

Suggested Agenda for July 15-18 Retreat

(emphasis on the *suggested*) worked out by Kathy Kelly, Darla Bradley, Duane Bean, and Cinny Poppen, hopefully including time for community building, spiritual refreshment, intellectual stimulation, and practical planning.

Friday — divide into two groups, actors and support. The following is a tentative schedule for the actors' group (probably 10 people). Some members of the group know each other well; some are new. We strongly urge everyone intending to trespass to be at the retreat Friday, since we have only a short time to get to know each other and build cohesiveness.

What do we want to accomplish today?

Share personal information about motivation, present situation, etc.

Work toward a collective vision of the action.

Reach agreement on the decision-making process.

Establish the relationship between the collective vision and individual dissent.

In the morning concentrate on "who I am," in the afternoon on "who we are together."

For the morning, the suggestion is this: we go around our circle taking turns as interviewer and respondent. The interviewer might ask questions to help the respondent give information about her/himself:

What motivates you to take part in this action?

Where are you now in your discernment process?

What gifts do you bring? What are your strengths?

What is your worst fear in connection with the action? What for you would be the worst possible scenario?

What people in your life are you most concerned about? How do they react to your decision?

If you had to spend a significant amount of time in jail, what and whom would you miss most?

How do you customarily handle loss? What experiences can you draw on to help you through this action?

What beliefs do you hold to most strongly? What is your personal credo?

What's your best possible scenario for the action? What are you looking forward to most?

Or people might prefer to use a different format to share feelings and convictions about the action. We envision this as a time of listening supportively, asking questions to draw each other out, making sure everyone has a chance to speak to the group in whatever way s/he feels comfortable with. If each of the 10 actors could have 10 minutes or so we could finish in 2 hours. We'd like to take a break in the middle.

Breaks during the retreat — Building in quiet, restful time seems very important for what is likely to be an intense few days, demanding much attention and patience. We suggest breaking at regular intervals (every hour or hour and a half) for 5-10 minutes for a time of silence, which people can use however they want — in prayer, meditation, relaxation, stretching, walking outside etc. — with the purpose of centering. We also strongly suggest that these breaks be spent in solitude, as a respite from interaction and a time to focus, rather than in socializing.

So the morning for the actors would be devoted to sharing, in two sessions broken up by a 10-minute period of silence. The support group might want to spend their time in a similar meeting.

Meal preparation — Lunch — Clean-up

Afternoon — Working toward a collective vision.

Overall questions: How do we see ourselves as a group? Do we want to build a community? What kind of community? What do we expect from each other? It might be helpful to adopt the following as our guide:

<p>In all necessary things, unity. In all doubtful things, liberty. In all things, charity.</p>

We have many decisions to make, questions to raise, possibilities to consider. As we discuss specific areas of concern, hopefully we'll begin to define a collective vision.

Some of the topics we'll need to discuss:

Decision-making in our group: consensus? What exactly does that mean?

What can we accomplish with each action we take? How can we keep alive and urgent the issue of the danger of war?

Levels of cooperation:

at time of arrest (go limp? walk?)

in the lock-up (answer questions of officials?)

accept I-bonds or stay in jail, and what those choices involve — both seem valuable and necessary if staying in jail — fast? be noncooperative in other ways?

Creative ideas for making the most of the action — press work, vigiling, visiting prisoners, involving KC group — are they willing?

Trial strategy — how much do we want to cooperate? pro se? risk of contempt charges

What if people are released at different times? get different sentences?

What if official reaction to what we do is minimal, like a ban and bar letter?

And the big one: exactly what will we each do at the silo?

We suggest breaking this long, potentially heavy discussion up into three sessions, two in the afternoon and one after dinner if necessary, with solitude breaks in between. It would be nice to start each session with a song, prayer, poem, or reflection, and we'd like people to volunteer to do that.

Meal preparation — Dinner — Cleanup

Continuation of meeting

Time to socialize

Throughout the retreat we'll need people to sign up for committees:

Meal preparation for each meal

Cleanup after each meal

Reflection/worship — to plan worship services

Ongoing agenda review/evaluation — Kathy, Darla, Duane, Cinny plus others

Entertainment/skit/talent — to plan party on Sat. night

Others

Each meeting will need

facilitator

recorder (maybe we can tape the meetings?)

timekeeper

process person (to be sensitive to how people are feeling — hard for facilitator to stay aware of that and also keep meeting going)

volunteers to start Friday afternoon/evening sessions with song, story, poem, etc. — maybe everyone could bring something to share

We think it's important for the actors to meet separately from the support people on Friday, but from then on the whole group should be together.

Saturday

7:30 Exercise (yoga, aerobics)

8:00 Worship

9:00 Breakfast

10:00 *Whole group meeting* — game to help us remember names and incorporate new people; talk about agenda for the day; do sample role plays; break up into small groups of 5 or so — count off, at least one actor in each group

Small groups — actors present and discuss Friday's decisions; support people report on their meetings on Friday; role plays dealing with different tones and messages that can be communicated: supports reacting to criticisms of action, a sample press call, actors responding to other prisoners in jail

Whole group — love of enemy — Kathy will lead a Buddhist meditation focusing on all-encompassing love.

12:00 **Meal preparation — Lunch — Cleanup**

1:30 *Whole group* — discussion of decision-making, how to incorporate new people

Darla Bradley talking about her Plowshares experience

Write down and pass in responses to the following: My greatest fear is. . . .

All responses will be read and we'll break up into couples to share and process fears — each person take a turn (20 minutes each)

4:30 Back to the whole group for closure

5:00 **Meal preparation — dinner — cleanup**

6:30 Bob Bossie presentation on preparations for nuclear war

Break into small groups (same ones as in the morning) for reaction and discussion

8:00 Party — games, singing, skit, talent show, fun

Sunday

7:30 Exercise

8:00 Worship

9:00 Breakfast

10:00 **Whole group meeting** — talk about specific tasks and set up working committees:

Overall coordinator — 1 or 2 people

Hospitality in KC

grocery shopping

food preparation

logistics

housecleaning

Preparing celebrations and times for reflection together before and after action (songs, readings, etc.)

Agenda for KC time

Writing — leaflets, press releases, funding appeals, updating letters

Media — follow-up calls immediately after action — 1 person KC, 1 person Chicago, national, etc.

Arranging for talk shows, interviews, continuing from the action through the trial

Travel — arranging car pools, logistics of driving on Aug. 15

Finance — fund raising

budget and accounting — 1 person

Supplies — 1 person to purchase and keep track of office supplies (paper, pens, stamps, envelopes, scissors, etc.)

Equipment for action — ladders, bolt cutters, etc.

Decorations — paint, tape, etc.

Outreach — contacting groups, setting up prayer services, speaking engagements, etc. in KC, Chicago, Milwaukee, nationally; updating mailing lists; xeroxing, collating, folding, mailing

Speakers' Bureau

Legal committee — liaison with KC lawyers and the prisoners

File person (maybe more than one) — keeping in order the mounds of papers that will accumulate: leaflets, press releases, letters, bills, correspondence, newspaper articles, mailing lists and more mailing lists, schedules, etc.

Miscellaneous — staking out swimming pools (as Kathy says, Kansas City in August — whew!); notifying prisoners' families, visiting prisoners

Break up into committees for discussion of tasks

12:00 **Meal preparation — Lunch — Clean-up**

1:30 Committees report back to group

Wrapup, celebration