

## Public Policy and Environmental Action Team

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

- Reflection:
  - “One is tempted to swat away the possible because it is not the probable and relieve oneself of the vulnerability of hope.” Dr. Catherine Keller
- Introduction of tonight’s discussion (5 min)
  - Review agenda
  - Explain red/blue conversations cheat sheet
  - Explain breakout group and report out process
  - Ground rules:
    - Use I statements
    - No right or wrong-the purpose is to understand where the speaker is coming from; what matters to them
    - Avoid personal attacks and taking personally any statements you disagree with
  - Divide into groups of 3 (20 mins)
    - Decide on a reporter.
    - There will be three rounds, taking turns observing, speaking from the blue perspective using blue language, and speaking from the red perspective using red language. Each round gets four minutes, followed by two minutes for processing, giving each person a chance to share, without judgment, their observations and experiences. The observer listens and watches, including body language and tone of voice.
  - Report out to full group (2 mins for each group) (10 mins)
    - Feedback
      - Awkward to be advocating something you don’t believe
      - It was a good start
      - Important benefit was trying to look at something and allowing another person to make a case for a different point of view
      - Let each other talk, put information on the table so it can be heard and respected
      - Agreeing with something the conversation partner said, and then adding to it
    - Topics
      - Should the government be giving money to people who can’t support themselves
      - Government healthcare
      - Mask mandates
      - Gun rights
  - Full group discussion (15 mins)
  - Brainstorm where do we want to go with this
  - Conclusion (5 mins)

- Decide on action steps between now and the next meeting
  - Who should we be having conversation with?
    - Neighbors
    - District
    - People in our lives we can invite
    - Some conservative folks at St. Luke's
    - Other conservative church groups?
  - What are we going to talk about?
    - Sharing our values
    - Conversation across difference
    - Exploring labels we give each other
      - What does conservative and liberal mean to you in this context
      - Ways that labels don't effectively describe individuals
  - Choose on a set topic
- Next meeting Tuesday September 14, 2021.