

Women's Group Meeting Minutes 4/21/24

Completed by Laura Schreiner

We were given handouts of a "Planning Agenda," the "Women's Wisdom Circle Mission and Core-Values" paper via the previous group, and a sign-up list for the group where attendees ensured their email addresses were logged for continued communication. There were 31 women listed on the email communication list. **There are a few women who do not use e-mail communication; therefore, we will make a few hard-copies of minutes available as needed. Monthly minutes will also be in the Women's Group Binder which will be kept at Unity for group members to utilize as we continue to envision and plan our activities.

1. Bobbi used the white board to jot down possible names for our group. We voted on "Women's Group" as the winner.
2. We re-created a mission statement (based on the previous one on record) which now reads:

**"We are a heart-based circle of women committed to empower, explore,
and expand our spirituality both socially and in service to others.
We do so in consciousness of the Divine Presence we already are."**

3. We agreed to keep the core-values of our group from previous records the same which reads:

Core-Values:

**Unity Based*

**Loving*

**Confidential*

**Thoughtful speaking*

**Active Listening*

**Respectful*

**Compassionate*

**Non-judgmental*

**No fixers*

4. We brainstormed meeting days/times and voted (majority rule) on having meetings ***in-person, at Unity, from 12-2pm, on the first Sunday of every month.*** We did not decide what to do if the date fell on a holiday, or contingency due to other Unity events previously planned, in terms of re-scheduling the meetings as needed.

5. We discussed what "Women's Group" should be in terms of what we'll offer each other and how best to sub-categorize those needs as we continue to unfold a joint vision. Thus far, we categorized the needs and wants of "Women's Group" into **three sub-categories**:
 1. **Ongoing Support** (Ex. showing up as a group, being there for each other, internal bonding)
 2. **Women's Retreat** (Ex. a weekend getaway event)
 3. **Specific Project/Theme/Event** (all gatherings with a focus or finite planning, such as a social event, book club, single or multiple presentation(s) on topics of interest, service-work)
6. We discussed "open" vs. "closed" groups and dynamics, and pros and cons of each. Inclusivity was important to everyone, as well as accessibility and feeling safe in a trusted environment. Confidentiality as in "what is exchanged between us in group, stays in the group" was reiterated.
7. We discussed the value of women gathering for support (in whole) and we heard the many needs and desires before us. Attendees expressed gratitude for the start of this Women's Group.