

**1. Name one characteristic or aspect of American Christendom that you valued, the loss of which you now grieve (Anne Long)**

- Sense of community
- Idea of time set aside for Sabbath
- Offspring will not experience church support/family
- Loss of respect for heritage/tradition of our country
- Deep roots of identity
- Vigorous and growing movement with teens and young adults
- Loss of community of faith
- Talk about "church" and people think you're a little "nuts"
- Feeling weird in a secular culture
- Loss of religion as a valued part of life/society; link of religion to scandal
- Loss of Golden Rule
- Lack of interaction with other generations; lack of influence, lack of continuity

*Bob's group:*

- People caring for each other
- Interconnectedness
- Explaining cultural references during advent

**2. Picture a spectrum with "inherited faith" at one end and "chosen faith" at the other. Where would you locate yourself on that spectrum? (Susan Russell)**

- Only one member was in the church he or she inherited; all others are in the faith/church they chose. However, most had started with an inherited faith.
- Some journeys involved many steps, based on life stages, geography, or influence of family.
- One member, without an inherited faith, located herself outside the continuum.

*Anne's group:*

No one was still with an inherited faith; most with somewhere in between chosen and inherited, with four with chosen faith.

- Wouldn't get to "chosen" if didn't start with "inherited"
- Grew up in this church but chose to stay
- Choice was made as part of spiritual journey

**3. Do a free association with the word "mission". What words/images /people come to mind when you hear "mission"? (Bob Winbigler)**

- Helping others
- Service
- Spanish missions
- Christian missionaries: going out to convert, serving overseas, with churches sending money and support
- Teaching missionaries, not trying to convert or evangelize

- Meeting changing needs: New Orleans, Haiti, homeless/housing
- Meeting needs in our community: Interfaith Housing for homeless families; great need in our country
- Giving money/time/service
- Define goal: what are you trying to accomplish? Mission statement.
- OCC Missions:
  - ~ Orinda Senior Village
  - ~ Holden School
  - ~ TOPS
  - ~ Winter Nights
  - ~ Interfaith Housing
  - ~ Guatemala (Common Hope)
- OCC was one of original five churches, now 25+ churches
  - ~ Family support
  - ~ Prevent homelessness
  - ~ Permanent housing
- "Being called"
- Economic needs: job loss/unemployment, layoffs in all socioeconomic groups
- Demonstrating love of Christ

*Anne's group:*

Mormons  
 Elsewhere  
 Needy  
 Homelessness  
 Tenderloin  
 Our own block  
 Spanish Conquistadores  
 Self-righteous proselytizing  
 Damage!  
 Mexico mission trip  
 Participation-building community  
 Gifts received

**4. Name one exciting opportunity you see hidden in the death of Christendom. (Sabine Hathaway)**

- Release in our consciousness from the control, manipulation and power of government for religious communities
- Freedom to question
- Opportunity to move forward to become spiritually more active, healthy & engaged in the community

**5. Imagine a spectrum with "modern" at one end, and "postmodern" at the other. Where would you locate yourself on the spectrum and why? (Kurt Sunderbruch)**

Nancy: post-modern, moving from religious structure/tradition to spiritual

Dixon: Modern, raised by Presbyterian minister, moving toward post-modern

Robin: raised Catholic, "happy to move to UCC", post-modern. Structured "old" church dogma "not going anywhere"

Judith: Post-post modern. People can take religion and structure and use it as it suits them. Buddhism, Sufism, Hinduism.

Liz: Raised in Hawaii as a Congregationalist.

Susan: I don't have to go to church to be "in church", value Sunday school and the structure.

Meg: Raised as a Presbyterian, has been a Fundamentalist; chosen, not inherited.

**6. Assess the balance of "head" (or reason) and "heart" (or emotion) in your congregation. Would you say that one predominates, or are they fairly evenly balanced? (David Milnes)**

- This church is a highly educated congregation and is less expressive of spiritual emotion in services.
- More head than heart in careful structure/integration of elements in service.
- We were looking for a church with a questioning mind—didn't have to "check our brain" at the door.
- You can be intellectual and still enjoy a rich liturgy, ritual and heavenly music, and appreciate highly decorated churches like the Baroque churches in Europe. But I would not like emotional outbursts.
- I like/am drawn to my childhood traditions, e.g., doxology.
- I think there is a lot of heart in our church—youth/social justice, environment.
- This is my 13<sup>th</sup> church—this is my only church in which I have felt comfortable; we have a balance of head and heart.
- A strong educational church on the most public level/inner groups (commissions, committees filled with heart)
- I'm uncomfortable with overt, emotional, spiritual expression; not our strong point.
- Are we trying to attract people more like us?