

DISCOVERY SYNTHESIZED RESULTS

THRIVING AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Summary of Prairie's Greatest Strengths:

Prairie's greatest **strengths** relating to **Thriving and Engaged Community** are our inspired leaders including our associates; our intense communal kinship that encourages people to listen and care for one another and our community; and our demonstrated ability to openly and transparently deal with conflict.

Additional Work:

- Growth - more leaders and doers/volunteers, new volunteers, new people, visitors;
- Consider whether Prairie is attempting to take on too many projects;
- Re-think complex projects;
- Focus on projects that have been successful and help the most people - projects that match the passion of the volunteers;
- When the movers and shakers of specific projects tire, finding others who have similar passions to take their place can be a challenge (let some projects go?);
- Continue to deal with controversy openly;
- More diversity racially, sexual orientation, etc.;
- Strengthen leadership training and mentorship; and
- Maximize active involvement.

2/18/19

STABLE & INSPIRED HOME OF OUR OWN

Summary of Prairie's Greatest Strengths:

Prairie's greatest **strengths** relating to **Stable and Inspired Home of our Own** include the advantages associated with meeting in a school in Parker where safety is a priority and the space is kid friendly; the financial cost of maintenance are substantially lower than the cost of purchasing land or owning and maintaining a building; the location is central to Prairie's primary catchment area; Fermin is available to provide support; we have adequate space for a variety of activities including parking and a playground; our work together to set up/take down the sanctuary builds community; and our space is "green" since we reduce our carbon footprint by using an existing building.

Additional Work:

- More space for storage;
- Think of ways to increase comfort in and aesthetics in our sanctuary
- Better acoustics;
- More creativity with lighting;
- Conduct outside services;
- Enhance publicity;
- Realistic overview of Prairie's financial resources and the cost of owning a building;
- Continue to grow our congregation and seek more stability through a leased space, and one that is available 24/7 to our congregation and has amenities such as a kitchen; and
- Maintain a good working relationship with the school (volunteer at the school once a year?) so we have less chance of being displaced.

2/18/19

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Summary of Prairie's Greatest Strengths:

Prairie's greatest **strengths** relating to **Spiritual Growth** are related directly to leadership; diversity of thoughts; experiences; and spiritual practices such as sermons, music, readings, candles of community, reflection, reading our covenant together; and spiritual growth through thought-provoking activities including at learning hour.

Additional Work:

- Hire a DRE for children's programming;
- Active adult RE programming;
- Tie sermon to weekly practice during the week (soul work);
- More focus on personal, spiritual growth - people can share during middle hour;
- Increase reflections after sermons;
- Hold a community-building workshop with staff (bonding);
- Assess needs/outreach to Parker/Aurora community;
- Reestablish circles of trust and centered heart;
- Marketing/advertising; and
- Continue to work toward a diversification of the active population.

2/18/19

IMPACTFUL SOCIAL JUSTICE

Summary of Prairie's Greatest Strengths:

Prairie's greatest **strengths** relating to **Impactful Social Justice** are our engaged congregation, passionate leadership and the dedication by our members to make a social justice difference in ourselves, the larger community, and the greater world. We don't just give money, we show up. Activities, such as Service Sunday, inspire us and help grow our church. A focus is made on learning, openness and discussion on difficult topics and situations that leads to personal growth for members and children.

Additional Work:

- Publicize and share information and organization to encourage members and friends to attend activities;
- Send reminders and announcements of upcoming events;
- Get more people engaged in planning;
- Promote partnerships with other organizations;
- More regular, focused education offered in a variety of formats;
- Focus - how many issues should we address?
- Repeat past activities;
- The discussion group on "White Fragility" is a prime example of how we can help each other learn and grow toward more impactful social justice;
- As much as possible, social justice activities should be active, local, and in cooperation with other groups and faith communities;
- Help local people who are homeless, unemployed, immigrants, etc;
- Plan meetings around peoples schedules - maybe subcommittee meetings;
- New leadership to the Justice League;
- Develop a plan to cover social justice gaps - no winter shelter for men; and
- Religious programming intersecting with environmental justice initiatives.

ENGAGED YOUTH

Summary of Prairie's Greatest Strengths:

Prairie's **greatest strengths** relating to **Engaged Youth** are the dynamic, energetic, engaged leaders who take an active role in the RE program; the relationships that are built and exist among the young people; and the specific activities they engage in including OWL, camp, Coming of Age, and brunches.

Additional Work:

- Increase communication about youth programs (intentional invitations, DR reminders, etc.);
- Encourage the youth to invite their friends;
- More youth involvement in services, including greeters and ushers, chalice lighter, readings, storytime, choir, music, etc.;
- More social justice involvement;
- Continue to ask youth what they want;
- Recruit more parent volunteers;
- Consider evening activities;
- Help the youth understand how important they are to Prairie;
- Get a youth director;
- Find activities that work to slowly build lasting relationships;
- Make it fun!