

Critical Values Conversation, January 10, 2021, 41 Participants

44 church members were on the Zoom. Cynthia stated, that in the January-March time frame, we plan to make a statement about who we are.

Paul stated that we need to know who we are as we move to the future. There is a concern that we need to know who are in the implicit sense leading to the explicit sense. It will probably be a different conversation today than it would have been a week ago.

Q1: Name something that CCB is pretty good at.

- Rummage sale funds go to help outside charities rather than CCB programs; i.e., we are very generous people.
- Engaging congregation in social justice and outreach.
- Working to remain relevant across generations.
- Vibrant children's ministry.
- We are self-actuated, confident enough to welcome others in, inclusive, no cliques.
- Authenticity; authentic people, acceptance of each other.
- We value education – educating others (Pontiac school children, Green Ministry to general public), we know the power of education.
- Learning community, we love the questions
- Rally the troops, good turnout for events
- We take the lead on issues.
- Allocate resources, giving members
- Positive, Progressive, Ambitious i.e., we strive to do more than our resources would dictate, Aspirational
- People go above and beyond to align our resources with our values.
- Partner with others outside CCB to build a better world.
- Solar panels instead of air conditioning.
- Loving community
- Welcoming, care for others, compassionate.
- Care for environment...we bought solar panels instead of air conditioning.
- We are progressive, primarily liberals; those of are less liberal have left CCB
- We walk the talk...real people.
- We recognize we are all on a journey, each of us at our own pace.
- Welcoming visitors

Q2: Tell of a time when you were proud to be a part of CCB.

- We stood up to another church about their plan to host an anti-Muslim speaker, a short distance for the Muslim Unity Center.
- Partner with other churches.
- Advocacy for regional transportation; involvement in DRIVE (*cm: social action group....can't find online what the acronym stands for*).
- Support of public education; information and strategy event in our sanctuary – 100 plus attendees. We need to do more like this.
- Voted to be open and affirming.
- Reach out during Gay Pride Festival...28 CCBers participated, more than 1 year.
- Sabbatical Journey, multiple pastors that spoke including a Black pastor. Rev. Renee Jackson now part of UCC national staff.
- Coalitions and activists in this church get support from other CCB members.
- We gave our time to Evangelical Home residents.
- Green screens open to the public.
- Water drive for those in need...Wayne County, Flint.
- The Red Comma Café – people with diverse life experiences gathered together for poetry, conversation, music, fellowship.
- Youth support for our young children
- South Oakland Shelter
- Generous donations
- Youth trip to Mazatlán
- My mom , a pastor's wife, felt ministered to by CCB people.
- Anti-Racism Task Force...CCB is getting a good reputation for caring
- Support for the Poor People's Campaign, our trip to Lansing, MI to march.
- Youth trip to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.
- CCB members have supported and encouraged the activism of its members. Examples are many: LGBTQ rights, Metro Coalition of Congregations, animal rights and protection, Poor People's Campaign, eliminating gerrymandering, GOTV efforts, clean water access and providing clean water, Green Ministry
- Our church youth "Pilgrim Fellowship" in the 1960's was VERY attractive to not only our young church members but young people from other churches and those who didn't even belong to a church because of our VERY active outreach and involvement in social movements

Q3: Core Values

- Social justice
- Caring

- Education
- Respect for each other, individuals' faith journeys
- Importance of young people
- Activism
- Faith in love
- Education relationships
- Justice for all things and all humans
- Community spirit
- Inclusiveness
- Love and warmth in the congregation
- Truth
- Commitment within and without CCB
- A just world for all
- Good stewards of God's gifts
- Words into action, walk the talk
- Open to learning
- Assertive enough to reach a goal