

## Chapel Ministries Data

### Moderator's Guide: Chapel

Spring 2012

#### 1) Introduction (5 minutes)

- a) Welcome the participants
- b) Have them fill out name tags while you are talking
- c) Briefly highlight the focus group format
- d) Let them know that the goal of the focus groups is to provide input to help shape the Chapel time
- e) Ground rules for session
  - i) No correct answers – only your opinions and feelings....you are speaking for other people like yourself....we want to hear from everyone.
  - ii) Briefly explain the use of the flip chart and the scribe (this is just to record ideas and to check that the writer understood correctly what was being said).
  - iii) Only one speaks at a time....please no side discussions....I don't want to miss anyone's comments and transcriptions can become very muddled.
  - iv) If your views are different from someone else's that's all right...it is important for me to know that ...please do not be afraid of having different opinions, just express them...remember there is no one right answer.
  - v) This is an informal discussion - we will be writing a transcript of the discussion, but will not be attributing comments to a particular person....so be comfortable, relax, give me your frank opinions and feelings.
- f) Any questions? Let's begin.

#### 2) Just to get us started would you introduce yourself to us in one minute or less (10 minutes)

- a) Year, name, major, favorite thing about going to school at PLNU

#### 3) Warm up question: In thinking about your Chapel experience at PLNU, is there one Chapel service that stands out to you as particularly meaningful or memorable? Why did this service impact you uniquely? (10 minutes max)

#### 4) Has participating in PLNU's required Chapel services benefitted you? (10 minutes)

NOTE for leader: The emphasis and direction of this question aims at gathering info on the overall student understanding of required Chapel at PLNU. In other words, can they articulate why we have Chapel as part of our community life?

Follow on:

- a) How has it been of benefit?
- b) If not of benefit, why not?
- c) Why do you think that Chapel is required at PLNU?
- d) Do you think what happens in Chapel is connected to the rest of university life?
- e) If yes, how? If no, why not?

- 5) The start of each Chapel has a particular structure (2-minute warning, welcome, prayer, and music). Do any of these components help to cultivate within you an attitude of worship? (10 minutes)**

Follow on:

- a) Which of the components?
- b) How do they help you to enter into worship?
- c) How might you change the opening structure to better prepare you for worship/make it more worshipful?

- 6) In 2011-12 some new Chapel programming was added (i.e. RE: Focus Chapels, Class Chapels, and Chapels focusing on selected Spiritual Disciplines). Did you notice these additions? Did any of these additions enhance your experience of Chapel? (10 minutes)**

NOTE for leader: the emphasis and direction of this question aims at gathering info on the success/ impact of new Chapel programming implemented this academic year 2011-2012.

Follow on

- a) If yes, which ones?
- b) Do you have ideas for other types of programming that could be offered?

- 7) Any last thoughts, feelings, or comments? (5 minutes)**

***Ask and probe each participant***

- 8) End the Focus Session (0 minutes)**

- a) Thank them.

## **Chapel Focus Group Pilot Information May 2012**

A focus group methodology for gathering information about chapel and student learning outcomes from chapel was piloted 2011-12. The pilot helped to test the questions but it was with a single focus group.

Some thought will need to be given in 2012-13 as to how to motivate students to be willing to participate in these Chapel Ministries Focus Groups.

**3) In thinking about your Chapel experience at PLNU, is there one Chapel service that stands out to you as particularly meaningful or memorable? Why did this service impact you uniquely?**

- Tennabrae: wider campus participation, enjoyed the liturgy
- Ash Wednesday: the level of care that went into planning this special service was meaningful.

**4) Has participating in PLNU's required Chapel services benefitted you?**

- Chapel is grounding
- Provides a sense of the familiar in the new context of coming to college (particularly the music)
- Hearing other people's (particularly students') faith stories is significant
- Why do they think that PLNU has a chapel requirement:
  - Build community
  - Have some common experiences
  - Share information

**5) The start of each Chapel has a particular structure (2-minute warning, welcome, prayer, and music). Do any of these components help to cultivate within you an attitude of worship?**

The two minute warning was particularly appreciated

**6) In 2011-12 some new Chapel programming was added (i.e. RE: Focus Chapels, Class Chapels, and Chapels focusing on selected Spiritual Disciplines). Did you notice these additions? Did any of these additions enhance your experience of Chapel?**

- Liked class chapels
- Some department chapels could be strengthened to be more of a worship experience
- The special chapels/events need additional ways to get the "word out" that they are happening.
- Ideas for other chapel possibilities
  - Managing finances
  - Incorporating Sabbath into your life
  - Something more interactive (connecting with the people around you)

**The conversation then moved to how others view chapel (those present were very positive about attending chapel). In particular, why are some not engaged in chapel?**

- Students are busy and there is this tension between needing to study and going to chapel. This leads to both presence in chapel without paying attention (just showing up to have the “box checked” that they are there) or skipping chapel.
- “angst” about the scanning in and scanning out process

**What might increase engagement?**

- Evening chapels
- More chapel options
- More outside speakers
  - Different denominations
  - A wider range of perspectives
- Greater student leadership involvement (they acknowledge that this is happening but want more of it)
  - Students leading music
  - Students giving the message