

**Faith Vision 2020 Listening Tour - A Conversation Hosted by LOMO
Note Taker's Guide**

Date: 11/5/2015

Location: Prince of Peace Loveland

Number of People Present: 11

Participant Identification:

1. What involvement have you had with LOMO camps?

-  Volunteer
-  Family Camper
-  Outreach Staff
-  Camper '82
-  Mom of 2 campers
-  Staff '84
-  Mowana, Luther camper
-  Family camper 40 years
-  Work week at Luther
-  Sons participated in staff from a family
-  Confirmation Camp LMC
-  Camper and Counselor

2. Any congregation leaders in faith formation or renewal

-  Sunday school
-  Sunday school Superintendent
-  Confirmation director and teacher
-  Junior choir
-  VBS, Sunday school coordinator, volunteer
-  Sunday school student
-  Adult Sunday school
-  Choir member
-  5th and 6th grade young people group
-  Youth group mission trip
-  Ulster project
-  National Youth Gathering (high school and as adult leader)
-  Sticky Faith (program for keeping kids when they get to be young adults)

LOMO Experience:

I'd like you to think about your camp experience and its role in faith formation and renewal.

- **What is at the heart of LOMO, or phrased another way, what does camp mean to you?**
- **How is camp important to faith development?**
 -  Staff
 -  Intergenerational relationships
 -  Nature setting/a special place

- ✚ Peers/Staff between kids
- ✚ Community between campers not necessarily staff
- ✚ Time apart to reflect and study
- ✚ Uniqueness of all three camps, each a special space
- ✚ Time away from current life to focus, sit and think about their life and where it is headed
- ✚ Learn how to talk to each other without electronics in their ear all the time
- ✚ Presence of Holy Spirit every time I am at camp, truly a place apart
- ✚ Return so enthused and energized to go back and share
- ✚ True to your real self at camp, it's a safe place, the mask and make up and jewelry come off and you are just who you truly are
- ✚ Family devotional time at camp is special at camp even though it may or may not transfer over to back home, we can talk about our faith in front of each other.
- ✚ A song in your head
- ✚ Being in the midst of God's creation—sunsets on the bluff, Fleming Falls...
- ✚ Places at camp (pockets of heaven) you remember as an adult that you were special for you when you were a kid

Congregation Experience:

I'd like you to think about your congregation experience and its role in faith formation and renewal

- **What areas of faith formation and renewal are going well** in your congregation?
- **What experiences in your congregation have helped your faith be nurtured?**
 - ✚ Oikos a Greek word for family. POP Youth meet in one another's home and talk about God over a meal and how you are doing.
 - ✚ 28 in Confirmation last month, 15-25 youth group shows up at POP
 - ✚ Reaching people "under the skin" minister reaches people with no pretense
 - ✚ New feelings of caring and love
 - ✚ Grace groups to promote groups of like; education and other likes
 - ✚ Worship & music
 - ✚ Engaged pastors

Needs Assessment:

I'd like you to think about the challenges to faith formation as it exists today.

- **What societal changes do you see that give new opportunities and challenges in the area of faith formation today and into the future? (social, cultural, technological, generational changes)**
- **What challenges do you or your congregation struggle with in the area of faith formation and renewal for people of all ages?**
 - ✚ Fear of the out of doors; parents were afraid and so then are the kids
 - ✚ Separation issues for parents, letting kids go away from home over night
 - ✚ Challenge of giving up technology
 - ✚ Competition of sports blots out camp
 - ✚ Individualism; I shouldn't have to do anything I don't want to do
 - ✚ Why are you doing this to my child, I know better than you, how can you teach my kids anything
 - ✚ The thought of believing rather than what you are achieving
 - ✚ Lack of global view: we're in a global world but fear of change

- # Diversity
- # Music wars at worship (modern vs. traditional)
- # No air conditioning at camp
- # Wanting destination vacation rather than week of church camp
- # Family dynamics have drastically changed; kids rule the family
- # Making it a priority, trust in people who work with the kids
- # Sending adults to camp from the church they attend to lay aside fears of parents
- # People over scheduled, over committed
- # Media perception of Christians
- # Less “into” organized religion
- # Over-organized; options galore
- # Need for instant gratification

Faith Vision 2020:

I'd like you to think about what we have shared including what refreshes faith and the opportunities and challenges of faith formation.

Things that LOMO and camps should not let go of in its camping ministry.

- # Transparency (Camp Mich-i-luca was sold without letting constituency know they needed help)
- # Communication
- # Innovative spirit
- # Witness by example
- # Songs/Music
- # Committed leaders, leading by example
- # What do you believe and why do you believe it (camp addresses this)
- # Meeting campers where they are
- # Finding God in all they do/Camp ties everything into God through all the camp activities
- # Connections with counselors to campers and visa versa
- # Connections in the cabins with campers and the counselor
- # How to take the experience and the connections back home
- # Realizing it's the people and not the facility (although they have a purpose it's the personal touch)
- # They need to see joy
- # Community/family meals at camp (Doesn't have it at home)
- # No technology at camp (one person brought up although she used it to track her son at camp this summer)

- **How can LOMO work with your congregation to meet today's challenges and opportunities in faith formation?**

- # Technology for parents
- # Invest in facilities
- # Outposting
- # Keeping the outdoor focus of ministry at the forefront
- # Continue campfirmation
- # Encourage outdoor worship and provide resources for local congregations
- # Keep building leaders
- # Scheduled weeks for congregations
- # Family Camp

- **Do you have any other suggestions about how LOMO can better serve your needs in the area of faith formation and renewal?**
 - ✚ Limited family finances a concern for the future
 - ✚ Campership discounts to help families afford camp and attract first timers
 - ✚ Satellite Camp Day (free day of camp) at a congregation/park to talk camp to find first time campers since the camps a geographically a distance from Cincinnati to recruit campers.