

Grace Community Conversations *continued*

The first step is to conduct group conversations with a representative sample of our congregation. The president of our congregation, Deb Ross, is serving as the facilitator of these groups. Deb has conducted many similar groups in both the corporate and non-profit setting. For our process, she will lead open-ended discussions giving participants an opportunity to share what they are hearing from the Lord regarding how Grace is to manifest the Kingdom in our community over the coming years.

The purpose of these groups is neither to "build a better mousetrap" that can attract more people to Grace nor to devise strategies to better meet our congregational needs. Rather, it is to envision how we can effectively embrace what the Holy Spirit is doing in our ministry context and to affect our community with the good news of Jesus Christ. Thus, participants will be encouraged to engage in prayerful discernment, creative thinking, open discussion, and to focus on concepts and the future, rather than personalities and the past. These conversations will remain confidential and will only be presented in summary form.

We invite members to be part of this process. Beginning on Sunday, April 7 and through April 14, members can sign up to take part in a community conversation group via the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. We will organize the groups by the length of time participants has been members at Grace. We hope to get 50 volunteers to attend one of the groups. Depending on the number of volunteers, we may call others and invite them to join.

Thank you for your willingness to help us strive toward our vision - to be a fellowship of worshiping disciples of Jesus Christ centered on the Word of God.