

World Café Results

Below are the recommendations the World Café Task Force has drawn from the 12 pages of suggestions that came out of the World Café. The document begins with a bulleted list of recommendations. The numbered paragraphs after that give more background and discussion of how and why we reached these recommendations.

Summary of recommendations

- **A Community Action Coordinating Council:** A quarterly meeting of representatives from all committees/groups that have interests or activities related to social action. This council would be an “umbrella” group, called something like the Community Action Coordinating Council. The quarterly meetings would let the groups communicate about their activities, coordinate activities as needed, and plan for joint activities. Initial committees/groups would be the Social Action Committee, the PIA Local Organizing Committee, the Children’s RE Committee, the Adult RE Committee, New Horizons (at least they’ve been invited), and perhaps others; suggestions welcome.
- **Annual planning meeting:** A major planning effort for the council at the spring quarterly meeting, probably in March. In addition to the normal activities, this meeting would focus on overall coordination for the following church year, and on selecting one year-long, churchwide project, similar to this year’s Second Harvest effort. This meeting would be open to any church member or group with an interest in planning and/or participating in the following year’s activities.
- **Minutes:** The minutes or other reports of each group’s meetings would be sent to all the other committees. Beverly Morgan has offered to be the contact point for all the groups.
- **Community Action graphic:** Creation of a Community Action graphic template showing the groups in the Council, their current projects, and project contact information. The graphic would be used on bulletin boards, on web pages, and in the newsletter to represent all our social action activities. Its purpose would be to let people easily find out what social action activities are going on, or upcoming, and whom to contact to learn more. (Help from a graphic designer in creating the graphic template would be most appreciated.)
- **Web pages:** New web pages under the church “Social Action” web page. These pages would include the graphic, show the projects under each committee, and have links to more information for each project. (Help from a web designer would also be welcome.)
- **PR capability:** In the future, a PR person for our communications outside the church. The Pacific Central District (PCD) is reputed to be working on developing PR capability, and if so we would like to tap into that.

Background on recommendations

1. We began the discussion of possible reorganization by talking about the needs that the reorganization should address. We concluded that the existing committees that have some current or potential role in social action—at least the Social Action Committee, the PIA Local Organizing Committee, the Adult RE Committee, and the Children’s RE Committee—have different functions and cannot easily be combined or brought under one umbrella. We concluded that the real need for these committees is communication and coordination with each other. Our proposal is for a quarterly meeting, similar to the Council of Committee Chairs, to be attended by a representative, or preferably two, of each committee. The quarterly group should have a name so it is a visible result of the World Café. The early spring meeting should be a planning meeting for the following church year, in which the committees can consider how they can coordinate activities and build on each other’s work.
2. In the interim, these committees should copy their minutes to each other’s representatives.
3. One task for the planning meeting should be the selection of one yearlong churchwide project in which all members can participate. (This project would be in addition to the other projects the committees might undertake separately or together.) This approach has been used in the past to create at least one long-term, highly visible social action commitment for the community. As an outcome of our first meeting in October 2008, we have already begun a project for this church year for the Second Harvest Food Bank.
4. We discussed the need for better communication of social action activities to the congregation as a whole. We came up with the idea of a graphic—perhaps a pie chart—showing the four committees, with callouts listing the current activities of each committee. The lists might be put onto the “ingredients” of the pie—for example, apples—and these could change monthly or whenever the activities changed, in order to get people to look at them again. (Apples in September, pumpkins in October, etc.) The overall graphic could be titled “Justice and Outreach.” We could use it in the newsletter, on the Social Action bulletin board, and on the Social Action web page, which currently describes the activities of the Social Action Committee in 2006 and nothing about any other committee. The graphic on the web would have links to pages with more details about the committees and/or projects and a contact person.

To be useful, the graphic would have to be updated on a regular basis—perhaps as often as monthly—so people would get used to looking for project information on it. It might have others uses as well: we could ask for volunteer coordinators for project ideas there, and those that got one would happen while those that didn’t would not. Also, a comprehensive list of projects might help people get a better grasp of the various things we’re doing, and might lessen the sense some people mentioned that maybe we’re stretched too thin.

5. We need someone to design the new web pages and to keep them updated. Dave George has been maintaining the web site; he might be able to do the pages for us, or perhaps Carol and/or Susan could learn how to do them. The updating of lists will need to be by members of each committee. Debra will be able to do the web page updates, although it might be best if others did it, since her work load is very heavy.
6. We need a PR person to be responsible for getting the word to the broader community about what we do. David Vallerger had said that PCD is going to contract for PR capabilities, and we may be able to tap into that to help us. We may need to ask a volunteer to take on this role for the Fellowship as a whole, or at least for our four committees. This person would need to identify good advertising vehicles for us, prepare press releases and community calendar listings, and perhaps write the occasional article for local papers about notable things we've done or are doing.

Thanks to Debbie Mytels and Kaye Bonney for the major task of transcribing and categorizing the results. The activities and categories each drew from them were very similar, which is a validation of the process and the analysis. Other Task Force members were Thomas Atwood, Susan McBain, Julia Older, Carol Cross, Beverly Morgan, DeeDee Stovel, Jonelle Preisser, and Susan Lehman. Many thanks for all the effort.