

## ***SAMPLE LARGE GROUP PROCESS SCHEDULE***

GPNW Mission Center  
“Heart to Heart Talk” Weekend  
September 26-28, 2008  
Portland Community of Christ

### **“Blessing Our Children and Future Generations”**

**Saturday, September 27, 2008**

#### **AM**

8:30 – 9:30 Registration (*planning for 150 attendees*)

9:30 – 9:45 Attendees gather in pre-assigned small group circles in the room. (*Small groups with even numbers of members will be pre-assigned for maximum mix, and pairs within small groups pre-determined to match older and younger generations as much as possible given mix of registrants. Group size will be 8-10 members in 15 groups, based on room limits. Planning team members will either function as observers or to fill in groups to achieve full groups and even number in each group.*)

9:45 – 10:10 Welcome by Kathy Sharp as MC Pres, quick Introductions of Guests: Brocks, Erica Blevins, Susan Skoor; song, opening prayer by Skoor.

10:10 – 10:20 Dean gives overview of the process for today’s sessions – “seeking cross-generational dialogue and sharing, suspension of judgment about other generations and mental models of what church and religious life is or must be, generous and deep listening about past experiences of life in a loving community (church, spiritual or otherwise), hopes for life in such a community and what we as C of C can do to support those hopes”; does brief icebreaker exercise for small group members.

10:20 – 10:40 Erica sets the tone from her perspective/experience-“Spiritual Yearnings of Future Generations”

10:40 – 10:45 Give instructions for first small group session - “choose one of several previously distributed appreciative questions about best experience of personal or spiritual blessing or growth, or being part of a spiritual or supportive community, for your paired partner to interview you about. Your partner will share your story with the small group.”

#### **Small Group Session #1**

10:45 – 11:15 Paired interviews within small groups

11:15 – 12:00 Small group sharing of stories from interviews, identify one volunteer to have her/his story shared with large group (break can begin when each interviewer has shared their partner’s story and a volunteer is identified)

#### **PM**

12:00 – 12:45 Break to pick up box lunches bring back to circles, begin eating (*Note: need trash barrels in corners of room for lunch trash – to keep people in the room after eating & minimize mess*)

12:45 – 1:45 Sharing of volunteered stories with the large group while attendees finish eating lunch. (*Two person will be assigned to capture key words from stories on flip charts, to generate a list of common characteristics of shared stories.*)

1:45 - 2:00 (*Stretch exercise*) Introduce and give instructions for second small group session – older member of the each pair in the group will interview the younger member, asking about that person’s hopes and wishes for a future spiritual community, how that community would function in and for their world, and the kind of support they would hope for in order to achieve that community life for themselves and their children. Intent is to give priority to the expressions of the younger participants, and model deep and generous listening on the part of the older participants.

### **Small Group Session #2**

2:00 – 2:30 Paired interviews within small groups

2:30 – 3:15 Small group sharing of hopes and wishes from interviews (Need a volunteer recorder in each group to note the hopes and wishes expressed, to share with the large group, and to turn in for compilation and distribution following the event)

3:15 – 3:45 Break

3:45 -4:45 Sharing of hopes and wishes with the large group. (*Two person will be assigned to capture key words from shared hopes and wishes on flip charts, to generate a list of common characteristics of shared hopes and wishes.*)

4:45 – 5:30 Panel: Erica Blevins-Nye, youths & a young adults – Reflections on the hopes and wishes of youth and young adults

5:30 – 7:30 Dinner out in small groups (Have sign-up for dinner groups based on one’s preference for the restaurant )

7:30 – 8:30 Group board game evening

8:30 – 9:30 Planning Team/Brocks/Skoor/Blevins-Nye/Sharp and/or those as appropriate meet and digest the feed back for the Sunday Morning presentations—development of Provocative Propositions and commitments of leadership to carry forward and support the process we have experienced.

### **Sunday, September 28, 2008**

#### **AM**

9:00 – 9:15 Brief welcome, opening hymn & prayer

9:15 – 10:00 Panel of Apostle Skoor, Sharp, Blevins-Nye, Brocks: Present Provocative Propositions, Commitments etc.

10:00 –10:30 Apostle Skoor closure remarks, hymn, blessing prayer by John Berger

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 - 12:00 Worship service with the Portland congregation. All effort will be made to integrate the experiences of Saturday into the worship service, related to both the style and content of worship; how to demonstrate our listening and response to the hopes and wishes we have heard the previous day, so that there is an immediate acknowledgment in our worship and community life of the sharing and risk-taking of those who participated.