

## SUMMARY OF DISCOVERY CIRCLE 2015 - 2017

Discovery Circle has been operating on the premise that the mandate given the group in October 2015 is still current. Our discussions are very wide-ranging and cover many topics. But if we were to sum up **our understanding of the role of Discovery Circle**, it might be thus: *DC is the vision keeper for the implementation and operation of KUC as A Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery*

DC carries out that role by:

- reviewing, updating at the vision, goals, strategies and plans of the Centre at regular intervals
- identifying leaders (paid or volunteer) with the interest and capabilities to undertake various Centre initiatives
- brainstorming ideas for action and in some instances (especially if there is no other appropriate group at KUC), initiating and undertaking that action
- encouraging and supporting groups and individuals to initiate activities and events that are consistent with the values and mission of the Centre

If Discovery Circle were asked to describe **KUC as A Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery**, we might say:

*“The Centre is a hub where inclusive hospitality is practiced, community is created and nurtured, and spiritual discovery is experienced in a myriad of ways. Come and see!”*

Thus DC understands the three vital elements of the Centre as 1. inclusivity / hospitality; 2. spiritual learning / discovery; and 3. community.

Ways in which the above understanding of the Centre is manifest include book studies, public forums, workshops, interfaith activities, alternative worship, meals, music events, and support for other agencies and groups. While Discovery Circle is charged with being its “vision keeper”, the Centre is made real and lived out by the attitudes, activities, plans, events and focus of all groups and individuals within the KUC congregation.

In a recent email to some Council Circle members, Chris Dolson aptly described Kamloops United Church as A Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery thusly:

“The Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery is not intended to be viewed as a separate entity from KUC. KUC is a Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery. Any programs, service to others, worship, ministries, studies, forums etc. etc. offered by KUC is done through the lens of our identity

as a Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery. So, the Fishing Tips book study is a CCSD program. The Affirming Workshop, although coordinated by the Affirming groups and facilitated by Allison Rennie was a CCSD program. The MAiD public forum was a CCSD program, and had guest speakers with a number of KUC folk doing the [organizing] work. Jazz Vespers is a CCSD offering. PITStop is offered as a ministry of the Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery. UCW is supported because we are a Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery. Ideally, every one of the ministries of KUC are viewed through the lens of the CCSD. “

### **2017 Activities and Initiatives of Discovery Circle**

- continued follow-up/discussion/action on many of the initiatives begun before 2017
- continued support and encouragement for existing programs as noted (eg. Labyrinth Ministry, Jazz Vespers, Community Lunch, Aboriginal Ministry)
- encouraged and supported new initiatives being undertaken by KUC (sometimes with a partner group) under the umbrella of the Centre (eg. Affirming Ministry, PRIDE choir, Celebrating Faith Connections)
- initiated and hosted (with Bruce Comrie) two Newcomers’ Luncheons
- undertook, facilitated or encouraged a facilitator for the following “spiritual discovery / spiritual nurturance / community-building programs:

*St. Paul for the Perplexed series* (facilitator: Chuck Anderson)  
*Lenten Challenge*

*Jesus Fatwa – Living the Questions* (facilitator: Dawne Taylor)

*Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Pain* (facilitator: Leslie Hall)

*Epiphany Exploration videos re-play from 2017 event*

*Medical Assistance in Dying Public Forum* (organizers: Dawne Taylor and Cheryl Lyall)

*StoryFest* (facilitators: Ralph Milton et al), including hosting a dinner for presenters the night before the event

*Affirming Workshop* (facilitator: Allison Rennie)

*Fishing Tips Book Study* (facilitator: George Johnson)

- on-going discussions on how to involve the 25-40 year age group

### **Moving into 2018 - Envisaged Activities and Initiatives of Discovery Circle**

- meet as a group with Council Circle as a group; develop agenda together;

consider how work of Council and DC dovetail and ensure on same page;  
vision together in broad terms for the Centre in future years

- continue follow-up/discussion/action on many of the initiatives begun before 2018
- continue support and encouragement for existing programs as noted above  
(eg. Labyrinth Ministry, Jazz Vespers, Community Lunch, Aboriginal Ministry, Affirming Ministry)
- encourage and support new initiatives which may be undertaken by KUC
- continue to be the “vision keeper” for the Centre by envisaging and articulating possibilities, dreams, hopes, obstacles, etc.
- meet with each group / ministry at KUC to speak about KUC as A Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery, and explore how that group sees itself as contributing to the Centre, and how its contributions might be enhanced
- improve communication with the congregation about the Centre, and clarify the role of Discovery Circle and all groups within the church vis-à-vis the Centre
- follow-up and perhaps take responsibility for exploring and implementing some of the ideas which emerge from the Fishing Tips study
- identify leaders who might offer programs or undertake initiatives as part of the Centre; support such leaders, and assist them in developing their leadership skills and abilities to vision, initiate and implement
- plan and lead a worship service
- encourage the development of “small groups” within KUC (ie. groups with members with a common interest or goal) to build community and enhance spiritual discovery
- expand into the Kamloops community by connecting with agencies, groups, etc. to solicit info and “advertise” KUC as A Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery
- develop concrete plans for “keeping in touch” with congregants, including some kind of follow-up with those who leave the congregation
- confirmed workshop for spiritual discovery / nurturance:

*Theological Banquet, March 17* (facilitator: Rev. Dr. Janet Gear) – for KUC and K-O Presbytery

- discussions on other possible events for spiritual discovery / nurturance / public involvement include:

*Lectionary Study*

*Christianity 101*

*Spiritual Practices Workshop or Group*

*Book Studies*

*Public Forum on Reconciliation* (in conjunction with Aboriginal Ministry)

**NB.** All past, present and future endeavours and activities of Discovery Circle involve consultation, discussion, liaison, coordination and cooperation with other KUC groups and individuals. The hiring of an Administrative Manager has greatly enhanced the work of Discovery Circle as the incumbent has assumed most of the advertising and publicity responsibilities.

November 21, 2017