

The following Home Groups joined the conversation and are included in the following document: Bellevue, Columbia City, Greenwood, Seattle Unity Sunday group, Seattle Unity Monday group, Shoreline, and West Seattle Thursday group. The following Spirit Groups participated: Goddess Within Circle, Men's Fellowship, Prayer Chaplains, Quest, and Umoja. There were also two opportunities for congregants to join the discussion at two community-wide meetings. Feedback directly from congregants was also invited and is included here.

### **GROUP 1**

#### ***Will remain the same with spiritual practices and spiritual community....***

Values, the search for meaning to life, desire for oneness with God

The message, desire for connection to the One Source, love, acceptance, non-judgment, understanding, tolerance

Emotional support for: birth/death/marriage, transitions, sickness & support, living by spiritual principals at home in daily life, parenting children with spiritual principles, celebrating with music/dance/art, blessing the country- desire for peace, social service ministry – taking care of the homeless and poor, jobs and community resources, earth stewards, connection with other churches, rituals co-created.

#### ***Will be different with spiritual practices and spiritual community.....***

A trend to 'spirituality' vs. 'religion' – movement in line with Unity philosophy

Christianity (including Catholicism) morphs with changing culture and values

More methods developed to assist in 'enlightenment'

Yoga, meditation, etc. become mainstream across our society as we learn more about the importance to health (esp. brain)

Movement to more & more use of technology

Society is more communal – people will live, work, go to school in the same community. Education for all ages

Spiritual practices become more interactive and experiential – music, dance, discussions – younger generations already bored unless involved in interactive practices

More mega-churches

More movement to purpose based economy – better stewardship of the earth, care for the poor and homeless, incorporation of nature into our lives (ex. High-rise gardens)

As people live longer, more search for meaning in life and greater enlightenment

Death experience changes as people live longer, are productive longer, healthy minded longer

More movement towards community groups that connect over similar interests and spiritual practices and in locations consistent with those, vs. coming together in a specific building

***How can Unity prepare for the future?***

Plan for technology changes and how to incorporate them meaningfully into the spiritual experience. (i.e. computer learning center, holographic experience in the service, computer tablets,...)

Find ways to make the presentation of spiritual messages more of an interactive experience (incorporate more music, dance, small group activities, hold service in alternate venues occasionally – park, etc.). This is vital to keep the church meaningful to younger generations who do not want to sit and listen.

Create a vision that incorporates more for children and younger members – so important to give them life skills like meditation, rituals and rites of passage, empowering them to the community at large. They need role models and persons to lead & guide them.

As people live longer and want to give back to society, find ways to connect older members of Unity with younger ones to bridge knowledge, experience and life lessons. Find ways to maintain intergenerational families in the church. Include housing for seniors? Have a childcare center or charter school that is in or affiliated with the church?

Plan for more outreach – to young families, to the hungry, to the homeless, to earth stewardship

**GROUP 2**

Membership: is ownership & responsibility, CSL have to pledge, withhold opportunity to participate in activities. Is this us?

Sunday Service - no longer centric, still big gathering, not as we are now,

Small group meditation, altruist/service, being connected, Being advocate , social justice, being “of the time”.

What is the roll of the church at this time? Will the land still be there? May not be Minister-at-front of “church” - Not minister-centric, share responsibility of service/ministry/worship

Spirituality is not just a Sunday thing

Ted-Talk style messages, tenant of ideas you are focused on as a community. Non-religion - Yes to spirituality, Communities who establish their own values, have their own fellowships.

This is already happening now on college campuses. How do we tap into this now? They are hungry for these communities, but not for “church”.

Social Justice/Activist - Empowered locally, meaningful human connection is of the highest value. Bringing diversity in to enact change and speak to THIS generation.

Spiritual and engaged in the world, NOW. Where we are today. New parents suddenly turn to church for answers. SU does not have this now. We cannot provide this now. Families need support.

Community led talks.

High holy days are when we have the most attendance and therefore the best opportunity to reach new people. But they are very “Christian” more than we do on a normal Sunday. Universal Spirituality is the future of Unity/New Thought.

On the other side, we really value our Christian roots. Even non-Christians are immersed in Christian culture.

New Thought will be more mainstream. Some things are timeless: silence, meditation, art, holy space.

Some of these things could be more mainstream now. Ritual is powerful. Metaphysical Christianity is GOOD.

We should be serving our young people of today better.

Have a timeless architectural feature that enhances the spiritual space. Should be really EXCELLENT ART - and green!

Safe, Holy space - Profoundly so!

Demonstrated spirituality - healing, ancient teaching, honor truth.

Millennials are volunteers - be a part of something positive.

Gen X - Not so much.

Future: Less structured work week - SLU is really getting BUSY. Needs somewhere calm - spirituality offers this.

New thought needs to teach to walk the talk - Not good at this now.

