



**Church of the Redeemer
Visions of Ministry
Open Space Report**

Topic: **Program Review: Adult Learning**

Summary of Key Discussion Points:

- Intersection with:
 - Small group activity
 - Outreach to post-modern society/culture
 - Care of aging community
- Energy focused on Bible Study Working Group.
- How can we provide more tools to help people read, hear and critique an ancient document? How to help people become more rooted?
- How to engage those who say the Bible is not for them – not just an intellectual exercise – is there a way to wrestle together with “stuff”?
- Model and process questions: teaching vs experiential/interactive; lecture vs small groups for study and fellowship. People liked both, but raised questions:
 - How do we know what people need from Bible Study so we are formulating programs that respond to those needs
 - House Groups: diversity (including seekers); mobility/flexibility allows us to go to people who may not be able to come to us or want to come to us.
- Key question: what is our overarching vision? How can we begin to fashion adult learning that serves the overarching vision of “formation”
- Need to focus on how learning is part of a larger project. Curriculum or “flow” especially with newcomers or seekers so there is some direction and people are enabled/empowered to “root themselves”.

Next Steps:

- Establish overarching vision for adult learning ministry area.
- Identify gaps – probably need a mix of “structured teaching”, lectio, small faith groups, and “ongoing” small groups, but what are the gaps?
- Address models, processes, leadership and other resources.
 - Address learning style
 - Consult people in the community with expertise in adult education
 - No to expansion of core areas: Bible Study, Newcomers, Faith Development
 - More about:
 - How do we go deeper?
 - How do we do our learning differently, especially in service of a larger community project?