

Provocative Proposals - Foothills Unitarian Church 2015

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These are statements that should stimulate your hopes, your imagination, your sense of our possibilities. They all link to something we already are, and then take that thing to a new level and new place that imagines what we could be. They should provoke your creativity and our commitment to our shared future. Enjoy!

Inclusion, Acceptance & Belonging

1. Imagine if....While encouraging a diversity of personal theological beliefs, our religious community prioritizes the practice of kindness and loving *beyond belief*.
2. Imagine if...We are a religious community that reflects the diversity of Northern Colorado, spanning age, gender, ethnicity, race, socioeconomic background, & sexual orientation, while interrupting the typical divisions across this diversity. We offer an alternative to the "us/them" of our larger culture.
3. Imagine if...Every person seeking religious community and sharing our covenant experiences a journey of belonging, compassion and spiritual care during times of great joy, grief, illness and life transitions. We provide this connection through groups whose members are a village of spiritual and practical care and support for each other, representing the power and promise of Foothills Unitarian Church.

Congregational Life

4. Imagine if...Music enlivens and inspires every element of congregational life, from worship to small groups, from justice to religious education.
5. Imagine if...Within three months of a first visit, every new person is invited to a dinner with other members. All ages and

singles/couples are welcome and included. People share their gifts, talents, and interests and build relationships of trust and connection to help them find their place in the congregation.

6. Imagine if...The definition of membership at our church is understood as the moment when you move from the one being served to the one serving. The definition of transformational membership is when you experience these things as one and the same.

Outreach & Service

7. Imagine if...We are a visionary church, leading our greater community and forming interfaith partnerships in our unquenchable thirst for social, economic, and environmental justice.
8. Imagine if...Our exceptional music ministry builds interfaith relationships, comforts those in need, and serves as an ambassador for our faith and values in the wider community.
9. Imagine if...We are a resource church, generously sharing our abundant gifts with other Unitarian Universalist congregations in the area, supporting a vast network of strong Unitarian Universalism all across Northern Colorado.
10. Imagine if...Foothills Unitarian Church runs a year-round retail store where we donate and sell our goods, providing a low cost alternative for our community and meaningful service year-round for our volunteers. This aligns with our values to re-use and recycle, and creates a regular fundraising source to support our mission. We call it: UUsed.

Worship

11. Imagine if...Foothills Unitarian Church provides thought-provoking, heart-evoking, awe-inspiring worship services spanning multiple places and times, engaging all of our senses and honoring multiple pathways to transformation.

12. Imagine if...Teenagers and retirees flock to our dynamic worship services where we advance wisdom, nurture inner growth, encourage a sense of humor, and inspire one another to act on our deep longing for meaning, justice and connection in the world.
13. Imagine if...Our worship services and programming draw on our whole church community's artistic, musical and performance skills to facilitate experiences at the leading edge of church innovation, fostering a sense of energy, vitality and joy into all we do.

Religious Education

14. Imagine if...Foothills Unitarian Church provides theological tools to meet people where they are, and walks with them through all ages and stages of their spiritual journey. Through this process we experience mutual transformation.
15. Imagine if...We are a laboratory for theological ideas and constructs, active in the meaning-making business. The meaning we make together is relevant to our daily lives and calls us to action in the larger world.
16. Imagine if...Foothills partners with area progressive faith communities to provide weekly creative and meaningful worship services, small group and spiritual practices and opportunities for justice and social change for college students in Northern Colorado. Students feel the connection in this ministry to our church and feel themselves a part of our community; our members in turn feel a part of this ministry.

Growth & Change

17. Imagine if...Our facilities are a leading example of sustainability, inspiration and function, implicitly inviting in the church of the future.
18. Imagine if...Our congregation is guided by the needs and sensibilities of our great grandchildren. Through staffing and programming for growth, we are always fostering a welcome for the generations yet to come.

19. Imagine if...Our congregation uses social media, our website and a variety of other tools of technology to reach out to all in our wider community and multiply the impact of our ministries.
20. Imagine if...While respecting our traditions, we are open to truth as it unfolds in our own lives and in our community practices. We embrace a dynamic state of change across our congregation, knowing it represents our vitality, our aliveness, and our infinite possibilities for growth.