

## Dialogue Group 2 - Summary Notes

Pastor Gina welcomed the approximately 50 members in the fellowship hall, as well as the members joining the conversation through CHAT1, to the second Dialogue Group. We began our time with prayer and grounding the evening in Scripture - Romans 1:7-12, emphasizing "that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith"

We reviewed what was discussed at the first Dialogue Group and shared the News of what has happened most recently in our District and Annual Conference. Attendees were again invited to the upcoming Laity Briefing on our District on Sunday, March 22nd, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Wrights Chapel UMC. A Letter from the VA Conference Lay Delegates to General Conference was handed out, and the church will post this letter on the church's website.

A question was asked about what/where are Central Conferences and the General Conference. FUMC will also share information about these conferences on the church's website.

A time of table conversations and group sharing was had throughout the room. Attendees were asked three questions: 1. What are your hopes and fears about upcoming General Conference. 2. If you could speak to all the delegates for General Conference, what would you say to them. 3. What is your feeling of the pulse of FUMC regarding the Conference as we approach the GC in May?

Attendees spoke with their table mates for several minutes. The whole group had opportunities to share insights from their table conversations with everyone at the Dialogue Group. There was a sense that Attendees would say to our delegates that we would like them to make a decision. There was also a feeling that the attendees do not know what the pulse of the church is as we move towards GC.

There are several next steps that are in process.

- Pastor Jim is coordinating plans for a prayer ministry.
- A Lenten Study on Inclusivity begins this Wednesday, March 4th. This will be a 6-week class, called Faithful and Inclusive, begins this Wednesday evening at 5:30. This seeks to take us beyond easy answers and provides us with a safe and gracious forum to consider new perspectives on the lives of those who are in our families, neighborhoods and churches. Through facilitated discussion, video teaching and the study of scripture, participants will join in a quest for deeper understanding. It does not seek to convince anyone of any particular view; rather it seeks to provide a method that allows participants to come to their own perspective. Sign up for the Wednesday dinner, pick it up, and bring it to the class (or bring your own, if preferred) Questions? Email Dr. Rev. Mochel Morris [mochelmorris@vaumc.org](mailto:mochelmorris@vaumc.org).
- There is organizing of a meeting of LGBTQ individuals and family members of those who are LGBTQ.

In addition to the named next steps for the Dialogue Group, attendees shared two additional items they would like to know moving forward:

How do we communicate to our Virginia Delegates to GC what we would like them to voice at conference? Warren Harper was named as the head and contact person for the Lay Delegates, and Rev. Tom Berlin was named as the head and contact person for the Clergy Delegates. The church will try to share their contact information on the church website.

A desire to hear more, different voices in dialogue was expressed.

The Dialogue Group will meet again on 3/26 at 6:30 p.m.