THEME TEAM ROLE

Theming technique is used in large meetings to make it possible for all participants to gain an understanding of the feelings and positions in the group as a whole – while there's still time in the meeting to address them.

The Theme Team makes this process work, through brief periods of intense activity, allowing us to quickly identify where there are areas of agreement and shared understanding in large groups.

Role/Purpose

To serve a large group by reading comments in "groupmind" as participants are entering them, quickly distilling the comments into a few main themes or key messages, and then presenting the themes to the group in order to move the conversation forward.

Theme team members will work in pairs to help minimize bias and aid in the processing of feedback. The main goal is to get a sense of major group themes that emerge, not necessarily to reflect each individual person, response or idea. This process is about group discernment.

While all data/feedback will be captured, the Future Church Summit will focus primarily on the major themes that rise from the various table groups. This is not to say that individual voices do not matter. This forum focuses on the system as a whole, while recognizing individuals may have other priorities in their specific context.

Characteristics and Mindset of the Theme Team
Members must be …

- Dedicated to supporting Fast Cycle Feedback for the meeting's participants
    o Not tasked with other responsibilities that will distract them from their role
- Capable Synthesizers
    o Able to notice themes and patterns in a large quantity of ideas and issues
    o Be neutral and honour the group's input
    o A quick reader and thinker
    o Able to decipher the important ones
- Team players
    o Able to work effectively in a fast-paced team environment, working closely with other members, the leader, Covision (contracted processer) staff, and program producer
    o Work under strict time deadlines
- Flexible – the schedule will change
- Write in clean, clear citizen-friendly language