

LCGS Vision Council Fall Forum

October 5, 2022 6:00pm

Special (unrelated) Announcement: The Vision Council is in discussions with Voyaguers Lutheran Ministry regarding leasing of space within LCGS. We are in the process of defining the terms of that arrangement and will be bringing the agreement forward to the congregation during a special congregational meeting on October 30th, immediately following 9:30 worship.

Goal of Forum: To obtain feedback from the congregation on the recommendations.

Cyndi Venberg reviewed the process that brought us to this point using [LCGS Recommendation Forums](#) presentation.

“Dark Grey” Recommendations

Member: When is Sunday School?

- Currently before worship, at 8:45
- Concern about getting kids/teenagers to church at this time, as well as getting them to go from Sunday School to church for worship
- This concern is especially for teenagers/confirmation students who help teaching Sunday School
- Member feels it is important to have Sunday School after

Member: One struggle is not knowing when the service is going to finish

- Member noted the importance of keeping the length of service consistent and not over an hour

Member: What are they doing to build relationships among everyone who is there?

Member: Concern about Sunday School numbers.

Member from MV Task Force and Lay Leader Program:

- Large trends imply highly secular world (i.e. “People perceive they don’t need God”)
- Change the question- given those trends, what do we do with Sunday School?
- Prediction from PEW Research: 30% of ages 19-30 will disaffiliate from church by 2070.
- Do not expect people to walk in your front doors. You need to be in the community.

Member: People are HUNGRY for connection

- What can we provide that is going to be exciting (for all ages)?
- (Told story of coworker and described her engaging Bible Studies)
- We are just not providing the right opportunities.

Member:

- The young people in her family have faith. It's not that they don't have faith, they actually want to change the whole world. They have energy, we just need to tap it.
- Has anyone talked to the 20-30 year olds who attend our church to gain feedback from them?

Member: Just because people aren't coming to church, doesn't mean they don't have deep faith.

Member: Young people will be much more likely to talk to young people. Perhaps a youth intern could take on the project of getting more feedback from Confirmation students.

Pastor: We need to connect meaningfully with people where they are today. Katie had two families all summer, and wasn't sure what would happen this fall

Member of ROLT: ROLT exploring social justice- asking for help on where to start

Cyndi invited everyone to look through recommendations and see where their gifts could help.

Member: the addition of online service causes some people to not come to church

Member: Should we reach out to our "congregation list" and see who is actually still interested?

"Gray" Recommendations:

Member: Organize recommendations around the importance of getting people to come to church. Organize recommendations

Member: Very disappointed. Surface level things that will not change the church. If you can't say it in 15-20 minutes, you will lose people. Loved how Katie states the continuation of worship moving into an area out of the sanctuary. We better figure out a way to connect and offer lots of opportunities. Page 1 and 2 of this document do not come close to that.

Member: People are craving connection but we need new and creative ways to do that. People have grown up on phones and screens.

Member of Vision Council: It is difficult to accurately analyze this document with no colors. VC dark gray have been bucketed as most important based on feedback from leadership teams. Agrees that engagement and building community is critical.

Member: Very disappointed; read the list of 49 items. We would be better if we took 5 items and created a concise timeline for each.

The report doesn't acknowledge what's going on in our culture.

Everything on this list is driven by money.

Not one recommendation about what to do with our finances. If we don't make changes our church will no longer be here in 3-5 years. This report has a huge resistance to change; more of the same.

Hoping for something bold, groundbreaking; we don't have an identity.

No welcome sign blasted to the community.

Would like to see some action items.

Member:

- Out of difficult times comes excitement. We have the opportunity to restructure our church.
- Described social justice gathering that used to happen. Kathryn brought kids. Then Kathryn commented, this is absolutely not the way kids want to learn (sit at a conference for a day and a half). It needs to be fun.

VC President: Part of our job as a Vision Council is to report the findings.

Member: Seems like more of "this" would be useful. Two 1 ½ hours meetings are not sufficient. Vision Council needs to get more feedback from small groups.

Member: Group of stakeholders for youth gathered earlier in the summer and came up with action verbs. Young people want to work. Talking and pondering and reviewing is not enough.

VC Member: Seeing a lot of passion tonight, wondering where that has been during this process. Agree that we need something transformational.

Cyndi: Should we have had someone in organizational leadership?

Member: Come up with 3 critical questions and push them out again.

Vision Council Member: Regarding being transparent, all minutes are given to the LCGS office and are supposed to be put on the website. As of right now, March, April, May, and June are published. Vision Council will make sure they are all published on the website.