This country is changing, massively and fast. Diversity is KEY - we have to change the way we are or else we are kicked out (the white Europeans)

A spiritual center - open all hours - holy space

More people in as teachers to broaden spiritual perspective.

Can we move to a mosque during interim? If we say we honor all traditions, how can we be that better?

Don't like: Altar at CSL is called a stage.

Use ancient ANCIENT words rather than 1900s terms

Sacred spaces - draw on architect students

The more urban we get, the more connected to nature we need to stay.

More theatre - but less "Stage" - Holy space

Own properties outside of city - retreat center/camps

- Maybe share amongst region.
- Tierney Retreat Center?

What is the nature of the activities we will have?

Dedicated new designed as HOLY SPACE

How do we want to BE in this community?

Seattle is a tough place to connect.

Yoga is one of the great places we connect w/ community, with young people

Ask Sada - ask to survey his community.

Get our name out for things like Art Walk - Important even if low attendance

Sit/Dharma talk - excellent example for communication

Oneness Blessing, ACIM - bring in people too

Seattle Church / Satellite services - go TO people instead of come to us.

Visit other churches as research - like Wayne

As our world becomes more diverse, the explicit honoring of diverse traditions becomes more important. Compassion is at the heart of what motivates people to be more engaged with others. How do you work with the spirit that is within somebody no matter where they come from.

Art is a great connector; can transform energy, peel away hate/anger/fear.

Need to be broader. "Unity only" is NOT our future. The identity of the Fillmore's is moving but can't be the ONLY aspect of Unity we teach.

Chief Seattle Club - Great example of a well designed sacred space; on waterfront. Schedule a tour. The essence and process is something we can look at. Green building.

Feel like we are putting the visioning portion off too late.

Feel like the loudest/controlling voices are only looking for a church box to retire in and not have to reach out into the living vital community.

Flexible space sounds cold. We want HOLY SPACE!

How do we fit into the community?

We need to talk to the right people to help shape our vision. Sacred space designers.

If we don't have family resources, we won't have families.

Yoga IS a part of our spiritual community. Making space for expanded spirituality is NECESSARY.

Parking will become less and less important in the future. Priority on People space.

BOLD IMAGINE to create the community.

Be an OPEN building. Be ok with having people wander into the space for sanctuary.

Become ok with homeless.

Remember our Unity Principals when we are making our Business decisions. Need to live our prosperity. Hording for a rainy day rather than living with passion with not grow this community.

Danger in organizations leading by fears and creating perfectionist cultures; need to be safe containers instead; vulnerable, seen, safe. Be here, be loved, feel safe making mistakes. No shame.

This process should be joyous.

Validity in 50 years is the idea of partnership.

We need more kid energy! A daycare would have positive impact on the community.

Seattle Unity has UNIQUE energy. We need to appreciate it and build on our strengths.

We should be a coming of age community.

Investing in a camp could be a great way to use our resources.

Feel like all questions get head off before they can flower. Need space to have real discussion.

Need to allow SU (not SUV) to have ownership over design and selection of architect.

Build the building around a piece of art; classic, stands the test of time, risky enough to be a piece of art in itself.

We have to somewhere else to get our meditation even though we talk about meditation as basic principal in New Thought. Do meditation more in main space and teach it, how to meditate.

SIMS space has great examples of how to have and teach meditation.

Bookshop? Cafe? Place to be able to sit down and casually connect.

Kitchen and place to sit and eat together. Martha Creek talked about the churches that live and the ones that are dying... "How often to get together and eat?"

If our "rental" is doing the job of teaching our community how to mediate and we are not looking to incorporate "rental yoga" into new facility, are we going to step us and teach meditation to the community.

We LOVE that Unity is open in it's principals. But what are we carrying into the new vision as our core practices? We cannot support ALL paths by our community. But we do have the opportunity to provide the space and opportunity for our community to connect with the resources that serve them. Unity does not need to own every aspect of our community's spirituality.

Environmentally responsible to create a space that is used CONSTANTLY.

Design invitation. Take the input from that to select a design team

Do an email letter, lobby survey, bulletin survey; of all the ways people can be involved. Leave a space for them to comment about how they can continue in each of the different categories. Build a design team from this volunteer survey.

