

## **BGM Item 23- Becoming a Beloved Community June 2016**

### **Beloved Community Action Group** Meeting Minutes: Friday June 17, 2016

Members Present: Camille Brown, Janice Bell, Stephanie Commandest, Marijane Kiley, Shirley Fair, Patricia Hernandez, Tom Ross, Ken Kho, Duh Kam, Vivan Martindale

Members Absent: Dean Parker, Kelly Legg, Wesley Sun

Camille – This retreat is the result of the suggestion at the June 2015 Biennial that this committee participate in planning the retreat. As a result, we are meeting here at Green Lake this week.

The retreat theme is “One Body – Many Parts”. She asked that we share our thoughts and reflections regarding the 4 topics covered in the retreat. The small group discussion was helpful in ushering in the discussion on the four topics: Joy, Grief, Hope, Commitment.

In retrospect, small group discussion would have been more productive if done on the second day rather than the first. However, it was still a positive effort and helped us identify the need for connectivity to our communities and regions. There needs to be a better way to take back the results of what we talk about.

Two topics were represented among our committee in small group discussions.

#### Grief

The group discussion on grief was positive in that we were encouraged to “name our grief”. Again, it was stressed that communication needs to be carried back to our communities and regions.

#### Commitment

This group discovered there is a need to look at ways we can offer resources to our regions and local churches. Open, honest conversations were shared on the four elements. A challenge is how to live out the life we talk about. We agreed small group conversations help to strengthen our commitment to worshipful work in our “Beloved Communities.” The observation is that although the material was good, the facilitators didn’t receive the material in enough time to prepare and guide group discussions efficiently. The small group concept is much more effective.

It was suggested we have a group of 4-6 people to discuss issues included in the agenda since it is a format that is much more effective. We also talked about social economic differences. It was observed that not only ABC churches, but Christianity as a whole is declining. We are leaders and we need to connect with our collective churches.

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It was observed that historically, we have been assuming our ministries have targeted communities with the vision that they are lacking, rather than recognizing that there is an “untapped potential” that needs to be recognized. We need to get out of our comfort zone. Remembering the “FUN” IN MISSION WILL HELP US GROW STRONGER AS A BOARD. Becoming a Beloved Community Action Group is exploring ways by which we can disagree in a harmonious style.

This action group is charged with defining how we do this. Our next BGM meeting is in November. Some of the action groups will be combined, but ours will remain as it is.

### *Suggestions for the next BGM meeting*

Offer, as we move forward, the format of small group discussion process be exercised at the BGM meeting

The Elements of this retreat will be combined in print form for the November meeting. Discussion of elements could be “what?”/ “so what?” / “what’s next?” format.

It is also suggested that the regions repeat this process at the local levels.

Submitted by Stephanie Commandest  
Beloved Community Action Group