

In our 47th year, the NOVA Catholic Community continues to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we nurture our faith and work (as we say in our website) 'to educate and to challenge, to celebrate and to comfort'. Our commitment to 'live a faith-filled life, enriched by the Eucharist, enlivened by friendship, and deepened by service to others' was renewed at the calling forth and the mid-summer gathering after liturgy as the community put forth concerns and topics for consideration for this new term of servant leadership.

Organized below are some of the ideas from our two gatherings. There are (currently) four overlapping themes. As a way to continue and deepen the conversation, we propose forming focus groups around each of the themes.

1. The NOVA Community seeks to be a spiritual home and source of inspiration and comfort FOR EACH OTHER.
 - As an aging community what supports can we put in place to enable members to remain connected?
2. The NOVA Community seeks to be a spiritual home and source of inspiration FOR OTHERS.
 - How can we attract and keep new members – particularly younger folks, singles
 - How can we foster more creativity in our liturgies?
 - Should we occasionally have Saturday liturgies (perhaps followed by a potluck and discussion?)
 - Linking in an organized way with other faith communities (UUCA, PAX...)
 - Can some of our social justice work connect us to others perhaps seeking a spiritual home?
3. The NOVA Community desires to MOVE BEYOND, forging a path to create a sustainable future for the Community, always discovering who we are and attuned to uncovering new opportunities before us.
 - How much do we align with RC traditions vs becoming more 'fringe'...
 - Do we need to reorganize ourselves in any way to ensure the long-term sustainability of the community? For instance, should we consider institutionalizing NOVA with a 5 – 10 year plan and board/leader?
 - Have we lost touch with the creative liturgies of the 'earlier days'?
4. The NOVA Community seeks to nurture our Christian faith by growing our spiritual LIFE WITHIN.
 - Gathering more frequently (possibly rekindling "NOVANites," having discussions based on books, topics, or films).
 - Dedicated effort for group study open to dialogue, understanding multiple perspectives, current issues...
 - Establishing a retreat committee to plan in advance for NOVA's vital time of renewal.

We ask that you please email one of us by **September 21st** if you would be interested in joining a small discussion group organized around one of the themes. Once groups have had a chance to meet and reflect on their topic, we will share and discuss next steps as a community.

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