**GROUP 3****Diversity**

- Tapestries and altars remaining somehow; diversity and blending; representations of many people
- Many paths to Truth – science, artist, through all archetypes
- Diversification of spiritual communities – and various versions of community

**Technology**

- Connection of science and spirituality
- Spiritual evolution through experience
- A certain experience can be described scientifically, but it is also a spiritual experience (for example, a sunset is a spiritual experience – everything in life can be a spiritual experience)
- Holographic / 3D imagery
- Communications will be very different – be able to communicate with people instantaneously

**Community**

- Fellowship central
- A place for new people immediately where they could join in and have questions answered; a way for people to feel welcome, but without the pressure

**Body-based Worship**

- Meditation and Yoga – greater focus
- Global evolution of spirituality; body is central and knowledge through physical movement; through meditation with focus on body
- Physicality more integrated with our spiritual practices
- Bringing the body into worship important

**Music / Sound**

- Song and chant maintained – sound is central and important – voice, not just synthesized, electronic music
- Thoughtful design in the new building with resonance and sound in the spaces; ways to design spaces with resonance that impacts the chakras.
- More Satsang Sundays with simple chants that are very meditative.

**Connection to Nature**

- Archaic revolution; tribal revival – dance and music is central
- Spirit can replace drugs / substances – educational opportunity
- All elements are represented in the building / sacred space (water, fire, air, earth)
- Native American woven in and through our practices

**Space**

- Flexible space that can have many functions
- Removable pews
- Incorporate in design, architecture of the building as sacred space within the walls / floors

**Programming**

- Be available to all ages
- Attention on young children / how do we serve the youth and involve the youth more
- Participatory for our youth – movement, singing and chanting
- Place for the spontaneity of children to be expressed more fully
- Safe place for young children and young people to be themselves
- Revision of the eucharist in a totally new way, but it is about the salmon and based on this land / tradition; their bodies are used in every way
- Connecting different traditions
- Attention to life-cycles and all of life's transitions
- Young people accessing psychic talents and more naturally metaphysicians; Everyone more attuned to one another. How does technology limit this? Do we have a role in education and creating spaces that nurture this in the future that is vitally needed?
- Educational component for children is vital
- Gifts of the Spirit more explicit with an entire community sharing those vital roles to support one another; very strong energy of connection / support for physical and spiritual. Separate people acting as one Body.
- Strong individuals, but united as one body. It is the next evolution.

**GROUP 4**

Living longer and healthier

**Community**

Spiritual practice leads to spiritual community

Community will always be important

Not 1-hr a week / daily community

\*\* Families / Development of and foundation of values of love, kindness....

Places for kids to get together and families

Centered around food and sharing

Connection

Presence in the larger community and neighborhood – ways to connect and give back and being a support; be of social service to the community – more connected

Heart pulls us together (“more than the activity”)

Visit Chief Seattle Center (“Gathering Room” is a sacred space); we could do something similar here

Because everything will become more virtual, want the in-person

**Practices / Activities / Programs**

\*\* Meditation is central and important; place for silence and beauty – dedicated spaces for that

Movement

Rituals that honor people and honor various journeys

Activities for working parents and families

What is present for college age people when they leave college?

Coming of age program (similar to CSL is doing)

Seeing the activities taking place

Incorporate east and west; many paths

24-hour prayer vigil / holding sacred space at all times; 24/7 center

Intergenerational (older generations with the children); create family that is multigenerational

More classes and groups on meditation

Connection to American medical practices (yoga / mediation / healthy eating)

Camps / retreats / retreat center

### **Technology**

How do we blend in-person community and future technology? More opportunities for connecting virtually; reaching more people through technology. People want community and they are doing it via computer / technology

Holograms of spiritual speakers

### **Space**

Multi-purpose uses that need to be very flexible / less important that there is a dedicated space for "worship" – 1-hr service on Sunday going away

Easily adaptable to evolving technology / easily removable walls – make updates easy

Nature – incorporate and integrate in our practices; visibility of trees

Being more visible / architecture makes it look special and interesting and compelling

Can NOT be everything for everyone; dedicated spaces that are transformative and sacred – don't want it to become an auditorium / moveable walls; beauty and sacredness and specialness important

Spaces for lots of small groups

\*\* Kitchen important

Sound is contained within spaces

### **Small Groups / Home Groups**

More organized and easier to access groups – very important to be able to gather in small groups

**GROUP 5**

A huge part, now and in the future, is affirmative prayer. Envision a strong, expanded chaplaincy program. Chaplains visiting people who are unable to attend services due to illness, etc. They are a more obvious part of the culture. People visited or contacted at home.

You can't grow a church if we don't attract young people. Our current congregation does not have many young people. There has to be a reason for that. The number of children is about the same as it always has been. One person's daughter was in middle or high school age when she became turned off by the overt prosperity consciousness and its emphasis on money. Church leadership to be aware of narrow vs. larger interpretations of Unity principles. This may no longer apply, as the emphasis we experienced on financial and other prosperity several years ago is no longer a recurring theme.

Look backward to look forward.

Is it an issue that people brought up in Unity do not stay in Unity? Do we want to make it a place where people are brought up and stay? It matters that the children's program matches the adult program. Not whether or not the children ultimately stay with Unity. Continue to have the same values. One person had been cautioned that sometimes what happens in a church's children's program is vastly different from what the adults are learning. We think we have a good children's program.

