

Monmouth Convocation Clergy

Dwelling in the Word

Among them are some - voices in our congregations that are not heard. We need to be responsive to them.

According to their abilities - nothing good ever comes when we do works from our guilt.

It doesn't matter how far along, we continue to go back to our comfort zone, but Jesus is always calling us outward.

Persecution and famine - there is always bad, but the response is to come together and that's the good news

Where is the church today being called to go?

They were scattered because they were afraid. Some in our diocese are afraid. The good news is they were afraid because they were disciples and called Christian. Have to be willing to sacrificed. When they get together they counter the fear by helping others.

Barnabas was called and when he saw the grace of God in their faces. You can tell when things are bad by our faces, and Barnabas tells them to stay faithful.

Organizational challenge - to remind others outside are okay to talk because it's all about God. Like what Moses was declaring, how do we see God outside our normal places?

All happens because they are full of/propelled by the Holy Spirit.

Vital Questions

Sometimes it takes time and it's hard when you want to see right away.

Barnabas means &son of encouragement& and that means &give heart to&.

Reflective of the Five Marks of Mission and we need to also point to ourselves.

The dynamics of these conversations are very Benedictine. Good to go back to apostolic roots.

If we claim the God of history and nature, we have climate problems and historic problems.

We don't know how to proclaim without appearing evangelical. We try to focus on logic and science.

Christianity has been stolen by &the empire.& Being a Christian is now political, and we don't want to be labeled so we end up with not speaking the truth. We worry too much about

consequences.

In Uganda they were asked if they were willing to die for Christ. If Christ died for me how can I step up? We should not fear. The devil is the most fearful and if we know who our commander is, we should not be afraid.

We struggle against lethargy and apathy.

Collect for Mission (page 101 of BCP) could be an agreed place to start.

Diocese allows us to be in relationship with each other and with God. How do we foster relationship?

Change of the creed from &I& to &we&. It's the community that is the focus. High church is community based, low church (more evangelical) is more on personal salvation. Not just about me. God calls a people, not just individuals.

We misunderstand the office vs. the person. We need to know the bishop is here to empower and not control.

Individualistic attitude is both formational and societal.

Are we willing to change? All congregations say they are welcoming, but we need to be willing to change.

People in the pews have their perspectives guided by clergy. We have a leadership problem.

We have a lot of info (clergy) but we have to get info to people. Have to stop looking at the church as a business, and stewardship isn't just money. Stewardship is the work of the church.

Bob Gallagher (CDI) changes the local parishes to schools of disciples. We need mentors for new clergy too.

School for Deacons will now be School of Ministry.

Other points:

We need to stop talking about business. We have failed to find a spiritual stand and be soul winners as our focus, think of the budget spiritually. First question - what is your CEO style?

It's about being a community not an institution.

How do we help with the places where the building is closed? How do we help the healing and support?

Change the definition of &the diocese.& Have the bishop show up more often. Are there other medium through which the bishop can connect?

Diocesan wide study for confirmation.

What is the deep issue in the Caucasian community that they are not growing?

There is different types of growth, including accepting and engaging with local community. Some people come to church for just an organist.