

## Renew Cluster notes

April 19, 2010

Present: Barry Hankins, Terry Martin, Lamona Martin, Regina Easley-Young, Barbara O'Neal, Nan Rentz, Kyndall Renfro

How to offer our campus as a place of renewal, rest, and spiritual reflection . . . this is the question before this cluster. Running through the conversation as we reflected on this were two themes: First, for this to be mission it necessarily involves an openness to seeing the campus as a gifts we offer to others besides just DaySpringers. As one person put it, it's about stewardship, not ownership. Second, this direction is very squarely in the history, ethos, and character of DaySpring as it was and as it is. This is who we are: from the name of the street, to the architecture in the building, to some of the dreams that have been around for years. So, this mission is not a compartment of the church or an isolated wing of it. This is who we are.

Some specific initiatives were suggested for consideration: a community garden; the need for some islands for people around the campus (comfortable places for sitting and meditation.) hammock, bench to connect with the childlike playfulness in a person; silent retreats for specific audiences: those grieving, ministerial students, the staff at Talitha Koum or Mission Waco . . .

Some big picture elements emerged from the discussion: We imagined a scenario in which a truetts student or a couple is living on the campus in a cottage, hosting silent retreats and nurturing a monastic-like setting on the campus, tending to the garden and the grounds; We imagined acquiring 90 acres for a retreat center; We pictured a retreat cabin or cottage for missionaries, ministers or lay people to come and stay overnight.

Some challenges noted include: knowing where the flood plain is for building purposes; knowing our property boundaries and current limitations; no outside silent retreats in August in Texas;

Some resources: we have four acres; Sam Simpson has suggested his openness for some kind of garden/ living situation on his property adjacent to DS; we own an acre back in the woods that is yet undeveloped; the Mission Fund mini-grants, our creativity, passion, and desire to share this with others.

The plan from here is to encourage some email traffic among this cluster about what sorts of initiatives one or more people are interested in helping start. A second plan is to meet again in about a month to see where we are and what, if anything, are the next steps. It was an encouraging and warm fellowship that met together. As one person said, "I leave with a spark, an encouragement. I can picture this happening. And it's exciting."