

The chart that follows is from our 'conocimiento' exercise (10-14-2018). Each small group had the opportunity to answer as much of these questions as they would like, and then was invited to share however much of their answers they would like within their small group. It was a way of practicing mutual invitation, but also helped us begin to understand one another better. We have removed the names from the information shared to help with privacy and hope that this helps our whole church understand itself a little bit more.

One of my concerns about the Gracious Family Dialogues is ...	One of my hopes for these dialogues is ...	Scripture is...	When the topic of LGBTQ comes up, I tend to... because ...
(was) that few opinionated people would do most of the talking	It doesn't cause a split in the church	Jewish roots of Christianity; record of Jesus' life on earth & early Christians/disciples	Panic because I've had negative experiences
People will judge	Generous love	<u>IS</u>	Feel sad at discord & protective of marginalized
People will leave	Deep listening & greater understanding	God's arrow to His revelation (Jesus)	Feel afraid of division
It will be an awkward in-between	We can all find room for new understandings	One way God reveals himself to us	Withhold judgment because most of what I hear seems emotional & reactionary
We won't come to a conclusion that steers us in a definite direction	We can be united in love even if individual opinions differ	Older male interpretations of God	Listen before speaking up in case there's someone with a strong opposing view
That people won't come - that we won't be able to effect it	That we can come together & love each other & accept each other even though we differ	Not always interpreted correctly	I used to be judgmental but now i rejoice in reality of who they are and appreciate them
The amount of time to attend	unity	The word of God	"Don't ask, don't tell"
People leaving	Following the Holy Spirit	God's message to humans	Stay quiet
Nothing changes	Opening of hearts and minds	Good	Have conversation w/myself ... afraid to speak out loud
Time commitment	Strengthening the bond of FPC members	inspirational/helpful	Feel 'protective' and uncertain; I don't think everything is black and white
Division	Clarity	Helpful	Listen/so I know what the other person thinks
Tension that is too heavy that results in division & loss of members	Listening	Encouraging	Stay quiet & listen; because I'm curious

Lack of unity	Unity	Challenging	Stay quiet
More separation	Understanding	My help & strength	Stay quiet
That dialogues continue including all people	That <u>all</u> people will come together harmoniously	All people, the church, the unchurched, for the lovely and the unlovely!	I choose to open my arms to all!
That some people will not have compassion	That there is unity in fellowship	Teaching & leading the way to truth	Get excited because I believe we need to respect everyone regardless of who they are or what they believe
Anxiety around the topic	Unity & strength, fellowship	Comfort	Feel hopeful because of God's love
Not getting too emotional	We will learn to incorporate new perspectives	God's Word to me	Formerly I was quiet from fear but now I share our family's story
Vulnerability	We will be able to hear and understand	My inspiration	I feel uncomfortable and tend to be defensive because of my family's story. However it is good to know of God's Love and there are not throw away people.
	Love will cover all	powerful	Feel defensive towards all of God's children
	We will learn to incorporate new perspectives	Bigger than me	Proceed with caution
Minds already made up	Unity in difference	Multivocal-Living	Don't engage
Outcome already decided	Finding and Standing together in truth	God-breathed God-given for our salvation and discipleship	Listen to who is speaking
People getting upset w/each other	Understanding different beliefs/points of view	Good news!	Be quiet... because I can see reasons for both sides but I am unsure
Trying to change church to adapt to current culture	Agree to basic principles of the Bible	A good map to read, believe, & follow	Listen, hold judgment, not share opinion, "Truth in Love" is hard
Church leaving me theologically	Insight/Growth	Word of God, Truth	Think of people I love who have been excluded from the body of Christ, because it's difficult to reconcile this exclusion with Christ's love
Division	Listening to one another and the Spirit	The written expression of the Word of God	Wonder

