

THURSDAY MORNING SYNTHESIS

TNN 2026 Retreat · From Map to Orientation · compiled June 18, 2026

The morning moved through five segments, and three things held. Identity got steadier, anchored in the seven components. Two asks of the network surfaced and pulled against each other, one relational and one structural. And the room reached for the same two phrases to carry the tension it could not yet resolve: pace, and protect the sticky part.

Go-around

Report-backs

Worth your time

★ Product probe

The close

THE SHAPE OF IT

WHAT HELD ACROSS THE MORNING

Identity steadied. The seven components gave the room an anchor it kept returning to, and several people named a re-centering on focus and mission.

Two asks pulled apart. One is relational: a brain trust, a home base, people who understand the work. The other is structural and financial: diversify funders, build the case, resource each other. The same tension showed up a second way as depth versus growth, since the relational value comes from this specific group and new members will not arrive with it.

Pace, and protect the sticky part. These were the phrases the room used to hold the tension. Neither resolves it. Both name how to carry it. The product probe did double duty: asked what they would hand someone who was not in the room, the group specified a deliverable set, captured in Movement 04.

MOVEMENT 01 · THE GO-AROUND

WHAT YOU COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT

THROUGH-LINE Almost everyone arrived at the same tension from a different door: define and move versus sit in the ambiguity. One participant named talking the group toward definition while much is still mushy. Another echoed it as shared purpose not yet settled. A third framed it as pacing a long journey.

Community without mission is self-absorption. Mission without community is exhaustion. The work is threading that needle.

A participant, citing the board chair

IDENTITY The room raised its own identity questions: congregationally adjacent or congregationally centered, shared purpose as an organization, and how the network keeps the focus on the neighbor.

AGENCY People need margin to participate and agency to co-create as experts in their own space, and institutions are meant to resource the work, not run it. Pace the long journey. Value the bridgers, name the role, have something real for them.

AT STAKE Wealth accumulation tracking with departure from neighborhoods, and the privatization of neighborhood goods and services. Faith communities' undervalued prophetic strength to name and resist that.

REGISTER Play is healthy and part of thriving. Sore cheeks from laughter. Longing and crucial juncture, the sense that years out they will remember this week with gratitude.

MOVEMENT 02 • REPORT-BACKS

PAIN, GAIN, GIVE

Three groups reported: National, State (Region 1), and Regional.

PAIN People outside the room do not understand the work, inside the Lilly world and the broader systems each person navigates. The network is too dependent on a single funder. There is no clean way to make the case to outside funders. Bandwidth is lost when everyone works outside their expertise.

GAIN A brain trust to bring work back to for feedback, the strongest theme and named in all three groups. Reflection and refinement that improves each person's own projects. Resource and wisdom sharing. Camaraderie that materially helps the work. A home base that persists beyond any one job. Practitioner craft: how to convene well and seed trust so a group goes deeper faster.

GIVE Capital and pass-through capacity; one member can hold and redistribute funds as a foundation, with legal work to sort. Range of expertise, from toe-in-the-water church work to upstream meta work. The bridger role itself. Access, for example asking Lilly to convene other prospective funders.

STRUCTURAL NOTE Three of these are the same shape in different clothes. Funder concentration is single-point dependence. Taking the case to outside funders is a brokerage move into a new cluster. Specializing so everyone has bandwidth is division of labor.

MOVEMENT 03 • HOW WE WORK

WORTH YOUR TIME

WORTH SHOWING UP FOR In rough order of heat: solidarity with people who get it because they do the same work elsewhere; joy and laughter, named as a real need; the hot seat, specific on-the-ground help with a live problem; collaboration integrated into daily work, not adjacent to it; someone to call in a challenge or a celebration; funding as capacity when slammed.

A lot of what is being named is here because of the community that has formed. New people have not experienced it. These aren't their people yet.

A participant, on growth

DEPTH VS GROWTH Growth risks diluting the very thing that makes the network worth the time. One participant leaned against growing. Alternatives floated: connect with other groups in a different formation, or let sub-groups peel off. Counterweight: do not become an exclusive space, and tend to those who could not be here. Where it landed: pace.

PROTECT THE STICKY PART The rare time together keeps getting eaten by business, writing the charter, then the grant, then implementing it. The proposal: move administrative work into smaller groups or separate calls and protect community time as community time.

FORMAT INPUTS Cadence is open. A structured hot seat with a light protocol. Intentional celebration, since wins are rare and slow and otherwise get skipped. A break-glass brain trust, a way to convene around 25 people with lived experience quickly in a crisis.

MOVEMENT 04 • THE PRODUCT PROBE

WHAT YOU'D HAND SOMEONE WHO WASN'T HERE

Asked what they would hand someone who was not in the room, the group specified a deliverable set. This is the source of the recommendations-package build plan.

01

Asset map of each org.

What you do, strengths and weaknesses, resources, programs, where you could collaborate. The most-named artifact.

02

A shared offerings database.

What each org offers, made available to each other's people, so collaboration can route across the network. A survey to populate it was flagged.

03

A one-page definition of TNN.

The simplest reminder of what they are after, the seven components included, for themselves first and outsiders second.

04

A funder-facing neighborhood-work draft.

For Duke, Lilly, judiciary leaders, the foundation CEO: what we mean, the challenges, the opportunities, why neighborhoods.

05

A community ground-truthing version.

A variant for TNN folks who weren't in the room and for about five people from each context, to react and pull constituencies into the co-creation.

06

Facilitator meta-reflections.

What the facilitation team and other non-facilitating observers noticed over the weekend.

07

A bench inventory.

What each person is genuinely good at, and who in their context holds things not represented in the room.

08

The economic-security reframe.

Free time and economic security as preconditions for co-creation, not the goal.

THE LOAD-BEARING ADDITION

An asset map of capability is half the artifact. The other half is commitment. The failure mode, named directly: networks catalog what people have, then find the resource unavailable when they reach for it. The fix is to capture what each member is committed to give, concretely, the ten hours rather than the willingness, and to tie what you get and what you give to the grant so it holds.

That maps onto the declared-versus-functional distinction. The asset map is the declared system. The commitment layer is the functional one. Building the survey without the commitment field would reproduce the exact gap C4C spends its time finding in other people's systems.

WHAT WE'RE LEAVING WITH

Re-centered on focus and mission, the seven components reaffirmed. Bridging, and caring for the bridges, named by more than one voice. A deeper commitment to these people, and peace with what is still unresolved. Home base, permission to keep leaning in through a life or structural change. One participant already translating it, moving a housing organization from providing a house to providing a neighborhood. Joy and belly laughs, and the sense that people here care deeply about who they accompany.

We know what we need.

A participant

WHERE IT LANDED

WHAT GOT CLEARER, WHAT STAYS OPEN

CLEARER

Identity has an anchor in the seven components. The network's primary value right now is relational depth and a working brain trust. The most-wanted artifact is an asset map. Any asset map has to carry commitment, not only capability.

STILL OPEN

Whether the network grows, holds, or splits into linked formations. How to pace whatever it does. How to protect community time from administrative load. Adjacent or centered. How to fund the work beyond the current funder.