

MnMN February Meeting Summary 2019

On February 7, 2019, the Minnesota Multifaith Network (MnMN) hosted its annual celebration of World Harmony Week where 100 participants from various faith communities in Minnesota were asked to vision what success might look like for MnMN 30 years into the future. Eleanore Wesserle, the founding principal of the narrative strategy organization Dreams to Power, led the community in a “World Café” style visioning process.

The MnMN transitional steering committee is grateful for all those who attended the event, in spite of blizzard conditions! In your evaluations, you told us that most of you made new connections and have a better or somewhat better understanding of MnMN. Many also said you still aren’t sure specifically what MnMN plans to do in a concrete way. We’re working at that and will have more to report shortly. You also gave us suggestions for how to improve the event in the future that we will incorporate into our planning. Overall, you valued the opportunity to meet with and hear from others who share your belief that interfaith work is important for our state and nation.

We were heartened by a participant’s mention of a key takeaway from this event: “The value of connecting face to face with a wide variety of people. This is where I see the most hope and find the most excitement and motivation to continue my work.” It works the other way around, too. Your energy and enthusiasm fuel our volunteers to keep going. Thank you!

During the Café visioning process, MnMN created the space where people could discuss the issues of importance to them and potentially identify others who share their interests. It was not designed to yield a document that was vetted by all as a final position statement, but rather reflects the variety of perspectives that were expressed in small groups. It is idealistic – like most of us who care deeply about humanity. The transitional steering committee will incorporate this 30-year vision into what we imagine faith and interfaith communities can achieve with network support both in the short-term and the long-term. Your guidance is critical to this work.

We welcome your [comments](#) and, of course, your involvement as we continue to move forward. Below is a summary of your vision:

World Café Summary Results: MnMN 30-year Vision

The Minnesota Multifaith Network (MnMN) recognizes that we currently live in a world that intentionally works to separate us from each other, which devalues, marginalizes, and attacks some members of our human family and prioritizes others. We have a better option for our world than the one the dominant culture offers us. We believe in, and work towards, a Minnesota and world where:

- Each person and community feels a deep sense of belonging. We work to transform fear and hate through everyday acts of working together, building trusting relationships, and being present for each other.
- Our communities of faith, our leaders, and those who don't identify with a particular faith but share these values take an active role in fostering belonging.
- Our technology brings us together and helps us feel connected and that we belong.
- We are curious about each other's faith traditions, we teach and learn from each other, we build relationships with each other, we promote each other's flourishing as well as our own as we build the beloved community.
- We are collaborative leaders in activism, working through interfaith networks to serve as catalysts for the change we continue to seek. We work in practical ways to support, protect, and grow a sense of belonging with each other and we act together toward creating a just society.
- We come together in faith and interfaith communities to heal the harms of oppressive systems of power that have marginalized certain people and benefited others based on gender, race, sexuality, religion, and other innate characteristics.
- We build our whole community by celebrating the differences within it. We recognize and cherish the gifts and richness of our various experiences of culture, gender, race, faith tradition, sexuality, ability, and more. Our activism is inspired by this sense of celebration and interconnection and guides the equitable outcomes we seek.
- The decisions we make about our shared resources ensure that each and every person is able to meet their needs from their birth until the end of their lives.
- We do this work holistically valuing physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional aspects of our needs and identities.
- We hear more laughter, music and singing, play and joy in our everyday lives. We foster wonder and creativity in many aspects of our world.
- We have a deep sense of gratitude for the living world we all share. We have deep relationships and belonging with the land and our planet that weave through our work for justice.
- We value our young people and nurture their development, providing an accurate representation of our history as well as our current challenges and opportunities so they can discover and develop the ways in which they'd like to contribute to community.
- We end the domination of borders and view our world as porous and shared amongst all of us. We welcome new immigrants into our community.
- Because of the work we have done with MnMN's connecting and supporting assistance, this is a world in which something new has emerged, and something new continues to emerge.