

Lay Day of Discernment

46 people at tables for conversation (includes 3 staff, plus 3 steering committee members)
Show of hands indicated that maybe five or six people in the room were not at a Bishop's forum, so the majority attended the previous stage of the process.

Dwelling in the Word:

What did you stop on?

evangelism, because that's what we're here to do
unity of faith unity of spirit
gifts he gave us
given grace
lead a life worthy
grow to maturity in the faith
there is one body and one spirit
must no longer be children

What word or phrase caught your attention, and why?

You have been called: well, that's what the Lord did to me
so many things noted that it really proved the passage: diversity and also camaraderie and
patience with each other
all gifted to do different things – have to put them in the right places for those gifts
sometimes we think we have a gift, but we don't necessarily – need to be able to discern these
gifts

How is the Spirit nudging you?

Rules of the Road here they are
to be engaged
knowing your true gift and calling and doing what you are called to
Unity of the spirit/faith – we're right in the midst of realizing that we need to be unified as a
diocese
nudged to grow in unity of faith
to be still, pay attention, be an active listener

Bishop's comments:

"We are called to the one hope" – I absolutely believe God calls us as individuals and as
community; I don't know if we're clear yet what God is calling us to do as a diocese, but God is
definitely calling us to something – this process is part of discerning that call.
God overflows as a gift giver. We live with the incredible abundance of God, so many fits in this
room that we couldn't even describe them all: and they are all given for equipping for the work
of ministry, for building up the body.
Reclaim that calling of equipping the saints for everyone. We live in a consumerist culture. We
need to meet people where they are (in their consumerism) (coming to the church for a good
sermon), but have to have a deeper understanding that that is not what we are called to; we are
called to this equipping, this building up the body of Christ.

Ephesians: a circular letter, sent to any community, it's about our overall call as the church. (And I'm happy to talk to anyone who has trouble with Paul – he's a spirit filled person; if it weren't for him, we wouldn't be here today.)

Bishop's opening remarks

What we learned at the forums (below comments are in addition to elements of the report that were presented):

Community came up over and over again; both as something people relish in their congregations, and something we need to strive for as a diocese. Strong sense of needing to reach out

Communications: heard over and over we need to do a better job across the board.

("the diocese" – challenge the division; need to see all of us in this area as the diocese)

Formation: the whole sports thing came up: notion of trying to embrace sports culture instead of fighting it

Youth and Young adults: this is a major challenge for us all; we all need to be making room for them to step into leadership

Did you hear those themes? Yes. (lots of nodding)

Today: Our task is to hone in on what's important to us. Remember this is an iterative process. Today we drill down and see what's important to us, and whether there's evidence that we are doing these things well or whether it's

Charettes will take these values and talk about resources, expenses; wrestle between budget and values.

As members of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion our meta-values are established for us.

BCP: Mission of the church to restore all people to unity with God in Christ (missional church movement places emphasis differently, God has a mission, and has a church to carry out that mission) – it's about reconciliation.

Baptismal Covenant

Credal beliefs go without saying (people agreed). We need however to consider what we mean by "I believe" – not staying trapped in belief as intellectual assent; God is bigger than our minds. We should also understand "I believe" as relational: I put my trust in... I have a relationship with this God.

Five marks of mission:

Were developed in mid-80s, adopted by General Convention in 1990s

Task for today: How do we, as a diocese, 144 congregations, bring these to expression in our own context? How do we apply values locally stemming from those, how do we live them out?

*****Break*****

Core Values exercise

Top 5 values from each table (with effectiveness rankings from Step 2 of the exercise)

Mutual support - 2.5
Community Outreach/support - 4.75
Equity (working to overcome injustice) - 3.75
Education - 2
Trust - 3.75

Faith - 4.1
Growth - 3
Love - 4
Justice - 4
Vision/youth - 3

Inclusion - 2.5
Missional - 3
Transformation (through ministry and evangelism) - 3
Collaboration/communication - 3
Reconciliation and peace - 3

Love and Tolerance (living as examples of) - 5
Compassion (respond to human need) - 4.5
Stewardship of Creation (care for the earth) - 4.1
Traditions - 4.28
Faith/Faithfulness - 5

Love (inclusion and acceptance) - 3
Formation (faith) - 3
Youth ministry - 2
Evangelism - 2
Outreach - 4

Faith (in God/the Trinity) - 3.3
Leadership development - 2.7
Inclusiveness - 2.9
Outreach - 3.1
Faith Formation - 3.1

Faith - 4.4
Outreach - 4
Stewardship 2.4
Inclusivity/Evangelism - 3.8
Education - 3

Inclusion - 4.8
Leadership - 4.6
Justice and Peace - 4.2

Growth - 2
Faith - 3.6

Combined values for sticky dot exercise

Faith (6)
Inclusion (5 – maybe 4.5, counting “Love: inclusion & acceptance” as half)
Love 3 (related to tolerance, inclusion, acceptance)
Outreach (3 – plus “community support”)
Evangelism (2)
Justice (3 – includes “Equity: working to overcome injustice”)
Youth (2)
Education (2)
Growth (2)
Leadership/Leadership development (2)
Formation (2 – both related to faith)
Mutual support
Trust
Missional
Transformation
Collaboration/communication
Reconciliation
Peace
Compassion
Creation stewardship
Traditions
Stewardship

Results of sticky dot voting

Faith (26)
Youth (24)
Outreach (20)
Collaboration/communications (19)
Inclusion (16)
Love (15)
Leadership (14)
Justice (13)
Evangelism (12)
Formation (11)
Growth (9)
Mutual Support (9)
Stewardship (8)
Education (5)
Trust (5)
Compassion (5)

Missional (4)
Reconciliation (4)
Traditions (3)
Transformation (3)
Creation (3)
Peace (2)

What values are missing?

Commitment (which would lead to generosity, which would lead to money)
Witness (to the Episcopal way as well as to the Gospel)

What do we do well?

Our traditional worship is outstanding

and what do we need to work harder on?

Consistency/follow-through
getting the word out to the community about the Episcopal Church
communicating the value and purpose of the diocese to people in congregations
Ecumenical relationships

take aways and further thoughts

Working together, we can make things happen
it's good to hear about what's happening around the diocese
making new friends, relationships filled with the Holy Spirit
This is going to be a longer process than just this year
we need to get the word of this process out to people who are not here
the people in this room are the committed people in the diocese – I already know a lot of these people
The people in the pews around me don't know about this – I'm not sure they're listening when we try to tell them
Everyone here should go back to their congregations and stand up at announcements tomorrow and report on today
Lots of congregations aren't represented here, including some active, missional congregations that just aren't connected with this process – how do we reach out to them and include them?
Worried that as this process goes on it won't stay a high priority (Bishop is committed to keeping regular forums on his schedule)
Better communication!