

Police Chief among new *Strategic Foresight* Students February 2022

Chris Davis, Green Bay's new police chief, was among 16 participants in Envision's most recent *Strategic Foresight* workshop. He explained that "a big part of my job in twenty-first-century policing is anticipating trends and being ready when the future arrives." Invited to enroll in the course by Mayor Eric Genrich, Davis said he's interested in following the trend away from "de-fund the police" and toward placing higher value on policing as gun crime increases. "The trick," he says, "will be to effectively address violence while moving forward on police reform efforts."



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my way of thinking."*

Chief Davis was one of four Green Bay City employees enrolled in the course. Resurrection Parish also sent four participants, including Tony Pichler, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. At the end of the first day, Pichler exclaimed, "This calls us to re-examine and most likely 'blow up' the way we have approached ministry up to this point in our history. I'm so excited, and, yes, filled with a little trepidation, about what the future holds!"



Bob Rupp, principal at Leadership Resources of Wisconsin, came to Garry Golden's workshop with an entirely different goal. "I took the class to add another arrow in my quiver as I work to become a better market/trend researcher. I think I will be able to better contribute as a member of the boards that I serve as a result of this course." Amanda Johnson, Executive Director of Howe Community Resource Center, said she simply wanted to gain a better understanding of strategic foresight. A big

surprise for her came, she said, as she began to realize how many important signals she can miss if she's not looking.

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Dave Peitenpol, Past President of Ecumenical Partners for Housing, told us he was already watching signals before beginning the class. However, “I tended to watch ‘signals’ related to what I am interested in. Now I am more aware of the need to watch for and consider a much broader set of signals. Ultimately, all signals, in one way or another, are interrelated.”

“This challenged my perceptions and worldview.”

As the seminar, held in the board room of the Automobile Gallery, drew to a close and participants prepared to implement their developing skills in signals tracking, trend watching and anticipating various horizons, we asked them what they’d take from this day to launch them in their new direction. Barb LaMue of NEW North indicated she’ll be sharing much of this with her team. “I will also start to use the Diigo platform Garry showed us to help bookmark social signals.” Matt Woicek, Assistant City Engineer, indicated an interest in following signals that impact project funding and the construction industry. “I’ll be watching for potential innovations and efficiencies in the public works and construction sectors,” he explained.



“It’s about being ready when the future arrives, about distinguishing long-term trends from short-term fads.”



"I think this new approach can help me get better at distinguishing long-term trends from short-term fads," Chief Davis said. Father Tom Reynebeau of Resurrection Parish explained, "The aspects of our world - social, economic, political, relational and religious - are so intertwined and interdependent that every small movement of healing and change affects all layers of life. This is the gift and the challenge."

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And what was the biggest surprise today, we asked the participants. Did anything really blow you away? HR Generalist Jennifer Smits of the City of Green Bay said she found the whole day quite interesting. "There were a number of things I wasn't aware of, such as deep fakes and blockchain. Being in human resources and thinking about the future workforce, I thought the population pyramids were very interesting."

Tony Pichler said he found new and fascinating information at every turn. “So many concepts in this first day of training were new to me and challenged my perceptions and worldview. But the afternoon session on blockchain and how it underpins so much of where our world is going, including finance, transportation, and communications, just completely revolutionized my way of thinking. The decentralization that blockchain is built upon has dramatic ramifications, including in my own field of church ministry.”



The sixteen workshop participants will now work on their own, with virtual coaching on an individual basis from futurist Garry Golden. They'll come together for three virtual sessions over the next months, and then meet again in person in early April to share with each other and Envision's board of directors the insight they've gained about their organizations' likely futures. Envision itself sent its new Executive Director, Steve McCarthy, for training, long with two new board members: Beverly French and Rick Sense.



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These organizations have enrolled some of their leaders in the current training:

- City of Green Bay
- Resurrection Parish
- Ecumenical Partnership for Housing
- St. Norbert College Parish
- Howe Community Resource Center
- NEW North
- Leadership Resources of Wisconsin
- Envision Greater Green Bay

