging that people understand what we offer almost immediately and will want to be in community with us
- On-line groups and tech to enhance community (3)
- Sense of belonging and safety esp among young people (12 – 24 yrs)
- Practicing a rich faith that meets us in times of joy and in trials
- Ministry to those without a religious upbringing
- Support for people whose families have addiction, mental illness, health problems and aging issues
- Vibrant small group ministry: Small groups to build skills, community and cohesion (Love and Justice, Arts and Parish Care); of various lengths of commitment, some only 1 day.
- Good children's program; events during the week plus Sunday activities
- Logistical support for families to get their kids to weekday events
- Pay off personal debts of younger UCUC members, freeing up time and resources to volunteer
- Affordable housing for church members (and community); housing for those doing justice work
- Anti-racist parenting groups and work within our community
- Active work to change internal bias; safe place for open dialogue about issues; respectful with disagreement. Educate ourselves; continue to reflect on social equity and justice and our use of language.
- Changing representations of people of color
- Greater awareness of microaggressions and the use of language; we provide education (unclear if re language and microaggressions?) to new members and visitors
- We are a foster parenting church

- Parish Care subcommittee on home health
- Meals and celebrations; more shared meals and forums (and get more political; have an active response approach)
- Maintaining connections; systems to help with rides to church, more childcare and easier access; scheduling with families in mind
- Singles group (2)
- Women's vocal group
- Active young adult program with outreach on evenings, weekends, at brewery or on hikes etc. Beer, brats, bible.
- Active youth group to foster self esteem, and learn/work on social justice and leadership development. More specific groups for youth AND involve the youth in SEM, racial justice groups.
- Programs to bridge the gap between adults and youth, family programs including children with special needs.
- We are multi-racial and multi-class congregation where more of our surrounding community can feel at home
- We listen to a variety of voices and find a way to celebrate these voices
- We carry people across life's transitions.
- Renovated kitchen and lounge
- A system of outreach to elderly to allow continued engagement in church; bus for Horizon House
- Localized parish care
- Non-gendered bathroom and shower facilities
- We offer an ELL program
- A place to explore the KINdom of God
- We study and play together
- Small groups – short term ones and long term ones. Have a small group matching luncheon (e.g. poetry, ...)
- Conversations about social issues
- In 2030 I'll be 92 and I hope to have several youth and others with whom I meet regularly, I provide money to our programs, I participate in lectures and classes in person and via media, and I'll be keeping a journal
- Greener church building – solar
- More diverse leadership – in being and in thought

### **Outreach activities**

- We are leaders, a leading light, in social justice and racial equity efforts in our community; We are a voice for youth and underrepresented people. We are the go-to Church for the broader community
- We are a place of refuge from oppression, climate, the streets, the city: We provide spiritual nourishment as well as food and safety and connection with people, nature and the earth. Touchstone for comfort, peace and community in tension with engaging with the world

- A community that moves to action on justice issues quickly and thoughtfully -Voter registration and education for example
- Our community is engaged with and partners with other faith communities (incl Muslims, Jews). Expand our outreach to other communities of faith
- We are fearless in addressing the most pressing issues in our community (climate change, homelessness, population pressures, immigration, hunger, racial justice
- Willingness to stand as a prophetic voice for justice even in trying times.
- The orientation of the church will need to be outward, more community focused
- More presence in the neighborhood – alliances, partnerships.
- Engaged with refugee response
- Serve youth on the streets
- We provide daycare, food etc. Use building to the max.
- We are a training center and hub for education and service opportunities in wider community. Talk, Learn, Do groups tethered to UCUC and the neighborhood.
- We engage in work/projects that challenge us and push us a bit further (like initial hosting of Nicklesville -- hosting refugee families/refugee response)
- We have some sort of marketing and communication to extend invite to join/collaboration
- The love offered by the church meets a greater need for love in the community
- Lecture series open to the community is well attended and encourages people to try us out on Sunday as well
- Empowered to articulate our faith in the broader community
- A community engaged in counter-cultural action and witness, both in our lived life in community and our engagement with the larger community.
- We nurture and support members of congregation to reach out into the world; engage youth and variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds in this work
- Multi-generational outreach on regular basis to vulnerable communities (homeless, elderly, youth on the street, especially in U district)
- Stand for reparations for descendants of slaves
- Mentor young people coming out of the unjust prison system
- Groups open to the outside world, eg parenting classes
- Interfaith activities (2); regular activities (incl meals) with liberal Jewish and Muslim communities
- We are a guiding light in (or for?) Seattle City Council
- Strong connections to movements for housing, racial justice & climate change
- Racial Justice
- Broader justice issues
- Climate change
- Homeless/housing
- Farm and housing coop that produces food and provides training
- Deeply honest about who we are and are not. We have learned to set aside ego and listen
- Our mission focus allows us to let go of some things
- Public policy workshop that includes visits to Olympia and Wash DC

