

FIRST UU AUSTIN -- *Bridge to Our Future*
Board Retreat – Filling the Nested Bowls of Values, Mission & Ends
June 12, 2010

Objectives – *By the end of this retreat we will:*

- *Discern and articulate core values and energizing mission and vision to inspire and guide the future of First UU Austin; and*
- *Articulate the next steps to finalize this foundational step in First Austin’s transition*

Core Questions:

Who are our sources of authority and accountability, whose voices and perspectives we represent in order to inform our core values, mission and ends? (***Moral Ownership***)

What qualities of our religious community will we carry forward into our future as a primary reference for all we do? (***Shared Core Values***)

What overarching difference are we here to make and for whom? Whose lives do we intend to change and in what way? (***Mission or Global End***)

What specific, measurable differences will we make, for whom, and at what cost or priority within some specified period of time? (***Vision or Ends***)

Agenda:

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| 8:30 | Gather for a light breakfast |
| 9:00 | Chalice Lighting & Opening Words |
| 9:05 | Review objectives, agenda, and today’s process |
| 9:15 | General reflections on the Bridge to Our Future experience and results |
| 9:30 | Starts with Moral Ownership – <i>who are our primary moral owners and how do they inform our work today?</i> |
| 9:50 | Discerning Shared Core Values – <i>work in small groups</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Core values from other sources of authority & accountability– Core values from Bridge to Our Future sessions – exploring themes and prevalence in small groups |
| 10:30 | <i>10-minute BREAK</i> |
| 10:40 | Discerning Shared Core Values – <i>work in full group</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Small groups report out sets of 3-5 core values |

- Full group synthesis
- 11:10 APPLAUSE! 5-minute “Stretch” BREAK
- 11:15 From VALUES to MISSION -- the overarching difference(s) First Austin is in the world to make and for whom. Identify mission-related themes. Does the overarching difference encompass *within*, *among*, and *beyond*?
- Full group brainstorming of mission-related themes from Bridge to Our Future results and/or inspired by consideration of other sources of authority and accountability.
 - Small groups discern & articulate expressions of mission
 - Small groups report out and post expressions of mission
- 12:15 LUNCH
- 1:00 Discern & Articulate single expression of mission in full group
- 1:50 APPLAUSE! 10-minute BREAK
- 2:00 From MISSION to ENDS: Identify specific differences in lives through living into the mission. Distinguish *within*, *among*, and *beyond* differences, and *near-term* and *longer-term* differences
- Full group brainstorming of ends themes from Bridge to Our Future results and/or inspired by consideration of other sources of authority and accountability.
 - Small groups discern & articulate expressions of ends
 - Small groups report out and post expressions of ends
- 3:05 Synthesize small group expressions into a final set of Ends statements
- 3:45 APPLAUSE! Reflection & Appreciation
- 3:50 Next Steps to finalize this foundational phase in the transition process
- 4:00 Closing Words & Extinguish the Chalice