

November 1, 2010

Attending: Steve M, Margaret M, Marilyn M, Judy P, Jane T, Tim G, Chris F, Mary Jo F, Meredith H, and Paul W.

Members received the meeting notes from the August 5, 2010 meeting. No changes were suggested.

Paul reminded everyone that the Steering Committee meets quarterly in an effort to keep current with what is going on in the chapter, as well as what's going on in the groups. There is a Leadership Team that meets quarterly as well. Upcoming Steering Committee dates are listed below. Paul also talked about Service Teams, which will be formed around various events to assist with putting those on.

Tim reported that six people (one from as far away as Nebraska) attended the October 16 Centering Prayer introductory workshop. Four people have been consistently attending the follow up session. Tim mentioned that some help is needed with childcare (special skills are required as the child has special needs) for one of the participants. The group felt that we could offer to pay for the service, if the participant could hire an experienced childcare provider. Marilyn also possibly has some student colleagues who could help.

Paul reported that the planned August Centering Prayer Introductory workshop in Greenfield was canceled due to scheduling conflicts. This may be rescheduled in the spring.

Paul is also considering offering an Intro targeted to the 12-step community (though open to all). Margaret suggested that participants in the Cloud of Unknowing workshop might also be interested in this. This could possibly be at Plymouth in the spring or fall.

There was a short discussion about the challenges of getting participation at the follow up sessions for the Introductions. Paul mentioned that it's good to promote the follow up sessions as part of the introductions. What Tim has been doing is blending the new folks with the existing prayer group. It's also helpful to make sure people get a book that encourages them in their practice (e.g., "Open Mind, Open Heart," or "A Deeper Love").

Steve talked about a developing group at Trinity United Methodist. This meets Fridays at 11:00. There are 6-8 people, including some Latinos (although Steve is not sure whether they will stick with it). This group has been important as a way to introduce quiet time to some of the pastors, colleagues and others who are busy working on social justice issues. Only two members have had a Centering Prayer introduction. Steve is going to work on getting people interested in an intro.

Paul and Chris gave an update on plans for the morning candlelight centering prayer group. This will be at Grace United Methodist church at 7 am on Thursday mornings. Details still need to be firmed up. This tentatively will begin Thursday, December 2. Watch for an email about this group beginning.

Tim is now a Lectio presenter-in-training with Contemplative Outreach. Susan Komis is Tim's mentor through this process. Tim will be doing a training this month in Waterloo. He will also be doing a Lectio introduction to an Engaging Spirituality group, also this month. Tim said that the Lectio taught by Contemplative Outreach is more of a monastic method, so not as formatted as the Scholastic method. The Introduction is six or more hours, and there are six follow up sessions. People taking the introduction do not have a Centering Prayer background. Tim is also gathering some good Lectio information for the website. The Silent Saturday in February will have some kind of Lectio focus.

Paul and Chris reported on visits they are doing to the various prayer groups. They have visited Oakwood in Pleasant Hill, and will be visiting the St. Anne's Episcopal Ankeny group later in November, and the Ames groups later this fall.

Paul, Margaret and Darla Ewalt (from Ames) are going to the Midwest Regional gathering in St. Louis November 18-21. All of the states in the Midwest will be represented.

Paul mentioned that the Cloud 2nd Tuesday study group has been going very well. There have been about 30 people. See the website for details, including the reading assignments. The sessions begin at 6:30 with a Centering Prayer sit, and the sessions are at 7:00. People can come at any time, and do not need to have been at the first sessions.

- Mary Jo reported that the group at First Christian on Sundays at 11:00 has grown to six people.
- Tim reported that both the St. Tim's Episcopal and St. Paul's Episcopal groups are steady.
- Paul reported that the Central Presbyterian group is small, but still going.
- Chris reported that though he hasn't been there, the St. John's group is staying connected, and probably has 3-4 people there.
- The Wednesday group at Covenant has six people typically, and sometimes up to 8.
- The Oakwood Thursday morning group in Pleasant Hill has about three people.

Paul asked for people who would like to serve on the service team for the March retreat. Judy said she would be the registrar. Jane is also willing to help with planning. Tim would help to set up for the retreat. Steve is willing to help on a limited basis.

Upcoming Steering Committee meetings:

February 7, 2011 (potluck)

May 2, 2011

August 1, 2011

November 7, 2011

Submitted by Chris Frantsvog