

## FINAL REPORT – April 10, 2007

- Attendance: There were thirty-nine people at the weekend including the retreat leader and his wife.

Northfield UMC - 24	Northfield Residents - 6	Twin Cities Area - 7
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- Scholarships: 1 full at \$150.00; 3 partial at \$100.00 each. Total \$450.00
- Cancellations: Kathleen Joyce, John Burke, Molly Peterson and Marlys Behr. Cancellation policy applied.
- Everyone stayed the entire time.
- The retreat team reflected on the weekend following the last session and clean-up. Generally we were pleased with the outcome and have communicated suggested changes to the leader. Summary of participant comments:

People enjoyed being at tables with five other participants and appreciated sharing in small “huddles”. Some felt the sessions were too long. Generally people would have liked to have had the essays handed out ahead of time. Replies to question about significance and benefit of the weekend for me?”

- ❖ It made me think in a new way.
- ❖ I have simple anchors for complex ideas.
- ❖ I share a common language and set of experiences with people.
- ❖ I appreciated being with people who care deeply within the context of belief.
- ❖ We were making theology real and grounding it for ourselves
- ❖ A welcome break from routine with time for self-reflection

Overall comments from one or more people:

- Include more scripture.
- Get Christians of the left and the right to talk and respect each other and bring harmony to the Christian community.
- Spend time huddled with people in other congregations.
- Explore how demands of our world have shifted; determine key questions of our time; identify who is addressing them.
- Hope the retreat dynamic becomes an annual event for the congregation.
- Have seen more deeply into people and take back a depth of awareness of people.
- People appreciated the variety of viewpoints in the group.
- Writings of the four theologians discussed were good from an intellectually spiritual standpoint, would have liked more to have spent more time on personal faith journey.
- Felt it would be good to include more current theological readings in future retreats, women’s voices, contemporary voices.
- Would like more call to action at the end.

- Calling the weekend a “retreat” led to expectations that there would be more time for individual faith journey work.
- It was difficult singing the songs. Enjoyed reading the songs and getting their message later.
- Parts of the program felt outdated.
- Arrange for longer meal times.
- Some comments were made about the leader’s style. Those were communicated to him.

Thinking about the future:

- Have the congregation strengthen and focus its work within the local community on behalf of the larger community.
- Ecumenical group follow-up with study and action
- Offer a revised version, not called a retreat, jointly sponsored by several churches.
- Have a follow-up conversation with opportunity for people to share ideas and feelings about the weekend.
- A good catalyst for on-going exploration, accountability and support.