Holding the pain of different opinions/experiences	We grow in knowing and loving one another	Living and transforming	Wonder what God is doing in others' lives because I believe God is always at work
None	Reach people for Christ	Like Gold	Get uncomfortable because talking about sexuality is uncomfortable
People will be afraid to come	We will grow in love and trust for each other	A precious gift	Get defensive of my gay brothers & sisters
None	Grow understanding and respect	A mysterious, complex and wonderful thing	Want to talk about it because I do not like to see people oppressed - want to share the love of Christ in a truthful way because Christ has commissioned me to be his witness and express His good news of salvation
People afraid to come	People who never met another person in their group become Best Friends	The only place where Jesus speaks (place means manuscripts)	Shy away because I'm too young to understand how it came to be an important topic
That we maintain unity <u>in Christ alone</u>	Increasing our love, fellowship and joy in Christ as He defines 'love'	God breathed - all of it	Wonder why it is pushed on Christians as something that is 'normal' and should be accepted by all
That we won't do the work of really understanding one another (or will, and still won't)	Know each other better and hear how God is at work	Remarkable!	Wonder, be curious about their story, wonder how God has met them in life
That we honor the authority of scripture	That we honor the authority of scripture	God breathed, all of it	Go back to what God's word says
That scripture is honored/respected	We can come together due to our love of Christ		
No real worries	Understanding, love & fellowship	The most reliable revelation God has given to all	Wince, because it has been a source of great division in my life and others
Trepidation	None	Real	Listen
Long term meeting	Understanding fellowship, care of scripture	God's revelation of Himself, His will & way & our reflection	Listen & pray

Leading to unresolved conflict → people leaving	When people talk about conflict (i.e. leaving the church, etc.) there is a higher chance of it to be resolved	Good for building up of disciples	I tend to wait to speak because I don't want to create divisions. I tend to potentially forfeit my responsibility to contribute when I'm afraid of causing division
People being afraid to share authentically and not coming or not sharing because of fear	That we would learn how to listen to each other in love and help each other feel safe in sharing where they are. I hope we can remain unified in Christ	Active	Be quiet because I feel like I'm going to offend who I am with, but when conversation starts I feel ok sharing where I am in the conversation. I feel like I have a lot to learn so I try to listen.
Furthering conflict instead of coming to peace	Deeper understanding on my part & that our community would listen to each other and learn to be ok with not agreeing on everything and that we would grow our congregation instead of continued shrinking.	Rich, convicting, broad, eternal	Worry too much that I will offend someone on either 'side' of the issue... there are such strong emotions around it and I'm still trying to figure out what I think.
I'm concerned we are too conditioned by our cultures and experiences to listen well	I hope that God would bind our family together with a bond stronger than the feeling of 'sameness'	Still relevant, but not as black & white as I would wish	Be quiet - it's not black and white. Lead with love and grace
Not creating change	Being the church together	The Word of God	Try to understand, because I don't
I'm afraid that the differences of opinion aren't compatible	Clarity	Inspired Word of God	I tend to hesitate ... worry about saying the wrong thing, something harmful
My antsyess	Listening to a cloud of witnesses	Challenging	Try to listen & set aside long held understandings because I'm trying to not lean on my own understanding
	Broader understanding and respect	Controversial, debatable	Listen - 'beware' my judgmental tendencies based on childhood church training and personality - think about my LGBTQ friends whom I love
Hope to stay together in love (Worry - want to stay together

Need more early intro about			Need more bible info!
	Listen to others opinions		Listen to others. I don't have a very strong opinion on this topic
May out	Allow for the ambiguity	Reveals	Listen because I'm curious; love, open, understanding
May experience division	Unity in Christ maintained	God's Word	Have questions - unsure
none	To have understanding		
Much talk, no decisions	Will show us the way to go	God's message	Look for guidance - difficult issue
I don't want the dialogues to cause division	People will "get" the differences in other	The inspired word of God, and is profitable for instruction reproof and foundation in truth	Feel anxious because I want everyone to feel God's love and exhibit it to everyone else
	Unite us, help us grow stronger, respect for those with differing opinions	God's message	Nervous because need more info, regarding Biblical perspective on issue
More people may leave :(We will listen and engage as a family	God's Word for us	Feel anxious ... I love our church. I believe the Word. And I have friends and family who are gay. I want all to feel welcome.
Potential for division? Although maybe more potential for reconciliation	More transparency about church direction/views or LGBTQ	Inspired Word of God	Discuss it... because it's a divisive issue and better to have clarity
I won't listen as well as I want to	Church family bonding	My anchor	Feel torn, because I'm torn
I will better understand differences	We will continue to listen to each other	My guide	Conflicted - judgmental to loving
That it may not be possible to have unity and diversity in a church on this particular issue	Unity even if different strong opinions remain	Real. Not just fluffy platitudes	Want to avoid it because I value inclusivity and I fear an answer that excludes
Hope we make hard decisions	Use of scripture	My foundation	
People won't listen or be heard - emotions will take over	People open their minds and hearts to new opinions and interpretations	Our guide and way of understanding Jesus and His will	Get "get fired up" and want to urge others to look at things the way I believe is right
Retention: ability to retain and apply knowledge from session today	To cultivate tolerance, understanding diverse people, cultures, views	Sacred	All ears. Heart. Soul.

