

Open Space Meeting 6th June 10.30am – 11.45am

Attendance: Viki, Fleur, Leonie, Mary, Julie, Kristine, Bob, Mark, Chris, Jamee

Space was opened in prayer by Jamee.

Agenda was agreed upon with new sub-headings for our structures moving forward:

1. Internal ministries: Children's ministry; Communion; Bereavement ministry
2. New ideas and focus: Retreat and meditation groups
3. Outreach and promotions: Inviting new partnerships, members letter; promo video plans

Internal ministries:

Children's ministry

- Was acknowledged that we need to keep it simple and be clear about our target population – children, teens and young adults who are unable to get to Church groups or be involved for any reason.
- For the Early Years age group:
 - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd resources may be easily adapted for online use.
 - Meditation for children may also be a helpful offering from our community.
- For the 'lost years' Teens/Young adults:
 - Taize resources could be adapted to offer a return to historical/traditional spirituality for seekers.
- We recognized that good research and time spent on developing this ministry is needed and it will be a slow grow. A task group was formed to continue the conversation and share resources and ideas: Fleur, Mary, Julie and Leonie.
- Once we are ready we will look to promote in Focus.

Actions:

- Julie to contact Rev'd John about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd resources.
- Fleur to contact Stephen Harrison about outreach to the 'lost years'.
- Rev'd Jamee to link task group in a new email thread to keep the conversation going.

Communion

- Bob shared a reflection on the nature and efficacy of Spiritual Communion through the 1987 film Monsignor Quixote which can be found on YouTube here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3FZn2A33As>
- The togetherness of a shared meal was celebrated.
- Mary offered the traditional Shabbat meal of a Friday evening from our Jewish brothers and sisters as a potential family liturgy, helping us to gather and bless food in our homes which is then later shared again online at our gatherings.
- We determined that sharing some form of agape feast/meal together could be done in alignment with our contemplative services.

Actions:

- Mary going to share Jewish liturgy for Shabbat family meal blessing.
- We will make something available for home use before the next Agape Meal.

At this point we were running out of time and Viki urged us to speak on sustainability as a priority. We agreed to focus the rest of our time on Outreach.

Outreach:

Sharing the invitation

- A new letter for members to use to approach potential partners and sponsors has been written by Chris.
- It was agreed that this letter would be made available to members when they requested it through Rev'd Jamee and the Lay-leaders Chris and Judy, so that they could field and authorize which groups are approached for partnership by our members, as well as ensure the letter is not miss-used(as opposed to making it available on the website).
- The community will be invited to engage with this outreach through the send-outs and at Sunday notices.
- Mary suggested that getting letters of invitation counter-signed by the Dean may hold some extra authority and backing of the Church.
- The next promo video and video schedule was discussed and agreed upon:
 - Members will be invited to join a recorded zoom space and be recorded answering this question: "What is your favourite highlight about HHO and why?"
 - We will try and gain footage in June and edit in July to have this video ready for synod.
 - An 'in-depth look' 'inner-workings' at HHO was suggested as the next video project – this would include snippets of worship, studies and other ministries. Need to set this up so that all participants give permission for their footage/voice/first name to be used.
 - Following videos – a series of one-on-one features of our members stories and HHO significance for their lives.

Actions

- Jamee to include invitation to community members to request member letter in send-outs and notices and field requests for letters with Lay-leader team.
- Jamee to bring up counter-signature idea with the Dean at staff meeting on Wednesday.
- Jamee to issue invitation to members to be interviewed for new promo video and start collecting footage.

New areas of Focus for next meeting

- Outreach beyond the invitation - Suggested as an ongoing reflection for us to discern how we outreach beyond ourselves into community as HHO.
- Prayer chain ministry to be explored.

HOLY HERMITS ONLINE

- Bereavement ministry (maybe a form of community outreach for those who can't attend funerals – we can offer memorial spaces online) to be high on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Could we invited external community involvement in the practice of gratitude as outreach? (Gratitude wall for posting – how could be manage this safely?)
- Retreats and meditation groups – high on the agenda for next meeting.

Actions:

- Reflection/prayer on - What does it look like for HHO to be out in the world? Between now and next meeting.

Meeting was closed in prayer.

Next meeting agreed to be held in 4 weeks' time on the 4th of July.

Comments from Zoom space were unfortunately lost for this meeting. A technical issue, which has been fixed for next time. Apologies to all those who had put extra comments in the meeting space.