Fundamentalist churches grow fast. What makes them so attractive? They are somewhat simplistic, which appeals to people. In Unity we create our own reality. We are God – this is difficult to grasp. Not everyone is ready for this level of commitment. And to feel good about it: how to reconcile when bad things happen. It is an opportunity and a gift, not a burden. Fundamentalists are big on families. They also devote resources to recruitment.

Most people have never heard of Unity and it is not easy to explain. Fundamentalist is "our way or the highway." We embrace the truth, wherever you find it. We are inclusive. Our altars are a big deal. We embrace and honor other beliefs. We want to see that continue. But it may be something a lot of people have trouble with. It may limit us and who we attract.

We as a society are moving toward more inclusiveness.

Mindfulness has grown – mindfulness and meditation are being embraced by mental health professionals, medical professionals. See this as becoming more and more integrated in life. May be a regular part of everyday life in 30, 40, 50 years.

One person's teenage son was turned off by the touching. The singing and dancing can be over the top. We used to sing to each other. Erin still suggests it. We continue to be respectful and aware that we are a very touchy, hugging church, and we respect people's wishes. There is one congregant who let the greeters know she did not like to shake hands; we honor her by putting our hands together and giving a short bow.

Unique: God lives in you. You are God. Reincarnation. This is something else that may not attract people. We take responsibility. The tenets we teach are not as easy.

By downsizing the space, we are already planning that we are not going to be a mega-church.

Usually less than 200 people attend services on a Sunday. The candle lighting service is the most popular event.

One person said a Catholic friend called her a seeker. Seattle Unity appeals to seekers. We are on a spiritual journey; it is part of our mission statement.

Music is part of the spirituality. Continue to have a strong musical program that fits with the lesson. The way the music is integrated is very spiritual and very important. We love DIOS and like to incorporate more people in that. We universally love the music program. And Rafe.

We all like it. Do other people simply not know? Study other churches. What are they doing? Mars Hill was huge and birthed other churches.

South Lake Union is growing and attracting hundreds of young, dispossessed people. How can Unity help to create community in this area, as it becomes a neighborhood? Maybe the new building could include elements of a community center? Offering to help build community. St. Margaret's is a church that serves as a musical center, attracting people with events unrelated to their Sunday program. People came to Seattle Unity for Marianne Williamson. We also hosted the relics. We could host other events to draw people in.

How will social changes affect spirituality? People are connecting in different, casual ways, with Facebook, Uber, snapchat, meetups, etc.

The Unitarians do outreach. Unity is not politically or socially active. We don't participate politically. Do we want to be? It takes a lot of work to be a socially active church. Unity has outreach, and Prays Well with Others. Unitarians also had political speakers. One member used to lament that Unity does not, but has come to terms with it.

What about other world religions? How will the religions of the world look in the future – Moslem, Christian, etc.? One joked that maybe in the next 30-50 years the Messiah will come. Or the Rapture.

On a practical note: could the beloved rhododendron be safely moved and donated to Denny Park?

**GROUP 6****Community**

Will spirituality in community work without physical?

Place for video, but in-person needed.

Place for mediumship other spiritual practices

Community circle – no one is at the head / no hierarchy / everyone has strong qualities to be shared – create a space that values all equally and everyone is together; someone standing in the center – everyone see one another / shifting from a patriarchal system

Place for everyone to share their story / Once per month or more different people are able to get up in front of the community space to share their space

Place for feelings in community for all people

Opportunities for people to work together on projects (choirs / service)

\*\*\*\*Face-to-face time very important

Most profound spiritual experiences – working on things like projects with others, or poetry / art; workshop (less formal); tactile community, not just cerebral

Dynamic interaction in-person and connecting to the greater world with technology

Safety in community; showing one another respect; times when there is confidentiality

**Values**

Sustainability important

Integration of faith traditions and different spiritual practices

Our services now are still very Christian

Prayer rugs

Buddhist meditation

Services once a month of different traditions (Rabbi, ....)

**Space**

Flexible space – not bolted down pews

Spaces designed for people to be able to work together on project

Going to nature / being in nature / connection to nature important; hike outings; meditation gardens

Gardens in the spaces between and around

Allow for movement in services; integrating bodywork and movement into spiritual practices; integration with the body very important

In the round, so everyone can see each other instead of just a few people at the front; can be in-person or holographic presentation; allow for tribal experiences; could also be in a ¾ shape, so people feel more connected to one another

(My question: if younger generation is more self-centered, do they want to be seeing one another?)

St Marks, St James, cathedrals in Europe – how have they stayed relevant?

