**Faith Vision 2020 Listening Tour - A Conversation Hosted by LOMO**

**Epiphany Lutheran Church, Centerville**

**Date: 3/13/2016**

**Location: Epiphany – Centerville, Ohio**

**Number of People Present: 5**

**Participant Identification:**

1**. What involvement have you had with LOMO camps?**

* Board Member
* Summer Staff Member
* Family camper
* Year round staff member
* Youth camper
* Bring youth from church to camp

1. **Any congregation leaders in faith formation or renewal**

* Youth programs at the church to include Confirmation

**LOMO Experience:**

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

1. **What is at the heart of LOMO, or phrased another way, what does camp mean to you?**

* A place apart – a place away from normal routine – that’s important for kids
* A place of radical acceptance and love
* It’s a place the kids can open up that would never happen in a church setting

1. **How is camp important to faith development?**

* Kids that go to summer camp seem more confident in articulating their faith because they see young adults do that.
* They have examples at camp that they can be different and have a different understand of who Jesus is than they would normally at home or school. Its OK to wrestle with that idea and still be faithful people.

**Congregation Experience:**

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

1. **What areas of faith formation and renewal are going well in your congregation?**

* Vacation Bible school is a highlight of the year. A week of intensity and one of the few times we have people in our building that are not like us.
* Confirmation program going well and the discipleship project at the end is effective for kids who can chose what to do for discipleship.
* Summer trips with the church helpful
* Seeing adults through summer programs interact with youth

1. **What experiences in your congregation have helped your faith be nurtured?**

* When in the youth group had a couple of great adult leaders who invited us into their lives. It was important to me as a high school student to be included in the life of an adult.

**Needs Assessment:**

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

1. **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)**

* Schedules of families
* Stupid sports
* Everything else has taken the place of what church camp used to be
* Church is no longer a niche place for community
* The mass amounts of access people have to opinion and thought. People don’t need to go to church to hear a sermon, worship or study theology. This is an opportunity and a challenge.

1. **What challenges do you or your congregation struggle with in the area of faith formation and renewal for people of all ages?**

* People are bombarded by communication so it’s a fine line to walk. How much do they want from the church?
* Living in a post 9/11 world and the concern for the safety of children creates physical barriers in our congregations and programs.

**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.*

1. **How would you finish this sentence, “LOMO brings people together to experience Christ through our natural settings and programs” so that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* So that people can experience faith beyond the church walls
* So that faith becomes more than what you do on Sundays
* Faith in a safe environment that is far enough away from what is their normalcy world
* Kids can bring their camp experience back into their day-to-day world
* Kids learning about the beauty of God’s creation

1. **How can LOMO work with your congregation to meet today’s challenges and opportunities in faith formation?**

* Staffing our lock-ins with LOMO staff

1. **Do you have any other suggestions about how LOMO can better serve your needs in the area of faith formation and renewal**?

* LOMO should have a U-tube channel full of games, camp songs, camp skits and table songs. Could be used for kids who forget but still need a resource to remember what they did. This would also help small churches that have kids but just one person needing how/to resources.
* Mini self led retreat center during the week or weekend outside of summer camp that does not need staff and would be geared for adults to self/learn and experience solitude and renewal. Could also be for couples. They could take their own food and pricing structure could reflect a self-lead retreat.
* A need of some congregations to have LOMO train their selected church members with those gifts to be youth leaders so they can lead youth in their congregations and find the resources available to lead and do their own youth programs.