Tendency to polarize around these issues	This beautiful community I've witnessed can be further nurtured and grown	Good for pondering	Think of relationships ... I have loved ones in coming out process
Don't stick to scripture - make our culture the topic	Getting to know people more deeply	Authoritative for all	Feel uncomfortable because not sure people are willing to engage with scripture
	Understanding and seeing people for who they are		Live somewhere in the middle - I don't pretend to have all the answers but I am willing to learn.
Being misunderstood, ungracious disagreement	For everyone to widen the scope of their thinking and tolerance. Listen & hear with humility	Powerful when read in big chunks and with discernment of Holy Spirit	Get nervous because of gay pride parades
People digging in... leaving?	Graciousness - unity	authoritative	Wait for an 'agenda'
Excessive compromise	Unity and witness	Complete and authority	Worry over discords and compromise
Debate & arguing, unwilling to listen	We grow closer in community	True, meditation, something to learn each time	Avoid, turn away
Alienation	Oppenness to hear, respect opinions	A family letter	Doesn't bother me, I would rather talk openly, build bridges
Being worn out by it... feeling it being a burden	To hear and understand one another and see the truth from God's viewpoint not only focusing on our viewpoint	True, loving, unchanging, challenging, good	Wish we could talk about something else because I haven't seen it talked about in a productive way... so how do we?
People leaving	For us to see that we can not only survive disagreement but that it would deepen our respect and love for each other to feel loved even if we don't agree	Confusing Powerful Hopeful Convicting	Get excited ... what a place of tender vulnerability to enter in together and see that God will meet us here - even in this
Unacceptance; Some who really need it don't come because they feel there is nothing to learn, they know 'how it is'	Lack of judgment but no disagreement - learn to live in disagreement	Deep, complicated, vital, alive	Frustrated because of lack of love and faith, hurtful

Neglecting other issues		Extremely interpretable	I think that the church has no right to discriminate against anyone, whether in leadership or attendance.
That I will be misunderstood	That I will be loved	Hard and good	Be quiet, I don't know what is expected of me
That we'll come to something that can't be resolved	We will do it w/love	Really good	Cringe - hard subject for us old people
People will be hurt	People will hear each others' stories	A lifeline.	Listen, because most people have a lot to say
That the church will be divided	We listen to the Spirit	The Word of God	Be quiet - hard subject but God will speak to us
This will split our church	We feel safe, not afraid to speak	God's Word - never changing	Speaking - considered intolerant
It will not end with decisions that will include all sides	We will have a decision which is inclusive	Not subject to cultural change	Be involved because of my personal experience with issues
More families will leave our church	Issues will be clear	Guidance for our actions	Be confused ... scripture does address it
More people (my good friends) will be confused and leave this church	Some resolution so we don't need to revisit again!	The Truth	Be confused ... I don't fully know where this outcome may take our church
I will speak before I think and speak emphatically	I will truly listen and with prayer incorporate what is said in my thinking and understanding and meet more people in FPC	Guide for living	Be quiet ... I could be wrong
None - should be helpful!	I will be less judgmental	Truthful to me in different ways at different times and seasons of my life	Share my truth, because it is my truth