Reminders like the tapestries – that we don't have "a answer" – other ways to get there

"Altered states of consciousness induction devices" – needed in design of the new building – Acoustic reflected back

**Technology**

Lessons come in all different ways

Younger generation using it now

Ability to communicate on spiritual topics in other physical locations / "keep the portals open"

Virtual chat groups / sharing ideas on spiritual topics & discussion themes

Instagram type platform to stay connected online

Holographic presentations of people on different topics – platform for teaching and interacting

Paper going away – more could be done online immediately in the moment; instant feedback and input opportunities; tithing done online immediately in the moment

Technology integrated with community

(My note: "Spiritual Media" – personalized msg on spiritual topics and inspirational

Real-time interaction for people at home

Sound integrated throughout space / enhancements to assist people's ability to participate

Merging of spirituality and technology – experiential part of it

**Content / Programming**

\*\*Music central and important to connecting us to Spirit and with one another

Relevant; supports the theme of the month or year

New songs

Great inclusion of the greater world in our music

Celebrate holidays / holy days of other traditions

Guided meditation – could be larger reach through media

Moving more fully into the experience of Truth rather than reading about Truth – less scripture

Unity less bound by traditions that allows us a certain freedom to create

**GROUP 7**

Greater diversity of races, ages, and spiritual backgrounds. More rituals of different traditions. Less labels of religions and methods. We are in a sacred space doing sacred work.

Community more and more important. Place to gather for dialogue and learning. Face-to-face and virtual ways of connecting.

Increases in population will create greater need and desire for 'hermit' spaces where people can find individual time to be alone.

Honoring nature and integrating it with everything is important; caring for the earth, bringing nature into the internal spaces important. Environmentally friendly

Daytime classes and opportunities to gather – meditation and yoga.

Meditation increasing in importance – classes and many opportunities for it. Politicians and other leaders meditating before meetings. Meditation more central to everyday life.

Technological advances include ability to connect with people around the world – not just them passively listening or watching, but engaging and interactive. Holograms allow talks / presentations by teachers and speakers from anywhere.

Seattle Unity a repository of wisdom.

More tribal energy and going back to our roots – connecting more to nature, equal voice and participation by everyone; connection to our ancestors. More and more burning-man kind of gatherings.

Seattle Unity more involved in local community and social outreach. Practicing our values in more practical ways.

Kitchen and dining area necessary as a way to connect as a community. Round tables are helpful to be able to connect better with everyone at the table; builds conversation and community.

Music will continue to be important.

A place for healing therapies, such as sound healing, energy healing, and other practices.

**GROUP 8**

A place to meet and mourn and honor - not in 50 years, but for now

More integrating spiritual traditions - interfaith, plus. Dervish dancing? Movement integrated into spiritual practice, etc. - not as static as it is now.

World leaders meditating and using/living by Unity principles - thinking things through more

Less focus on God, more focus on community, earth-relationships, and life; some will still need the structure of organized religion but more with the "love one another"; also more technology

And connecting folks at home, be at church virtually

Importance of physical communion with each other - sacred physical connections - eating together, being with each other - becoming honored and recognized as individually important

Worship less regimented, more real - cutting down on the segregation of sects/styles of religions

Many faces of God; being friendly and honoring with each other; individual to individual

Decentralization of spiritual life

Belief in God optional, we honor the Presence no matter what your path is, as long as you are not harming another - it would be great if world leaders work toward togetherness rather than separation; physical space not that import, sharing is - full circle to the realization that all the strife does no good whatsoever, we must shift in consciousness for our children's and future generations' sake

What is happening 50 years ago - changes from that? Same issues, different level - another turn of the spiral, perhaps taking life's preciousness more seriously

OMG - 50 years?! Not feeling optimistic - I have no idea - like the idea of joining in community and appreciation - but physical presence is important to me

Prayer, music, movement, dance

Young peoples' constant contact with their important people - less partnering up, more like a group-mind, ongoing thing - sharing

More sharing on all kinds of levels

The knowledge we are learning about minds and energy flows. Maybe be able to link up energetically

More knowledge of how the brain works - Mind to mind connections now, such as intuition circles, etc.

In an urban environment, patches of nature will become increasingly rare and precious

**Question 2**

The new Seattle unity feels sacred

Like physical books - would like to have a bookstore maybe both real and virtual

Times of all of us gathering and times of smaller groups

Cooking, kitchen, eating together, both SU community and with the wider community, especially those in need

Flow is a really good quality to have in our spiritual community. And inclusiveness, joy, joining together for mutual learning/admiration/support

Technology - Skype etc. - more localized opportunities to learn - virtual classrooms, physically interacting with others

Parking will NOT be an issue

Eating together - celebrations and rituals

A spiritual sanctuary/refuge/gathering place - holding a really beautiful container for sacred space, ceremony - not just for Unity people - kind of like the Compline service at St Marks'

Unity as a provider for the community at large - not specifically "members"

A labyrinth in the floor, available for all

Last thoughts -

Children - integration of them in the church

This spiritual exercise - we come physically together, meet and talk, notes sent to Gail who will send to all of us for further play

**GROUP 9**

Meditation will continue to grow as a spiritual practice so it's important that we have a dedicated space for that.

