

Centering for Gathering of the Board of Trustees

Monday August 3, 2026

Strategic Framework – Receipt of Gathered Data and Initial Observations

Before we begin our work today, I want to invite us to take a moment to arrive - not just in this meeting, but in the deeper purpose that holds it.

In the work we're engaging in today:

- receiving the data that Mike has been gathering and processing,
- noticing patterns,
- and beginning to form direction

it can be easy to move quickly toward evaluation:

- what resonates,
- what raises questions,
- what feels right to us.

Those responses are natural... and they matter.

And I want to invite us to hold them alongside something deeper.

I'd like to invite us to consider:

- Not only what do I think about this... but what is being revealed to us through this.

I'm mindful of Paul's words in Romans 12:2—

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Discernment asks something different of us than decision-making alone.

- It asks for openness.

- It asks for humility.
- And it asks for a willingness to be shaped
 - o not just to shape outcomes

As we listen today, it will be natural for each of us to notice:

- what resonates,
- what raises questions,
- what we might be drawn toward or hesitant about.

That's part of being human and part of caring deeply about this work.

And at the same time, I want to invite us to hold those responses lightly... so that they don't become the final filter through which we listen.

Instead, perhaps we can listen with a quieter question underneath it all:
What is God making known to us through this?"

Not just: *What do I think?*
but: *What are we being invited to see?*

Let us pray.

Gracious God,

As we enter this time of listening and reflection,
steady our minds and open our hearts.

Where we are certain, give us humility.

Where we are uncertain, give us trust.

And in all things, orient us toward your purpose,
that what emerges from this work may serve not only our hopes,
but your calling.

Amen.