

AS4US NEWSLETTER

APOSTOLIC STRATEGIES FOR UNITY SESSIONS

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AS4US is a monthly newsletter published by Center for Global Diplomacy, but the content was developed from the group of faith leaders assembled. The purpose is threefold in nature: first, it aims to promote unity among leaders in faith community; second, it wants to develop dialogues among those who are accustomed monologues; and third, it wills to assist leaders with strategies for spreading unity within their organizations and ultimately throughout the world.



IF YOU KNOW FAITH LEADERS WHO DESIRES TO BUILD UNITY INVITE THEM TO THE SESSIONS

FOUR STRATEGIES FOR PURSUING UNITY

Several faith leaders from across Hampton Roads sat down for nearly three hours and had what could only be called open dialogue. There was no planned agenda. The discussion was organic yet focused. Understanding this was the first of many sessions, they thought it would be good to focus on the word “unity.” This article reflects some of the most important takeaways from the session.

After about 20 minutes of thoughtful prayer, singing and words of encouragement emanating out of great expectations not necessarily planned the group sat down and talked about what is needed for unity to take place among faith leaders. There were four important points discovered for pursuing unity.

First, the group discovered kindness is needed when pursuing unity. It was stated that the impure oftentimes poses challenges for the pure relative to pursuing unity. The solution for overcoming such challenges is to speak words that encourage actions that promote future unity.

Second, the group discovered gratefulness is needed when pursuing unity. There is a danger in not underestimating the importance simple or small things. The solution is in the face of such danger one must learn to obey simple things in order to produce profound things. Respect for little produces much.

Third, the group discovered awareness is needed when pursuing unity. When there is a misunderstanding of someone it prohibits unity. The solution is to search for every perspective and viewpoint in order to gain the correct impression.

Fourth, the group discovered thoughtfulness is needed when pursuing unity. Failing to carefully consider cultural differences hinders unity. The solution is to embrace diversity for it produces wholeness and completion. In addition, wisdom, power and truth are necessary for thoughtfulness to be properly exercised.

In conclusion, as the dialogue was coming to a close the participants in the group made comments relative one another’s remarks. Culture and truth seemingly caught the attention of everyone in the group, which lead to a final thought and question. Everyone felt the necessities for pursuing were revealed, but the question was what is the process that produces unity? There were comments made concerning a process involving participation, then assimilation resulting in unification. **Next session AS4US will discuss effective strategies for developing a process that leads to obtainable and sustainable unity.**

Center for Global Diplomacy
Editor in Chief