To grow into the future it's important to know where we came from, therefore a library that holds our history is vital for the future (guess we wrote this?).

Spiritual communities in the future may be the new "community centers", so space for classes, for healing, for connections of all sorts.

For thousands of years people have sat around campfires for telling stories and sharing meals, so it's important for us to have a kitchen.

Small clusters of people will gravitate to the church and out of the church...not so permanent and more fluid....the church will be a sort of crossroads to meet and intersect. Come for fellowship and community, for spiritual healing and renewal and will gravitate out into the community again, so not a mega church, but a sort of satellite.

Astro travel and virtual reality.

Community is so important. There is a rich history of people that have been here for a long time.

Lots of small groups and we will intersect with other groups. On Sunday we will come together.

A greater range of personality and interest of people; lots of ways to connect and more choices to connect.

All kinds of different groups will intersect.

There will be fewer church buildings in the future but many more centers, yoga, etc.; centers for yoga, meditation, dance, music.

Spiritual centers will bring east and west ideas together. Human beings will always need a spiritual life to help deal with complex problems. People will not so much go to "church", but gather at spiritual centers.

Keep in mind water conservancy, harvesting and collecting water to take care of our grounds.

Meditation and mindfulness will be widespread. People will come together in large numbers for sanga. Spiritual community will do a lot of outreach work for communities instead of the government.

There will be a need for a center where we commune due to sense of isolation. Church is a gathering spot, different groups, a sense of communion based on common interests. Going to be a place that is open more, different hours, open all day. Three or four different churches within the church. One attracted young people, older people, but all part of same church seeing different needs. Technology piece to allow them to be a part of the church without them being physically here.

Virtual reality and ability to interact from home with people actually in the building.

Connect people with nature again somehow. Seeing nature while in the church.

More experiential experiences.....home groups.

There will be less traditional medicine, more healing modalities. We could have space for healing, sound healing, energy healing, hands on healing etc.

Also seeing that there is a part of the center that is free from technology and a place to be with each other, silence from electronics, a retreat.

**GROUP 10*****What changes or doesn't change in spiritual practice in 50 years?***

We don't expect a change of focus from the basics of Unity as we know it now:

- Meditation (however, we might become an oasis of silence)
- Community and food (maintaining a kitchen would allow us to do more with weddings or other events)
- Music, more Satsang Sunday-type services- or incorporate more dance/movement
- Classes (in regional/neighborhood groups, as well as on site)
- Artistic expression, an opportunity to show case our artistic expression as congregants
- Involvement in social justice programs

***Assumptions about the future***

- It'll be warmer; assume we will need a way to cool the building
- It'll be harder to get around the city; we'll want to bring people into the church via technology and have a way for them to interact
- Outdoor spaces may be less available in the city so we may be an oasis of greenery, natural sounds, silence

***How the building can support the activities*** (assumption: it's cheaper to design for, and build, the infrastructure at the beginning than to add it later)

- Church as theater- lighting for services as well as for showcasing art
- Flexibility of the space for various uses, flexibility in the furniture to rearrange
- Stained glass so the morning light comes through
- Technologically up to date- current day streaming of services; whatever needs to be in place for technological advances we can anticipate so people can not only receive the service but can participate (we see them)
- Possibly a sprung wooden floor
- Be as green as we can be and conserve money (cost/benefit)
- Efficiency on heating/cooling
- Solar panels
- Consider building so there is a deep pit and piping into the building to keep the temperature fairly consistent (cheaper to heat/cool 10 degrees than 30+ degrees.) Lessons from building in desert areas like Las Vegas.
- Access to garden space- interior and/or roof (might want to build that which would support a rooftop garden even if it isn't done right way- it could produce food in the future), be able to hear birds, see greenery
- If we face Denny Park, greenery/trees are visible from high windows
- Self generating "feng shui" that holds the sacred energy we generate
- Space for more social justice programs for homeless, youth

**GROUP 11****Community**

Inclusivity, safe to be who you are, inviting to anyone / everyone – Kwanza is a great example of this.

Home Groups and Spirit Groups (Small Groups) are a great way to connect and then come together as a big community at special events.

Checking-in / safe place to share what has been going on; non-judgmental; know that it will stay here; understanding and supportive community

Places and spaces to connect; place to go where everybody knows your name; open space

Meditation

Learning from each other and learning from the experience – CONNECTIONS

Touching, hugging, greeting

Learning together; new perspectives

LEARNING – seems to be part of every group

Life-long learning

Select certain books and topics – explore on own and then come together to deepen; safe space;

Home group – reflect on my personal spiritual journey

Services for community around us (SLU) – classes, yoga, tai chi; reading room, poetry reading, events, concerts; interact with community

Diversity everywhere; all people represented; welcoming to everyone – all races / ages

Community for kids

Appreciated and Welcomed / fitting in and belonging

**Services / Programming**

Seder – different practices and rituals of different traditions

What is it about a church / spiritual community that will make someone drive an hour or two?

