

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE WFYL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNALITY 28 June 2013

1. The morning workshops were each attended by 20-some writers who gave each workshop the strongest possible recommendations – 4s and 5s out of 5 in all aspects. Thank you all, facilitators – and writers!

2. The panel very ably presented their ideas on aspects of developing and maintaining communality. Eight conference registrants turned in the exit survey, and here are their preferences:

1st: writer-based communality

2nd: a combination of bases

3rd: branch-based communality

4th: partner-based communality

5th: Transition-based communality

6th: computer-based communality

Refer to earlier panelist outlines for details.

3. The reading / launch of TRANSITION Summer 2013 was an unqualified success: 13 writers read, mostly from their published works, to an enthusiastic audience. The communality-building power of the TRANSITION reading & launch was tested again.

4. The Conference itself may be seen as a trial run of a very specific type of communality-building exercise – namely, a conference, as such.

5. The oft-stated goal of the Conference was to determine how to develop and maintain a communality of writing-for-therapy groups in a CMHA context. Interpreting the results of the exit survey is, therefore, the immediate task of the Conference Committee. This interpretation will be the basis of my project report to SAB and of our recommendation to CMHA on how to proceed from here. See deadlines below.

Sooo – this invitation is out to all the members of th WFYL Google Group to weigh in with your ideas:

- How to interpret the exit survey?
- Aspects of communality that we've missed entirely?
- Above all, what to recommend to CMHASK?

As always, there are deadlines:

- the full project report by CMHA must be on SAB's desk by August 30
- my draft of this report should be in CMHA's hands at the latest by August 15
- I'd like the Conference Committee's recommendations by August 1
- the online discussion will have to conclude by July 15

Immediately after July 15, I'll convene, by email or Skype, a meeting of the Conference Committee to formulate what the Conference said in reply to the "research question" it was designed to answer: "How can a communality of writing-for-therapy groups be developed and maintained in a CMHA context?"

The final report of the whole project, including the conference report, will be published in TRANSITION Winter 2013.