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Signposts of our Life Together

Origin: VST Student Handbook , 2006 Modified: September 2015

Signposts of our Life Together

"We will mark our way to God with sign posts—and not be lost."

Anonymous, 5th century

(Revised September 2, 2015)

As a community nurtured, illumined, and set free by God's Spirit, we respond in gratitude and commit ourselves to our Signposts as a means of expressing the abundance of God's love. The signposts which follow hold our intention to live together as well as we can, knowing that we struggle as fragile creatures held in our brokenness by grace which is beyond all understanding.

Signposts for a Teaching/Learning Community

VST holds God as central; our passionate commitment to the living Christ sustains us in all that we do. We will entrust ourselves to God who calls us to common mission for the world, though the way is often unclear;

Worship will lie at the heart of our community; we honour and respect diversity in our prayer and ritual. We will pray with and for each other.

VST affirms that God is revealed in the diversity of religious traditions recognized in and by the global human community. We honour the wisdom and practices of those of other traditions, as welcome companions to our movement more deeply into God's intention for this world.

Signposts for Communal Engagement

We will live with integrity:

We will model and embrace direct and intentional communication;

We will speak to the issue without personalizing; we will not demonize the other, recognizing that "Love is the extremely difficult realisation that something other than oneself is real;" 1

We will embody realism and practice graciousness in discussions and decision-making; we will check things out: we will be charitable:

We will assume the best of each others' motives and actions;

We will hold each other accountable and give respectful feedback;

We will recognize the contribution of each and be intentional in our expression of gratitude and appreciation:

We will put conflict on the table and address it as an opportunity for creative transformation;

We will own our own feelings:

We will set boundaries and respect those of others; we will avoid the quicksand of over-involvement;

We will bring a sense of humour and a spirit of playfulness to our life together;

We will engage the world and nurture faith communities – let our passion from here work in and for the transformation of local & global communities;

We will be honest about what has to be let go.

We will practise communal and personal discernment in our speaking, listening & keeping silent;

When it is time for closure we will call it and move on to the next important work:

VST Board September 2015

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¹ Iris Murdoch, "The Sublime and the Good," *Chicago Review* 13 (1959): 51.