Transportation – what will make it easier?

“Going to something” and “I take something with me when I leave” – applicable to everyday life – purpose is important – on purpose / doing it on purpose

Love Learning

Something to ‘chew on during the week’ ; spirituality and intelligence both have to be fed – must have spiritual depth

Looking out into the woods – connected to nature

Appreciate seeing everyone at one service

With two services had option to do some other things – have to choose / prioritize now

10:00 am on a Sunday too early – especially for certain people; explore services at other times

Give of your time

### **Activities / Ways to Connect**

“Spirituality is foundation of everything ..... “

Not rigid around what is spirituality / activities are an entry point

Garden Party makes this community accessible – interacting with neighborhood

Have activities for Millennials

Good youth program – all ages involved

Intergenerational activities

Attention to phases of life and that older generations tend to look for spiritual community when they reach that phase

Old hymns / hymnal songs (i.e. for an evening)

Movie night – activities to get people involved

Different hours

Utilize the park and labyrinth

Cornish College connection – arts / performance

Music appeals to many

Allowance for spontaneity / dance / movement; not rigid; space to be as you are and who you are

Outings and ways to connect socially; fellowship opportunities

More opportunities than we may think (i.e. reduced rate or comp) “need to ask”

Taking trips around the country and world

Fundraisers are action based – i.e. hiking trip bid on; dinner for 4...

A lot of connections – different types; varied activities; like a family because they do so many activities together

### **The Space**

Comfy, relaxed space for conversation and small groups

Location accessible

Contemporary ‘church’ includes everyday life – gym / ways to exercise, place to eat all at the same location

Places for conversation / coffee – tea – café on a regular, daily basis / church open all week, every day; Reading room with coffee-tea

Traditional – space is different; feels special and spiritual; a place where there is something greater than just you going on; tapestries and altars so important – to honor all religions in a space, no one religion is greater/ better; individual places to honor, but in open space

Airy and open.... Place people want to come

A place/space walk into where feel home, incredibly moved; energy of the space calls / draws people in; play uplifting music / share pieces of the congregation moving

“Feel like you’re home” when you walk in

### **Integrating Technology**

Millenials come to things they want

Some won’t be able to come here in person; so also looking at technology – now and in the future; reach more broadly

Digital library / listen to a talk from many different spiritual teachers

Home groups – utilize digital media if people cannot get there / something better than skype; included even if you cannot be there physically

Hear talks from different traditions / spiritual paths; choices available; mix of the best possible to the widest

“High-tech and high touch”

Videos / podcasts – build on what we do have and are doing

**GROUP 12**

Flexible space

Community orientation / involved in immediate community

Ability to adapt to virtual environment

Multicultural

Multi-religious practices

Lots of kids / mixed demographics

Meditation – dedicated space for it / flexible for any time

Large space – community oriented / “community space”

Integrated into daily life / life-style

All cultures and all faiths / sharing meal / bounty / lots of kids

Light, airy feel / fung shei / energy flow

Connection to nature and the land – integration of all elements / light / energy

24/7 – integrated in all life

Sacred quiet

Colors – bamboo / natural wood / windows / airy

Benches – not individual chair to enjoy meal together

Communing together

Sanctuary / retreat from the world

**Seattle Unity Specifically**

Having dinner / good conversation on any day / not necessarily work and family

Singing and dancing (similar to long houses)

Relevant in the community – how do we do that

Community center

Community in-person will be even more important

“A Sacred Center for (of) Community”

Full-bodied spiritual practices

Healing spaces / alternate vision how to heal and be healthy

Kids re-integrated in service and all parts of community / continuity in the community / kids teaching us  
– adults open to learning from the children; they bring innocence back and that kind of relationship to  
God

Hear all voices

Rites of passage very needed

“I want a better answer” / new language – accessible / no dogma – dogmatic language

Safe places to ask questions

**INDIVIDUAL CONGREGANT FEEDBACK****CONGREGANT 1**

Just a few thoughts

The world seems to be heading toward more of a virtual world where folks can access different services at a touch of a keystroke. At the same time people will still be hungry for the personal touch.

If people are to join virtually in 3D format with Seattle Unity services - Music Director could include the virtual folks to join in for one part of the chorus and their joyful sounds can be heard in the sanctuary; Minister invites input from the virtual members during the services and their ideas can be heard by the members. We can direct healing to the virtual crowd. All this will create a sense of family.

