

Seeking the Next “Right Answer”

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Why Try the Innovation Lab at Sun Lakes UCC?



- Renewed commitment to growing our congregation in both vision and size
- Deep desire to grow a culture of possibilities, listening and hope
- Wanted a planned process for thinking beyond the familiar
- Wanted to make it safe to try new things
- Hoped to plant seeds to grow a culture of seeking the “Next Right Answer”

Creation of the Sun Lakes UCC “Think Tank”

Criteria for Selecting Participants

- Willingness to learn the process and build a new skill set for working
- Comfortable with process
- Desire to listen, empathize, try
- Willing to share their rich experience to find the “Next right answer” for the church group they represent

Boards or Committees included:

- Diaconate
- Mission & Service
- Trustees/Stewardship
- Growth & Membership
- Spirituality (New exploration)
- Fellowship
- Worship

What Have We Done So Far?



- Training on November 12, 2015
- Applied the process to listen to the need of their partner's church group and provide an innovative idea to meet their needs
- Presented the proposed idea to their Board or Committee for further exploration, discussion, listening
- Reconvened in February to share what they learned from listening carefully to their Boards or Committees



Example of Impact *Worship Format*



- Created templates for different worship formats
- Shared with Worship Committee when planning for a particular focus area such as Advent/Lent
- Listened to feedback from the congregation and adjusted future services to create a worship experience that was deeply spiritual, fully tapped into the senses of sight, sound, touch
- Listened and watched as members became excited about the service (Maundy Thursday)

**What Have We
Learned by
looking at things
differently?**



- Empathetic listening is powerful!
- There is value in looking for the “Next Right Answer”
- Be courageous & humble
- Communicate updates to congregation: Evolution vs Revolution!
- There is value in a fresh perspective

Where Do We Go From Here?



- Continue Liturgical/Worship work
- Continue discussions on how to streamline and coordinate the work of Boards & Committees
- Determine whether to train another group of members in the Innovation Lab process



Thank You