- Vigorous, ecumenical outreach, diverse community
- Planning housing/parking for Lot C & Dentist offices
- Groups travel to other locales for mission
- More concern about environment: Programs about waste and recycling, electronics for example
- Advertise what we offer: relationship to Jesus and the Christian tradition and accepting/welcome of doubters or non-orthodox believers
- Proud evangelism – How we differ from Mars Hill or a soccer club!
- We host month long exchanges for all members with Mwanzo in Rabour Kenya
- We invite visitors to dinner
- Attract young adults, what will it take? (new facility, or ???)
- Women’s vocal group reaches out to the larger community singing in our space and out in the community
- Marketing / Communication to spread our story & extend an invitation
- Continued involvement in the U District
- Take advantage of light rail to broaden membership
- Lot C repurposed to serve the community in some way

### **Leadership**

- Collegial leadership, no hierarchy
- Transparent org structure
- Strong clergy leader and voice in broader community as well as in home church
- Non-patriarchial structure
- A ministerial staff that is truly genuine and authentic and loving in their outreach
- Teaching church (new seminary graduates) come for a period of 4-5 years to train. This creates a natural hierarchy
- Strong lay leaders help small groups to form
- Leadership that fills the gaps with strength and love
- Clergy should speak more than one language
- Streamlined council, focused mission. Let go of some things
- Strong leadership team – supporting of each other and supported by the congregation
- “Buck stops here” clergy person
- Youth and young adult pastor; campus ministry or campus coordination
- ID where our visions are aligned (or not) and have discussions about this.

### **Concrete Actions to get us to where we want to be:**

1. Get the dreams out to the congregation
2. Show job applications our dreams
3. Hire outstanding leaders
4. Hire other non-clergy to do / lead some of the organizing for small groups etc.
5. Engage our strengths – find one’s calling - member commitment and step up
6. Support new service projects that activate our membership and encourage more participation

7. Reach out to business and religious organizations that have done this and find out what they did to get there. Seek advice and ideas from other strong churches in other part of the country even if we are not ideologically comfortable with their approach.
8. Be careful that we connect with the needs of everyone in the congregation – vision, appealing music.
9. Lay involved/lead services are the ones that may be the most memorable!
10. ASK, give people meaningful work, leadership position if they want, or a project.
11. Observe & identify strengths and pull into action – magnify the job of greeters .... Calling and Engagement ministry is the new nominating committee. Clone David Rose.
12. Workshops to build skills to talk/practice
13. Create young adult minister position
14. Renovated kitchen and lounge
15. Water garden
16. New choir robes

**Keep:**

Joyful Christmas service with great music  
 Music and the Arts  
 Seabeck  
 Ongoing forums or similar place to talk  
 Some traditions – don't change everything to new!  
 Leadership structure – team ministry  
 Good Preaching  
 Teen feed hosting  
 Sacred Earth Matters  
 Lecture series  
 Hymnals in pew  
 Breakfast  
 Comma

**Change:**

Some inclusive language/ changes in hymns do not make sense  
 Leadership structure  
 Offer more adult ed  
 More meals together  
 Improve the sound system  
 Add video recording of service