

Chair Notes...

July 2014



Photo by Dianne Carroll

When the community met on the evening of June 7th to complete the annual Calling Forth process, there was a discussion around the questions "Where are we going as a community" and "Where should we be going." As Carmela and I begin our year as community co-chairs, we feel it is important to share that evening's discussion with the whole community and to give those who were not present a chance to reflect and respond and contribute their own thoughts and ideas. Below is a summary of the discussion. **After liturgy on Sunday, July 20th, we will gather** to reflect more on the topic with a special interest in hearing from those of you who were not with us on June 7th.

Here is a summary of the main points of the discussion:

To grow as a community we all need to be listeners.

Can we find ways to learn more about each other?

We recognize that we are an aging community.

- *What does that mean and what should we be paying attention to at this point in the community's history?
- *How do we both remember and meet the needs of aging members as they are unable to join us physically? What is possible in this regard?

How can we attract and keep new members, especially younger ones?

- *What is attractive about us now? What is unattractive?
- *Is the length of our liturgies a disincentive to drawing new members?
- *Have our liturgies become rote and uncreative? Can we "think outside the box" in terms of liturgy planning?
- *Should we have occasional liturgies at a different time of day?

Can we gather together more frequently?

- *perhaps around a particular topic, book or film

Are we able to discuss and tackle "the big issues" and hear the views of those who we disagree with?

- *For instance - drones, militarism, questions of faith

Can we be open to being "radical" and/or different?

Can we connect more with other faith communities?

- *with UUCA for example

Are there lessons we can learn from the Little Friends for Peace project?

How will we continue to interact and communicate with the Dreamers Project?

~Brian Carome