

Cherry Grove Friends Church
April 2014
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Andilee Jordan, Rob & Cathy King, Gerridan & Camille Robinette, Bonnie Karben, Misa Chavez, Gato Uranga, Arden Kinser, Johann & Theresa Sonntag, Margie Hammersmith, Andrea Dyroff, Guy Heney, Ollie & Karen Brown, Diane Brimm, Rob & Toni Woodard, Bob & Ida Horne, Phyllis Berger, Rick & Paula Boehm, Tom & Brenda Pritchard, Jamie, Debbie, & Becky Skinner, Sandi Wooley, Brian & Beth Means, Kara Wooley, Cleone Jacobson, Diana Daniels, Jeri Braskett, Linda Adolfsen

Meeting opened in prayer.

No ministry teams had anything to report.

Following the previous week's Spiritual Gifts Seminar, we opened a time of discussion and listening to the Spirit as to what Cherry Grove was called to through this experience. This time of discussion was opened by Cathy with a reflection on the Seminar (attached) and a time of silence.

Two large moments of recognition came to the group. First, the recognition that our sense of being a loving church body has not necessarily equated with being a body that knows each other well and deeply. We realized we don't know each other's giftedness well. The group agreed it strongly desires to know and explore each other's giftedness better. We want to **learn more** about each other, and **nurture** each other with **grace** and **patience** as we each **develop** and **play** with our giftedness.

Second, we had the recognition that we as a church body **don't have to fit into a box** for what a church is supposed to look like. This came as a relief, freeing us from finding a specific direction at this exact moment while we play with our various gifts.

The Spiritual Giftedness of the individual members of Cherry Grove, at least as well as known at the moment, seems to concentrate in the cluster of **Exhortation, Hospitality, Mercy, and Giving**. But it's clear that our knowledge is still incomplete as not all of us have gone through the process of identifying our gifts, and some of us are too busy living some of our gifts to take the time to reflect on what other gifts we might have.

As the conversation moved along, themes and repeated phrases arose – highlighted in bold throughout this document. One was a theme of Cherry Grove being filled with **seed sowers** – people who encourage, create space, and plant ideas for others to join in on – or even run with on their own. A second theme was **introversion** – we appear to be a congregation filled with a greater-than-average number of introverts, which will affect how we live out our gifts, like a

flavoring. However, the fact that we have more introverts than average shouldn't be an excuse to keep us from using our gifts. A third theme, tying together a number of the items above, was the recognition that a lot of our use of gifts will be in **unique and one-on-one** connections, not following specific, defined paths to express ourselves, and probably not in large group settings, but humbly following the leadings of the Holy Spirit in our gifts exploration.

With the encouragement to continue these discussions into the future, and with a peaceful recognition that what we're doing by exploring and playing with our gifts is where God is asking us to be at the moment, the meeting was closed.