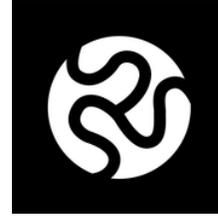




***Blessings of Community***



***Unity in Diversity***

In reflecting over this past week, I think about the wonderful weekend we were able to spend together as a Mission Center! As Larry shared with the congregational leaders in early Feb. “THINGS CHANGE”; indicating that we weren’t going to have a 2019 Winter Reunion yet we were planning to have a weekend designed with fellowship, worship, learning, and re-connecting. Those of you who were able to be at Phoenix Central and join in the “Spiritual Confluence, the Coming Together of Different Spiritual Perspectives” were able to share and worship together in community. There were so many ministerial opportunities to share in during the various events of the weekend.

I not only was able to participate during the weekend, but I was in the background of some of the planning and preparation. It is amazing to realize the numerous preparations that occurs from such a significant number of incredible people for the weekend to be so successful. I call myself the ‘continual nag’; the person who often contacts others to see where they are at in the planning of their events so the communication about the event can be provided to all. It is amazing to recognize the amount of prayer, time, willingness, sacrifice, preparation, juggling and coordinating that go into putting on events such as this. As I sat back and was an active participant, I was continually reminded of the preparation that was done from everyone.

I joined in with the entire weekend events and was touched by the experience I had. I was able to share in community. Being a part of a community is vital for people to have a sense of belonging. That sense of belong connects us to the many relationships we develop. Community allows us each to see value in life and allows us to cope day to day. We find support with each other within a community. The foundation of our community is Jesus Christ. Our Enduring Principles are our faithful response to our continuing experience with God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. The Enduring Principles were prevalent throughout our time together this past weekend. Thanks to all involved, we experienced a “Spiritual Confluence, the Coming Together of Different Spiritual Perspectives”.

Barb Bear