

**Discernment Team Meeting #17**  
**September 13, 2007**

Attending: Steve Thulson, Myrna Beblavi, Leslie Good, Becky Holmlund, Jeff Warren, Jon Hardin, Mark Bradley (recording).

Absent: Valerie Weyand; Jim Reiner

**Meeting opened with prayer.**

**Review of Previous Minutes**

Minutes from Meeting #15 (8/14/07) and #16 (8/30/07) were reviewed and approved.

**Congregational Feedback: None**

**Discussion:**

Discussion on reporting results and how to being the next phase.

Reporting results: Pros and cons of different ways to report to the congregation were discussed.

Connecting hour presentation should include not only the summaries, but also our input,

Summaries: we agree that the summaries presented at the leader retreat reflect what was said at the conversations as a whole.

ST: envisions sending summaries in two columns. Left column has the summary statement, right side would include: our assessment of the summary statement; comments on alignment with our mission and affirmation; questions and / or observations we have about each summary statement.

Next phase discussion: how to use the process of addressing the hard issues (weaknesses) as a way to not just manage complaints but see it as God's opportunity to help us positively address hard issues.

Becky Holmlund; Heb 10 passage mentioned: Reflected on the "being together" part service as a way of deeper friendship / discipleship.

Valerie gave feedback to Steve before the meeting. Agreement on the general thoughts from retreat on numbers 1 and 4 summary statements.

Regarding the potential of criticisms, negative comments, Steve quoted Valerie's quote from a Catholic theologian. "have to bear the burden of sins and the weight of the glory in relationship with others." We are called to be image bearers.

Jon Hardin: Want to remind us that most people going into the next phase are not coming with a great sense of fear, anxiety about a lot of HARD discussions!

Steve Thulson: Nice part of Eph 4, speak the truth in love. In the context of the building of the body and growth.

**Assignment:**

Look at each of the 6 summary statements, one at a time. Make any observation statement about the summary item. For example “I think we need to italicize the word “becoming” in item number four. We see it happening, but feel we have a ways to go.” Also, write a question about implications, what is not being addressed, etc. “Item number 4 reflects a lot of activity. Is there a specific reason that people did not mention they are seeing people Christ? Should that concern us?”

Question from Steve, can we put #3 into #1 summary statement? It was noted that this was an attempt to summarize the conversations, and the relationship between 1 and 3 could be noted in the observation column.

Please send this to Steve by midnight on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. He will gather and send out to the team for reflection.

Next phase discussion.

Direct questions stated positively could be appropriate. For example, “what opportunities do you feel God is giving us that we are not addressing adequately?”

Under Steve’s paper, B2 on settings: agree that these are good settings. Discussion re: starting with teams or home groups first.

Suggestion of connecting hour format for reporting from Jeff Warren.

(2 min) What was the original DT charge.

(4 min) How we went to do it: value of sharing stories and building trust among ourselves.

(25 min) Report of the conversations. 2-3 supporting examples of the conversations, essentially God’s glory being revealed among us. Our discernment input.

(9 min) Describing the “What next?” process. What are our giftings (related to strengths). Will identify opportunities that we feel we need to address. Will listen to needs. Feedback.

**Meeting closed with prayer.**