

## **Summary of Dreaming Spirituality in 2050 Conversations Seattle Unity**

The following questions were asked of our Seattle Unity community.

- 1. What does spiritual community and spiritual practices look and feel like 50-years in the future? What will have changed and what will stay the same in regards to spiritual activities?*
- 2. What activities and experiences will be taking place at Seattle Unity within the South Lake Union neighborhood?*

Conversations on these questions took place within our small groups (Home Groups and Spirit Groups) during June and early July. There were also two community-wide meeting opportunities for congregants.

Specific themes came out in many of the group conversations and are summarized below. The detailed notes from each of the groups are provided in Attachment A.

### **Community**

In-person community will remain important and perhaps even more important, despite advances in technology and expanded virtual possibilities.

Seattle Unity continues to be inviting to people of all different backgrounds. Everyone is seen, appreciated, and welcomed.

Small groups will be important as ways for people to connect. There will be less of a hierarchical structure and everyone in the community will have a more equal voice; less minister-centric.

Opportunities to gather and connect over food will always be important.

Healthy communities require people of all ages. Seattle Unity needs to have more diverse programming for youth and young people; more family oriented activities. More kid energy.

Need to maintain safe environment for open and honest discussions.

More connected to the greater community around South Lake Union; expanded outreach and service

Grater diversity in teachings to incorporate other spiritual traditions. Diversity of spiritual traditions and honoring all paths will become more important.

People will be living longer. Find ways to connect people of all different ages.

### **Programming and Services**

Seattle Unity cannot be all things and does not need to provide all aspects of our community's spirituality. What is our core focus, purpose, and vision?

Core questions and values will remain the same – searching for meaning and connection to God / the Divine.

Rituals, ceremonies, and emotional support will continue to be an important service provided (life celebrations and transitions such as rites of passage, weddings, memorials...).

Continuing trend towards “spirituality” more so than “religion”.

Utilize the building 24/7; more activities happening daily and throughout the week with less focus on Sunday.

Greater focus on meditation and spirituality that incorporates the body; tap into how the medical community is advocating meditation and yoga. Movement, music, dance will be more integrated into spirituality; more experiential experiences.

Science and spirituality more integrated.

More family-centered programs and activities; expanded, more active programs for youth. Kids integrated into services and activities – are seen and heard and provided opportunities to lead and teach.

Healing and approaches to maintaining health are integrated with spiritual practices.

More activities that allow people to connect socially and get to know each other; sharing of stories is central to a strong, healthy community.

### **Spaces & Elements of Design**

Dedicated space that feels like a retreat from the ordinary world; beautiful, special, safe, has the feeling of sacredness.

Spaces that invite stillness and quiet as well as spaces that are energetic.

A flexible space that can be used for multiple purposes – small groups, movement, yoga, dance, meditation, music, etc.. Flooring will be important to absorb sound and energy.

Entry way important, so that it feels like there is a noticeable transition from the outer world into a sacred space.

Kitchen is needed, so there are opportunities to connect and gather over meals and eating together. Can also be a benefit for rentals, such as wedding receptions.

Incorporate all elements (water, fire, air, earth); utilize natural light, incorporate glass, feeling of openness, natural wood.

Comfortable, cozy corners and spaces where conversation can happen, like in a café style environment

Integrate nature such as a meditation garden; be able to see the trees of Denny Park through windows, so there feels like there is a connection to nature.

Sustainability important – solar panels, efficient cooling and heating (there may be significant temperature fluctuations in the future); be as “green” as possible considering cost/benefits. Utilize water harvesting if possible.

Highest quality lighting and sound, so that largest space can be used as a theatre; but important that it still feel like holy space and not like a stage.

The building as art that stands out in the neighborhood.

## **Technology**

Streaming services and events will become more of a necessity. Be able to connect virtually; not only so that people can view and hear, but actively participate virtually.

Technology will continue to advance rapidly; design the building so that the technology infrastructure can be easily updated (i.e. removable panels, easy access).

Robust computer learning center and digital library.