

Group Discussion – Discerning what God is calling us to do

What are the barriers/strengths to doing what we are called to do?

What actions do we want to take?

Are we willing to take the risk?

1. Study: biblical, theological, contemporary peace and justice issues

- Strong leadership (can be strength or weakness depending on whether or not it is facilitating leadership)
- People who “know” instead of discussion
- Flexibility with different ideas but stay together
- Different numbers each session
- Should replenish and nurture the participants
- Willingness to struggle with the issues that get raised in the scripture
- “It takes gas to get here”
- Really need to focus and not get sidetracked
- Build a bridge between fairness and justice

A Couple of ideas raised by the group:

We could set up an email/blog

Use “Living The Questions” for theological reflection

2. Stewardship of resources

Barriers

Lack of understand of issues

Complicated rather than simple

Feeling alone – what can I do?

Cost

Strengths

Time is ‘ripe’ for green talks

We have connections

We have credibility not only as a rich church but a doing church

Add our voices to the local advocates

Actions we can take

Notice the refugees in our own town, the abused, and poor

Do a carbon challenge with Malik

Celebrate what we do – notice group/individual efforts – spread the word

Turn down water in kitchen - SCALDING!

Become advocates & educators with other in our church

No more Styrofoam – use mugs

Used Malik's corn/potato plates – then disposed in plastic garbage bags! (follow through)

Emphasis on and more sorting bins for recycling

June 16-18 Advocacy for Habitat

Movie Night on Social Issues with discussion

For #3 Spiritual witness and advocacy of public policies which promote peace and justice:

- Diversity of opinion – both a barrier and a strength
- How do I fit into this
- What do I/ we have to give up to do something
- Struggle w/ the separation of church and state – action – have a conversation about church and state this Oct. 08, before elections
- How do we make something acceptable
- Communication – the language we use to represent our ideas – do we understand each other
- Voting polarizes people – leaves someone out
- Need for education and dialogue
- Need for advocacy
- Feeling alone in trying to live out ones faith

Action Ideas –

- Check out/ share the link to the UCC website – UCC Justice and Peace Action Network
- Create a church blog for Peace and Justice dialogue and sharing of ideas
- Before thatsend out an email list sharing ideas w/ each other
- Once a month movie night on social justice issues and concerns
- Get General Synod Presentations - from the UCC Media Center in Penacook
- Bill Moyer Journal – PBS Channel 11