

Common Street Spiritual Center



Visioning Process

Data Presentation - April 2021

TOPIC	Conclusions - Observations - Analysis
Vision	<p>a. <u>Visions for the World</u></p> <p>Summary: We envision a society in harmony with Divine/Universe/Earth/Self, where suffering is reduced and justice is increased. Its ethos is defined by feelings of compassion and love, with values of unconditional acceptance and celebration of diversity. Within this society, people are responsible and free to creatively express their full potential.</p> <p>Analysis: The key ideas describe a loving and harmonious society that supports personal growth and expression, corrects injustices, and restores humanity to balance with the natural world.</p> <p>b. <u>Visions for Our Internal States</u></p> <p>Summary: We envision ourselves as being loving, open, having inner peace, integrating all parts of ourselves, including our shadow and pain, and having a powerful sense of purpose and spiritual connection.</p> <p>Analysis: A significant part of the vision notes address the topic of interior experience and personal transformation, which is important to note as we contemplate our vision.</p> <p>c. <u>Visions for Our Community Space</u></p> <p>Summary: Our community is envisioned as a safe, supportive, and welcoming place where learning and healing takes place, where people find acceptance and encouragement; the community is broadly inclusive of diversity and is positively integrated with its immediate societal environment.</p> <p>Analysis: Some people used the word “space” while others used the word “community.” In a way, a space defines the community that exists within it; a space can be physical and it can also be created by ideas, emotions, and language, etc. These key ideas speak to the latter kind of “safe, supportive space.”</p>

d. **Visions for How We Take Action in the World**

Summary: We want to be active in bringing about a world of unity, peace, love, and justice, where marginalized people are safe and the natural environment is healed and protected. To do this, we need to be the change we want to see in the world and manifest our highest selves, and by taking outward actions like doing service, making art, facilitating conversation, promoting unity, and in general working and bringing our gifts to the places they are needed most.

Analysis: We recognize a strong link between realizing our personal potential and having a positive impact on the greater world. We are a community that wants to take direct action to transform the world into the ideal society we believe is possible. We have confidence in our potential to do this.

Mission

Question A: “In one sentence articulate your mission.”

1. **Using words of Action:** Living life, Striving, honoring, being an example, becoming, realizing, expressing, radiating, living from, noticing, pursuing, honoring, taking care of, feeling, allowing, experiencing, caring for others, healing, embracing, helping, Bringing Love, Service to others, Recognizing Divinity, Growing, Reflecting

2. **Expressing:** Love, Highest Self, Spiritual Peace, Authentic Self, Inner Light, Kindness, Authenticity, Presence, Fulfillment, Wellbeing, Care of Body & Spirit, Ideas, Intuition, Emotions, Beauty of Humanity, Seeking, Life’s purpose, equality, Care for others, Compassion, Empathy, Action, Spiritual Grounding

3. **To or For:** Self, Those w/o a Voice, Fellow women and men, the oppressed, those w/o love, Community, All forms of Life, The Planet, Greater World

Question B: “What do you do to work towards your vision?”

1. **Actions:** Cultivating, self-expression, teaching, seeking, living, practicing, appreciating, connecting with, striving, Loving, knowing, strengthening, developing, implementing, helping, being present, supporting, receiving

2. **Expressing:** Self-awareness, self-compassion, acceptance, vulnerability, compassion for others, authenticity, emotional resilience, self-healing, inner healing, music, language, writing, speaking, kindness, open-mindedness, Peace, listening, wisdom, respect, curiosity, honesty, caring, diversity

3. **Cultivating:** Inner and outer resources, meditation, spiritual learning, stress management, mindfulness, deep listening, training courses, workshops, events, independent thinking

4. **To or For:** The Self, Others, Young People, The marginalized, charity work, others, The Planet, the Community, G-d, the Divine, Source of Love, Universe

Question C: Who do you serve?

Family, The Holy Spirit Loving God Light Peace Love, The Nameless, Everyone/those around me, Earth, My students, Individuals with physical needs, brothers and sisters, fellow spiritual seekers, A higher purpose, Goodness and Peace, The spirit within-the energy that fuels the passion and endurance for continued growth and development, Beingness, God-given potential, God (privately and in community), the flow of the natural and spiritual world, my own deepening connection with truth and healing inside myself, the ever present impulse of healing that is unfolding within us and around us all the time, The LGBTQ community, The concept of a harmonious community, Those who seek what is yet to be found, The Immigrant community

Question D: And where?

Work, the Community, Home, Nature, CSSC, Programs, Everywhere, Love filled Indoor Space

**Goals/
Objectives**

Overall, 5 goals emerged from this section:

1. Creating a meaningful connection with other people
2. Helping others
3. CSSC outreach (such as “programs”)
4. Increased visibility
 - a. membership growth
5. Caring about the environment

a. Here are some general, broad observations from the *priorities* question:

- Many personal ideas about family, friends, and health
- Ideas about career, education, music, art
- Connections to God
- Building community
- Financial Independence
- Creating a meaningful life
- Environmental attention and stewardship
- Inclusion, acceptance, and spreading love

b. Here are some observations from the *opportunities* question:

- Natick can provide opportunities
- IFS paradigm
- Service projects
- Learning from different cultures via holidays and a Human Library Project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Working with Hyppolite -Environmental causes -Homelessness -Conflict as a means to grow -More CSSC programs -CSSC building, kitchen, cooking classes -Conversations with elected officials <p><u>Quotes from the Survey:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health and wellbeing for my family and my inner presence. Helping to build a larger community that shares a similar vision, with a primary goal of helping others. 2. Living in Natick is an opportunity in this timespace, because I feel like demographically it is such a representative microcosm of the ideas/values/and opinions in America. 3. Virtual communication/technology, the vast amount of science/knowledge we can all share, and the new presidency are wonderful opportunities for change and adaptation. 4. Cultural holidays as opportunities to connect to people in the community service projects as opportunities to connect to people in and outside the community 5. Conflicts and opposing viewpoints are opportunities to grow, connecting in a deeper way by working through a conflict; 6. My hope for achievement is that we have quadrupled our membership with communitarians that work untiringly for justice and peace in our town, our state, our country, and our world. 7. To continue to teach each other how to work with and integrate the difficult parts of who we are and our lives and to help each other to manifest more of our best selves. 8. Make the center a zero-carbon building – leading by example. Growing our community size but not too big or too fast. Create a greater sense of belonging for the community at large and a sense of ownership.
Values (Carole)	<p>Firstly, I went through all 14 surveys about the values. I listed all values and matched them with the respondents, I grouped the values that appeared to be in the same logic. Then I counted the number occurrences of the group values and listed the number in the table. Briefly, I have groups of values and their occurrence count in the table.</p>

12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community family prayer hope connection to others diversity welcoming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace (Hyppo 3) justice conflict resolution equity live by example integrity working together world 	10
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7	mindfulness harmony listening patience	self-awareness inner peace blocks forgiveness change	13
14	compassion kindness acceptance empathy humility	love respect kindness gratitude trust	12
5	truth forgiveness no judgment	well-being encouragement nourishment support fulfillment validation health	8
7	authenticity integrity honesty truth	confidentiality relational covenant inclusion	8
8	joy playfulness curiosity open minded uniqueness wonder	safety safe place	5
	beauty	higher soul	
	fearlessness	confidence	
	avant-garde	living by example	3
	boldness	prayer	2
	bravery	participation (art/music)	
	depth	objectivity	
	dependability	volunteering	

	intimacy	balance	
	creativity	pragmatic organizational skills	