

Priorities/Blue Sky Table Questions

1. Identify and write belief/value/ characteristic of being an Anabaptist/Mennonite in the Pacific Northwest on a POST IT.

The three major areas of agreement/likeness were:

- **Discipleship (allegiance and following Christ, Service, Lifestyle)**

Following Jesus Being the hands & feet of Christ in the World Christ Relational
Pragmatically living out faith To be a witness for Christ in our community & world
Jesus is Christ & Lord Jesus is Lord Jesus-loving Followers of Jesus
Living out our faith-Discipleship Living as obedient disciples of Jesus Servanthood
Involved in Service to others Service to others (i.e. MDS, Habitat for Humanity,
MCC, SOUP, VS, Service Adventure, Drift Creek Camp Engagement Commitment
Honesty Willing to Serve Getting Real 24/7 Integrity Example Live by Example
Discipleship Jesus-Followers in a mostly non-Christian culture Centrality of Jesus
Centality of Scripture Informed Giving Minority To present as a unified body of
Believers the grace and peace of Christ Law abiding Rebuilding First allegiance
Is to God In the World but not of it Questioning Culture Counter-cultural
Authentic Transparency Listening to the Spirit Spirit Aware Helping those in Crisis

- **Peace and justice**

Peace and Justice Peacemaking Peacemaker Living as peaceful as possible
Be Peacemakers Peace-Seeking Followers of Christ's teaching regarding Peace
Advocate for Peace Justice for All Holistic Advocating for the least of these
Caring about/for Creation (2) Simple Living Stewards of the earth Striving to Live
Simply

- **Hospitality**

Hospitality(2) Hosptiable(2) Welcoming(2) Hosputalario Compassionate(2)
Amigable Amoroso Acceptance of Diversity Loving & Accepting
Christian Hospitality Gracious Loving Accepting Compasivo
Connecting to Communities Others Centered Conduits of grace

Others areas mentioned: Ecumenical, Part of Something Beyond Ourselves, Contributing our strengths to the larger Christian voice, Oriented Outward

(I am sure we could arrange these in other catagories, and some overlap into others but the purpose was to give some framework to our values)

2. If you moved away from the Pacific Northwest and came back five years later what would you hope our congregations/conference would be doing that reflect our Anabaptist identity within the Pacific Northwest, as reflected in question one?

PNMC Criticized for Stand on Immigration Issues

PNMC Takes Lead Upgrading Housing

Una Iglesia Fuerte y Multicultural

Local Mennonite Congregation Brings Together other Agencies and Local Congregations to Help Provide Services

PNMC Mission School Sends out Local Evangelist "I never knew Mennonites could be so passionate"! Say neighbor

PNMC Opens Ecumenical Peace and Conciliation Center

Local Mennonite Church Rallies Local Christian toward Care of the Least of These

First PNMC Conference held in Spanish - English translation provided

Mennonite Church Goal: To be a Safe Place for People to Discover how much God loves them.

Mennonite Congregations Support Each Other in their Visions for Following Jesus

PNMC Churches Host Interfaith Anabaptist Conference

Loving Christian Community Starts NW Peace Institute

Mennonite Conference leads Ecumenical Dialogue about Peace and Justice

Mennonite Church Establishes Hope House to help Abused Women Build a new Life

Local Mennonite Church Represents Global Village

3. Give concrete examples of how to communicate our identity, in a way that welcomes diversity within our congregations/conference.

Table 8

- Do we have a unified identity to communicate?
- We are prevented from by because we are white, upper/middle class congregations.
- We need to stop waiting for people to just “show up” but need to go out to them:
- ESL class at the churches
- Gather stories from churches about they are trying and share
- Plug into homeless ministries
- Kid-based activities: eg. Day care, lunches, etc.

Table 7

- Use websites and other technology to communicate effectively with community : Identity and vision
- Including providing access to technology for people who don't have it
- Use media to communicate within community

Table 6

- Mennonite diversity celebration[s]: Ethnic food Quilting, /Cultural Crafts and Demonstrations, Games, fun, food, movie night)
- Accepting of All – Welcoming
- Newsletter: Community Mailing Advertisements
- Community Hymn Sings: “Gospel on the Grass”
- Children’s Choir competition
- Musical Groups
- Wonderful worship services: Celebration

Table 5

- Concrete communication to welcome diversity: e.g. peace and justice group partnerships, centrality of Jesus, discipleship, counter-cultural, advertising to community, billboards on buses, local city paper. – what we stand for/who we are – participate in community events

- Questions: Is this feasible for the conference?
Resolutions – but how [do?] we live it out?
To legislate autonomy even possible?
- Core values communicated to neighbourhoods
Just do it- not just talk
- Grace-filled – not how we do it, but trust that it is faithful in your context.
- Come one, come all – for different reasons we gather a common goal outside ourselves.

Table 4

- communication theme – being a grace-filled body; ways to think with/about brother/sister body; telling stories about our diversity, with appreciation
- community ministry, volunteers from all over (collaboration with Jewish, Unitarians as well as Mennonites, openness); – living out our faith; showing by example by what we do, not say.

Table 3

- Provide churches with assistance on uses of technology, e.g. Iris' weekly blog; resource for technology; service MDS and other similar projects

Table 2

- Dialogue with marginalized groups about peace/justice issue
- Plan community information series about different churches/religious organizations in the community,
- Hospitality meals where intimate dialogue can happen
- Billboards on buses – promotional material
- Use strengths that we have: ie. Relief sale (the Ritzville sale has a worship about “what it means to be Mennonite” open to the community
- Create/market personality of the congregation

Table 1

- Innovative uses of technology, e.g. internet, face book ad, as well as growth in technology, e.g. radio spots, in Spanish, as well as Central American and Mexican dialects;
- Transition in words and life style; communicate who we are through visual signs, words, lifestyle (there needs to be a transition from classic visual (dress, bumpers, etc) toward word and lifestyle
- We need to become more intentional about sharing the Gospel story – who we are as people of Jesus, e.g. perhaps CIHAN and Bethel Church could sponsor 1-day “school for mission, listen/hear from leadars, brainstorm outreach and evangelism, go out and do, then come back to share what we have learned (a school of mission).