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Show up to Gathering without expectations because your expectations won't be met; instead you'll leave with insights and inspiration you didn't know you needed. This experience encourages us to expand our understanding of what we know we don't know, although it is unique in that the most valuable lessons learned are those that we didn't know we didn't know.

Day one focuses on introductions and building community while we review the format and principles which serve as the platform for the weekend. Everyone has the opportunity to suggest a discussion topic and deliver a quick pitch as to why it deserves to be discussed in one of the breakout sessions on day two. By popular vote we narrow those topics into 24 discussions – four 60 minute sessions, each with 6 breakout groups on the various topics. This structure fosters an environment for everyone to have a voice in determining what is discussed, but more importantly you will likely hear of a topic or concept that you didn't know was applicable until you knew others were interested in it! To ensure these breakout sessions harness our collective wisdom, we all adhere to rules and principles. Our open culture embraces privacy of conversation and respectful communication to facilitate an atmosphere for authentic sharing that you won't find anywhere else.

Principles:

- Whoever comes to the discussion are the right people.
- Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened.
- When it starts it is the right time.
- When it is over, it is over.

Day two builds on the social capital developed on the first day by spending time in silence to clear our minds so we are present for each person and every conversation. The intimacy of the small breakout groups creates a space where passion can share and learn at its best. When a priority is placed on listening and we are collectively trying to figure out what is possible, it becomes evident that we are not that different from one another and that there is tremendous power in community. This unique opportunity to connect with peers who have similar experiences, obstacles, frustrations, opportunities, and successes in the various discussion topics (Pricing & Service Models, Career Paths, Entrepreneurship/Young Business Owners, Financial Life Planning, or Study Groups to name a few) proves that sharing leads to abundance.

Before Gathering ends on day three, we spend the morning setting intentions for how we will live what we learned during the previous 48 hours. Closing our time together in this way was a powerful experience because it brought the teachings full circle. Setting intentions for how we will use the wisdom we gained is a responsibility that Dick Wagner challenged us with when asked about how we can help create the future of the profession: "When it comes to creating the future, act like there isn't anyone else in the room to answer the call. We must all take it upon ourselves to facilitate meaningful change". Marty Kurtz lead the last exercise at Gathering by encouraging us to visualize our intentions, write down our biggest fear about implementing

those intentions, and then had us tear up the paper because we are individually and collectively powerful beyond measure!

If developing lifelong friendships, learning with top peers in your profession, re-energizing your passion for your work, or building on those who have come before you resonates with you – Gathering is the experience you need. Even though I came for many of those reasons my most powerful, yet unintended, takeaway is to explore why *I* am meant for this profession and why I am meant for *this* profession. The nuance is subtle but it is clear to me that each and every one of us was there for a reason, known or unknown to us at the time, and that we all had something meaningful to contribute. Confident that I will be back in 2017, I look forward to learning with the individuals who are able to attend because in order to create the future, we need to work together to leverage our unique gifts to Lead Today.