

What happens with the Lombard Process going forward? ... and other related questions

People have questions about the Lombard Process going forward. What is the “end product”? What will we be doing? What is the Interim Report? . . . the Final Report? Here is an annotated chronology of what is to come:

- **Small Groups:** We have just completed the Small Group Phase of the Lombard Engagement. “Interests” (hopes and concerns) have been gathered and documented. This involved each person who is in a small group having time to say what they need to say. Active listening on the part of those gathered was involved. There was no work on the issues, just a naming of them.
- **Writing of the Interim Report:** Following the Small Groups, Jay Wittmeyer and Devon Miller of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center will take all of the material offered them to date and synthesize it into a report. This report will identify the major themes/concerns and learnings from our work together this far.

Sources of material (reminder):

- Presenting conversations and issues (everything in conversation is information)
 - Surveys from the congregation
 - Interviews with 14 persons recommended by Session
 - Supplemental material from Roger Yott and Pastoral Staff, including communications we have sent out, the letter from the Fall and our response to it etc.
 - Small Group Conversations
- **Session receives the Interim Report, June 11** (tentative) The Session will receive the Interim Report and read it. The report will be discussed at the June 22 Session Meeting.
 - **Session Meeting, June 22:** The Session will discuss the Interim Report and agree upon a process for sharing the information with the congregation, guided by process recommendations from Jay Wittmeyer and Devon Miller. We may have them join the Session for our June 22 meeting via Zoom. This process is NOT about getting a diagnostic report and letting it sit on a shelf. It would not be worth our investment in it. Instead, it is about the work that we do together to address the issues that emerge. The work will be done both by the Session and the Congregation.

- **Healing Session, June 25 (8:30-1:30)** This is the first effort to discuss the issues that have emerged. They will be addressed in a formatted way, giving opportunity for sharing and input. Lombard uses what is called a Samoan Circle, a way that allows for all voices to be heard and movement towards agreements to happen.
- **Summer:** After June 25, we will be taking a break from the process until September. There are too many of us that will be away over the summer to continue with the more formal work with Lombard. We are not stopping our work together, however. Reading, discussing and using *We Make the Road by Walking* in worship and through an Adult Forum is part of our way forward.
- **Problem Solving:** September 10 (8:30-1:30) AND September 17 (8:30-1:30) Work on the issues that have emerged will occur in large group form on September 10 and 17 with a possible third date of September 24. Emerging from these Sessions will be agreements about the big issues and a plan moving forward.
- **Adult Class for the Fall:** Pastor Jan is a trained Healthy Congregations facilitator. In partnership with the Lombard Steering Committee and other congregational resources, we will offer an Adult Faith Formation offering that will continue work with the material we have discussed, honing our skills together. This will offer further conversation around these issues for those who have participated in the educational events and the Lombard Engagement overall as well as an introduction to those who were not able to participate.
- **Final Report to Session, October 11:** There will be a final report to Session in written form that we will receive around October 11. Just as with the Interim Report, we will receive it, read it and discuss at the October 19 Session Meeting. We may have Jay and Devon join us via Zoom. A plan for action steps moving forward will have been developed and we will approve.

What happens afterwards?

The work will not be done. In October, the Session will have what has emerged. Whatever those things are will be worked on in an agreed-upon plan. There will be an outline. It is likely a Transition Team, including some Session Members, will work on the issues and work through any other elements of a Mission Study that will need to be address (context etc.).

Following the work of the Transition Team relating to Lombard follow-up and a Mission Study, a request to form a PNC will go to from Session to the Committee on Ministry.