

Camden Convocation Clergy

Dwelling in the Word

- Things were really changing. They had gotten comfortable with each other, then someone brought in others and it became a different thing. We are a society tied to real estate. Taking care of property takes a lot of energy and cash.
- "Who are Jesus" is reflective in the action in Acts. Teaching, proclaiming, grace all in the community.
- Something was happening outside the church, what God was doing outside the church.
- They taught people from outside the church about Jesus and they taught physically outside the church.
- Barnabas wanted to share his ministry. Can't just build our own little kingdom but need to really speak to each other.
- They sent Barnabas who then saw the Holy Spirit.
- Interconnectedness is vital. Ministries aren't distinct.
- We need to build community.
- No one should be left behind.
- We need someone to go around and make sure parishes know that the Spirit is working.
- We live daily in the kingdom of God vs. Kingdom of man tension. We are family - dysfunctional but we need to be honest with each other.
- We worship our buildings - idolatry - and we have to be okay with moving out.
- Say everyone is welcome...to come in.
- This is a terrible time to be the church.
- This is a great time to be the church. Change is often feared, but it is exciting and lots of opportunities. The world is changing and we have to respond and move with it.

Vital Questions

- The most sacred part of the church is the threshold that leads out into the world.

- Having the bishop come out really allow for connections. If the clergy doesn't get as involved as possible, then our people don't feel like they should be involved. We don't bring Jesus into the "business" attitude of the diocese.
- Even people who go to convention don't report back to every parish. Don't go to the parish meeting because they don't see the connection to General Convention.
- We need to challenge the idea that Trenton = diocese.
- We don't consistently go out to community. Congregations are destinations not center of the community.
- Individualism is our culture. No other country has that. The clergy tends to go back and do business as is. Everyone will agree but not follow through. Too much disconnect.
- There is a different way for us to connect now. We need a Paul for social media.
- Need to use all the channels available.
- Authentic experience of God and authentic experience of community. That's what people want from church.
- The mission of the diocese is to increase our love of God and our neighbor.
- We (the older generation of clergy) need to let go of some things. Younger generations don't do because the older generation is still doing it. If the OG thinks their way is the only way, it won't help.
- At charettes, we need to ask "what are you willing to give up?" Do you love the young generation enough to trust them?
- The definition of love = open, and fear = closed. What do you need to gain by being open?
- What does it look like to be an Episcopalian?
- Listening to how people hear the gospel in their own culture.
- We have a celebration for the older. We need to have a celebration for the younger ones.
- We need to share the ideas, in amongst ourselves. We do ourselves a disservice by thinking we shut down for the summer. Share what we do that's different and works.
- Never overlook the obvious. Stop coming up with inadequate reasons people first come and we should get beyond that. Get out of the comfort zone.

- First thing we do to new people is get them on a committee and pledge.
- It has to be all about Jesus.
- Regional confirmations and gatherings before Doss times.
- Youth ministry will be most helpful done regionally. We need a different model.
- The first call of Christians is to listen.
- Every parish has their own mission statement. They should all have one.
- We need to share stories of real events happening to other parishes. Example - churches in Camden who are struggling with families who are signing children away to other families because they are not documented and don't want the children to be sent away.