Despite the trend for virtual.... we will still need a physical space for people of all denominations to meet. I can see partial potlucks still happening especially for Easter, 4th of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas.... plus other important times. This is again a way for people to connect.

There is a small Interfaith church in Ballard area - each week in a month - they hold different type of service ( Christian, Sufi etc.). Perhaps there will be more of that at Seattle Unity.... whether there are more than one area to hold services simultaneously and/or different times; or have a rotating spiritual service.

Seattle Unity can be a place where people from different backgrounds can utilize for small, catered events or other types of events to help sustain the spiritual center.

Perhaps there will a Board with representatives from different faiths/orientations to guide us further.

**CONGREGANT 2**

It would appear that events happen in cycles; nothing new under the Sun, so there is a clarity with what I see in conjunction with what has already been.

Bigger cycles and smaller ones.

For instance, before there was language, people easily communicated through special dreams. They would have been filled with metaphors, such as tribal representations, a dozen moons for a period of time, and also events such as climatic or earth changes; impending volcanic eruptions, floods, and etc.

Animals, as you know, have been prone to react to earthquakes and Tsunamis hours before humans, attuned to energy patterns that are constantly shooting out of our sphere; what rainbows are projected against and what can affect weather patterns.

This, by the way, is what I am so excited about, that the blackbird revealed a word to me in his tongue. I have had some dog whispering experiences, one confirmed by a psychic I was visiting, about some of her dogs past lives.

I have seen future events a half dozen times, so I know that with the Age of Aquarius others will be born and grow up gifted as explained; all strong individuals who can utilize the feminine receptive to unite with others.

As one Age closes and another opens there is a sort of birthing. Troubles. The Age of Pisces was accompanied by such troubles. The Roman Empire collapsed, and the belief in the old gods died with the empire.

The new religion, imperfect as it was, became the power behind kings and queens, and empires, and held the secret of reading and writing.

In the next fifty years there will be another such period, where political and climatic events break down the movie studio like set, which has been the backdrop of the drama we know as life.

We've seen smaller versions of this; buildings are constructed, and have a life span, and then are demolished or burn down; so also places of amusement, transportation systems; even the modern freeway systems are subject to this; alterations made around the Link station at Seatac, to allow the light rail, and in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and in other places freeways have been demolished here and there.

Looking at various periods in recent history, what would have been around for a century now might vanish in one decade. Time seems to be speeding up in this sense.

So---there will be a period of upheaval, thank goodness not a nuclear one, but it still will not be pleasant.

Another template to look at is the Exodus account. The freed technicians were not really ready for the freedom, and kept wanting to return to Egypt. The Elohim tried thinning the herd, but the problem persisted.

So that forty years in the desert. The older generation had to die off. The children, who had never known slavery, but had to also psychologically wean themselves away from parental influence needed that time to become a new race of people.

Some magazines I have read have suggested a generation of Star Children, who will only thrive if their parents are advanced enough spiritually to not quash individuality in their children.

The period will **not** be totally A Night On Bald Mountain (Fantasia/Walt Disney's) because even as things are flying apart, the seeds of the Aquarian Age will start to manifest with new technologies, and new medical understanding.

In another I saw holograms as toys played with by children, just as today children can play with simplified slide projectors.

Over the past few years, before coming to Unity I was being shown---I was also searching for, spiritual truths.

In one I was inspired to go on a tour conducted by the Park Rangers at the Locks, and learned about the Salmon and their spawning.

I could almost hear the word 'Eucharist' as I listened to the account of the death of the Salmon.

It stands to reason that as westerners clear up the Karma with the native Americans due to misled notions of Manifest-Destiny, Native American beliefs will be become parts of Aquarian Age religions.

Years of study and focus may be divided into twelve-year cycle, each dedicated to a different Native American totem (Raven, Coyote, etc)

Native American myths are filled with virgin births and divine yet mortal like men who descend from the sky to assist. (Maybe Unity can honor these virgin births and Native American sons of the Divine in separate services.)

One of the problems that will crop up has to do with human nature. We will advance but not to the level of the Divine. If there are twelve people who witness a fender bender, there will be twelve different interpretations of the accident.

I see the best of The Daily Word being re-purposed as the basis for a new testament, as the Pisces based religion falls out of favor. Too many people will know how much of the writing was formulated, and how dated it will have become, with Star Children growing up to beget more Star Children. Starting all over, however, will necessitate decisions that will be hit and miss.

One group of Psychic leaders will agree on the sections of the Daily Word that are the most universal; which can be read repeatably, finding new meaning in each read.

Others for reasons quite human will disagree, and then there will be the Aquarian Age version of the Apocrypha.

For comparison think of the multiple sources for the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the various communities that held them sacred.

Experiments in re-establishing a new religion will lead to the formation of about a dozen initially, but some will merge with others. There will be in the end a core number based on temperament.