

VCI 'Away' Team: Session 1 Follow-up Discussion

Attendees: Martha Clapp, Paul Campo, David Udy, Audrey Hunter, Victoria Steichen, Janice Balcom, Pam Martus, Dora Tibbets, Suzanne Kern, Suzanne Toaz, Reva Love, Sue Shoemaker

The purpose of this discussion:

- Clarify roles of the Vital Church Initiative (VCI) 'Away' and 'Home' teams and their members
- Review homework for the March 17th session

Away Team

'Away Team' is the term given to those attending the monthly sessions led by facilitator Mark Fielder, based on the six books and participant workbooks. The Away Team is open to any person interested in participating. The expectation is for each participant to read the corresponding book, complete any additional homework, and participate in the session. Be prepared, be engaged.

Monthly sessions are held on Saturdays from 9:30am-1:30pm and include:

February 17, 2018 (completed)

March 17

(No sessions April, May)

June 23

(No sessions July, August)

September 8

October 6

Nov 10

Dec 8

January 12, 2019

February 9, 2019

Currently, sessions will be held at GSUMC of the North, yet some may be moved to the participating church in Traverse City area.

Needed Actions:

There was discussion to increase involvement via Zoom platform. **Pam Martus and Martha Clapp** offered to contact some prospective Zoom participants to determine what is needed to increase their participation before the March 17th session. (Tech questions? Tech trouble? Just forgot?)

Sue Shoemaker agreed to coordinate with Tracy Baker to get these meeting highlights to those expressing interest in VCI participation, and stress March 17th session.

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Home Team

'Home Team' is the term given to those involved in designing and implementing the communication strategy to our GSUMC church body on VCI progress. All are welcome! The following were felt to be key members on the Home Team:

- All Ad Council members (to report VCI progress back to their respective teams)
- Missions project leaders (they connect with many church members)
- Some of the Away Team members (for message continuity)
- ? Role of Pastor Noggle (is he on both the Away and Home teams?)
- ? Potential past leaders of GSUMC, currently not part of VCI?
- ? Child Development Center leadership representative?
- ? A church member involved as a community leader?

Expectations of the Home Team:

- Demonstrate enthusiasm for VCI – show passion!
- Live what we preach; 'walk the talk' of CVI
- Serve as a two-way communication link (disseminate information and seek input)
- Be open to constructive criticism, and take it back to Away and Home teams
- When a criticism is expressed, ask *"What suggestion do you have as a potential solution?"*

Suggestions – Early Ideas – General Thoughts

1. Identify specific groups / people to spread word on what is accomplished at each session, and to gain feedback (include Ad Council network, and seek other 'teams' to reach more of the church family).
2. Be open to expanding Home and Away team membership.
3. Concern: Between March and August there are only 2 Saturday sessions. How can we keep the momentum despite the breaks?
4. Suggestion: Check with SPRC to see if 'Family Meetings' are planned in 2018. If yes, get VCI on the agenda.
5. Suggestion: Include a 3-minute summary to the congregation during announcements after each Away Team session.
6. Either during the March 17th Away Team session, or at our next Home Team session, draft a formal Communication Plan.

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Homework for March 17th Away Team Session

1. Rank your church 1 to 10 (10=highest) on each of the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.

Practice	Ranking (10 = highest)	Rationale
1. Radical Hospitality	5	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There are currently many teams involved in Hospitality -Not just 'coffee & cookies' -Getting closer, yet we have a way to go <p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Not all teams engaged in Hospitality; need 100% buy-in -“I do that already” (not!) -Need a more tailored approach, based on needs of the guest (not everyone wants high enthusiasm, type A approach)
2. Passionate Worship	9:45am 2.5 11:15am 6	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -11:15am service is very engaging, and accepting of feeling the spirit move someone to sway, raise arms, etc. -Our Praise band is tops! <p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -9:45am is very traditional with minimal physical movement -Define 'passionate worship' for our church family to understand why it matters -Have passionate worship demonstrated from the pulpit (minister or lay) -Create an environment that invites and is accepting of passionate worship – this is a process
3. Intentional Faith Development	3	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -WOW program has great potential -Several bible studies are offered (yet low participation) <p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ask the congregation what they want for a bible study (not a survey) -Meet outside of our church (meet at homes; less intimidating at a neutral site) -Spotlight those who enjoy bible study; what they gain from it
4. Risk-taking Missions and Service	6	<p><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No approval needed if no need for funds; keeps momentum -Do well with easy 'feel good' missions -Already delivering a wide variety of missions <p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -If funds needed, the structure can kill enthusiasm -Resistance due to stereotypes prevents church from doing more -Get involved with the Lion's Den; many ways we can serve! -Use resources more wisely; cut back on some missions to meet seasonal needs

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5. Extravagant Generosity	7	<u>Strengths</u> -Congregation has a history of giving readily to programs with a clear need – very generous <u>Opportunities:</u> -Lack of a clear church strategy to reach tithing -Somewhat of a taboo topic; not openly discussed -Convey how tithing can also be more than a dollar amount -Some might respond better to specific needs (i.e.: a new furnace) than an ongoing amount; offer a list of tangible needs
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Questions: -What percentage of church family is currently involved in missions work?
-What percentage of church family spends winter away from Roscommon?

2. Read the book *Renovate or Die* by Bob Farr for March 17 session.

3. Pray!

Respectfully submitted by Sue Shoemaker
March 1, 2018