

First Year Seminar

FEN Reflection

Below is a link to a section of Calvin's Comprehensive Plan

Click http://www.calvin.edu/admin/provost/multicultural/documents/FEN_Themes.pdf link to open resource. The document highlights and explains three themes in the Plan.

- 1) Summarize in your own words the three themes:

The three themes of the Comprehensive Plan are diversifying homogeneous communities, promoting unity between different people groups, and discouraging racism. To diversify communities, Calvin hopes that there will be less of the majority race enrolled in college and more people of minorities enrolled. In order to combine different people groups, the plan also emphasizes the need to stimulate unity by promoting cross cultural college and by showing different characteristics different people have in common. Lastly, the college can not only encourage unity; it must also discourage and weed out the racism that still emerges in society.

- 2) What is the relationship between these themes? Do they stand alone or as separate goals? Explain

The three themes of combating racism, promoting unity, and diversifying communities go hand in hand, because each of them are required by the other. For example, without diverse communities, unity between different people groups is impossible. But, the same is true if there is no unity, since communities cannot function if they are diverse but not unified. Each theme is the logical compliment of the other two and as such should be treated as one large goal to promote love and unity.

- 3) The FEN themes are directly related to at least two of our "lived callings" highlighted in the vocation video you saw in week 1. If you can't remember what those were, go back to www.calvin.edu/fys and view the video again. Briefly explain how the FEN themes relate to at least two "lived callings"

Applying the goals of promoting cross cultural communities will greatly improve and diversify our "lived callings" in community citizenship and the faith community. In both callings, we are recognized as a part of a bigger picture, and as such we must acknowledge differences between ourselves and others in the group while remaining united. The Comprehensive Plan covers the racial differences, but should be applied to more than just race; in addition, it can and should be used to unite people in cities with different economical statuses, to unite people of different denominations in the church, or to unite people of opposing political views. In order for the "economy of order" to function properly, Christians should apply the goals of the Comprehensive Plan to any groups in which they are positioned. Christians should strive for diversity of faith and political views, for unity between different people, and for going against segregation. With those three themes, Christians can impact their local community, their fellow believers, and any other group by brining people from all backgrounds together as one body in Christ.