

# 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*