

Atlantic Convocation Lay

Dwelling in the Word:

- Stephen's death caused everyone to scatter, move out of their comfort zone.
- Positive impact on those who heard. Come together to deal with issues and this parallels with us as far as the community reactions.
- "No one but the Jews" meant they did not go outside, stayed internal.
- If it wasn't for the Trinity it would not have happened, we need to find the Holy Spirit within our churches.
- People took a big risk!
- "Send relief to their abilities" - we all bring our own gifts.
- There's a feeling of humility when you come to church. It's a feeling that you are stronger in community. God has a sense of humor! We all get different talents to use.
- Be open to new ideas and keep your ears open.
- God loves us unconditionally, gave us Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- Need to reach out to the lonely and sick. People just want to talk. We shouldn't be afraid to talk about Jesus. Don't keep it all to yourself. You go out and don't want to gossip.
- Sometimes people get hurt in church. Don't dwell on conflict, find where the spirit is already working.

Vital Questions:

- Problem - there is poor communications between Diocesan house and congregations, and congregations with each other. Resources in the pews are not tapped into (work on infrastructure?)
- Diocesan website is terrible (multiple voiced) too difficult to find your way through the layers.
- Committees not out working with the local parishes. We need to get ahead of the news to get our story out (example - Church of the Ascension in AC).
- Worry about people who are not here (at the meeting.) Even convocations are not laid out in geographic ways that make sense. Can we consider resetting convocations? Smaller regional groups and find other ways to communicate (Skype?)
- Going back to basics. Don't chase the money, chase the people. Use examples and knowledge from the service industry. Jesus Movement - it's a very different approach.
- We do baptisms and never see them again. What is done for follow up?
- Fair share - what happens with it? We need to have a stake in one another.
- We are the diocese. We have a responsibility to a common life.
- There are parishes who give nothing or can give more. What happens to them? Why do they not feel responsible?
- Talk about clergy - there are 5 curate positions. We've become one priest per church. How can we combine to put together a critical mass?
- Changing the transition process - search of 2-3 years is too long. Parish profile takes too much time. Should be 12, 18 months.
- People do not know what they are getting from the Diocese. Plan to see how the staff can minister to all, not just the problem places. (Don't wait for an invite.) We can get much bigger, look at what we have, not what we don't have.
- Impressed by the work of the Hispanic ministry. And small ministries that report briefly at the end of convention should instead be really celebrated.
- Canon 8 - train clergy and put them into specific places. School of ministry with three tracks: lay, deacon, non stipendiary priests.

- Why separate clergy from lay?

Vital Questions:

- Core values make us accountable.

- What does it mean to be a diocese today? We use "us/them" too much, use "we."

- Look for places where people are hungry out in the world.

- Inward focus is also known as housekeeping.