

“Association” includes you

Lee’s Summit, Missouri—news flash! 60 Unity leaders and change agents from all stakeholder groups—ministers, licensed teachers, spiritual leaders, ministry board trustees, staff and congregants, regional and Association board of trustees and staff from 8 regions gathered for the first ever regional appreciative inquiry summit. The topic—*Building Amazing Partnerships...Growing Enlightened Leaders* was explored over a 3 day period at the Spiritual Life Center. The purpose: “As Spirit guides us through our multi-year restructuring process, we are seeking new ways to form partnerships with and among the regions to create an integrated whole working together.” In keeping with the summit topic of building partnerships region to region and regions to Association, participants formed teams around 13 initiatives. A sampling includes:

- **Spanish Communication System**—to make all materials available electronically in Spanish from the home office. Identifying and working with translators.
- **Regional Leadership**—to develop a pilot project for paid regional staff to coordinate service, develop and provide training and support for new and existing ministries and transitional consulting.
- **Leading Edge**—to develop and refine an enlightened leadership program by field testing a pilot organizational and leadership model in various size ministries over 3 years beginning March 2008.
- **Share Your Genius**—to design web exchange for easy access to cutting edge resources, ideas and programs.
- **Emerging Leaders**—to serve the 11-35 age group by mentoring those who drop away from church involvement.

Using the term “our Association” to mean board, staff and ministry teams. “Regions” are board, staff and member ministries. From this came the decision to use the term “home office” when talking about the staff in Lee’s Summit and not the Association. There was a renewed awareness that the Association includes all congregations, leaders and staff as well as the regions and home office.

Rev. James Trapp (President and CEO) says “The Summit was a smashing success. The conversations between the regions, home office staff and board members had good energy.”

Lynne Murray, board president at Unity Santa Fe, says, “I liked focusing on the possibility of what we want more of. As a board president, I feel more a part of the Unity movement. I now know the faces of people and the resources they provide. There were really great connections! I feel we are the Association.”

Rev. Allen Moss, minister at Tampa Unity and Chair of the Summit Planning team shared his thought. “I thought the summit was exceptionally well done and some wonderful initiatives came out of it. From it I have a dream that the regions will take more ownership and more involved in these initiatives as we take the Association to the next level.”

Updates on the initiatives as they unfold at the home office and within the regions will be posted on our Association’s website www.unity.org.

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Barbara O’Hearne
Church Management Consultant
Email: ohearnekc@aol.com

www.unity.org

Lisa Wittman
VP of Marketing & Development
Email: dom@unity.org