

A Template to Host a Conversation on the Lasallian Reflection
Suggested Participants: Boards of Trustees
“One Call, Many Voices: Sustaining Spirituality Amidst Secularization”

A Summary of the Lewis University Board of Trustees’ Use of “One Call, Many Voices” (Fall 2016)

The Board of Trustees Mission & Identity Committee

The members of the Mission & Identity Committee were asked to read the “One Call, Many Voices” Lasallian Reflection prior to their Fall Committee Workshop, which took place in September. During the meeting, 30 minutes was set aside for discussion of this Reflection by the Committee members. Brother Michael Fehrenbach, FSC, (Lewis University/Midwest District) provided background and led the activity. A worksheet designed to help facilitate dialogue featured the following prompts:

1. Three things I thought were important and I want to remember...
2. Something that is consistent with my own personal experience...
3. The reading stimulated something I am wondering about: Who? What? What If? How? Can We?
4. How can we bring our insights to the full Board of Trustees? How might this committee be a leaven in the ongoing work of the Board of Trustees?

Committee members appreciated the time for reflection and the opportunity to discuss this reading. It was a valuable experience for them and they are looking forward to similar opportunities. The discussion around question number four above led to a plan for how to use the document with all members of the Board.

The Full Board of Trustees

Members of the full Board of Trustees were asked to read the “One Call, Many Voices” Lasallian Reflection prior to their October meeting. They were to reflect on three of the same four questions that the Mission & Identity Committee discussed:

- Three things I thought were important and I want to remember...
- Something that is consistent with my own personal experience...
- The reading stimulated something I am wondering about: Who? What? What If? How? Can We?

At about the mid-point in the four-hour October meeting, Brother Larry Schatz, FSC, (Midwest District Provincial) and Dr. Kurt Schackmuth (Vice President for Mission and Academic Services) introduced “One Call, Many Voices” and the exercise. Board members were seated at round tables and members of the Mission & Identity Committee were each seated at one of those tables and served as discussion facilitators. Over the course of 25 minutes, Board members discussed their reactions to the document. Board members were not required to report summaries of their table discussions. The intent was simply to create an opportunity for small group discussion and reflection.

Feedback regarding this exercise was very positive. Board members enjoyed the theme, the opportunity to discuss it with one another, and the use of this discussion as a break in the routine agenda.