

Northern Convocation Clergy

Dwelling in the Word

According to their ability - they first look for God's grace, and in that place they find a need so they can help. Every place has something happening that needs to be celebrated.

There will be a famine and yet they still gave.

First called Christian is the start of the institution. There is that and the organic and how do they dance?

They got on the road due to persecution.

News of what happened in Antioch, then went to Jerusalem. The gifts went from the people back to Jerusalem. Flows both ways.

People in power try to encourage divisiveness. Power tries to scatter and separate.

Sometimes things take time. (Stayed for a year.)

Things happen when someone goes out and talks outside the inner circle. It doesn't pop until that happens.

Parishes that are experiencing famine - what are we doing to help?

Modern Christianity has lost the vitality of the Spirit. What is it like to feel the fullness of the Spirit. We have a fear of physical buildings that limit her ability to move.

Are we working contrary to the Spirit by staying in the box?

Vital Questions

Language of family was used to defend individualization. How do we change understanding of community to what people mean when they said family? Family is a closed system.

One of the things the bishop and his reps should do is make the links between communities. We open the doors to go in and go out. In NJ, life is an intense competition for all resources - time, money, energy, everything.

We need to explore what people really mean by family? We are lacking a sense of identity as a diocese and as the larger church? Fair share - what have they done for me? It is heard all over.

We are here as a mission of the whole diocese, unique to the town we are in. We are Episcopalians who are in a town. We are too insular, should be a school, of disciples.

Love of history. One parish has the charter from King George that hangs over the baptismal font. It is more important than baptism. Several places have history that predates even the diocese.

How would these questions go in the parishes themselves? The questions should include the baptismal covenant.

What is the bishop's vision? To get each parishes to live out the baptismal covenant in the unique location where it is.

This is the first time where people in the pews are really starting to talk about the relationship with Jesus. It's amazing how strong the inertia pulls us to stay put. It takes a lot of time and intention. We need to expand our knowledge base.

3 questions: with the blessing and resource God gave you, what are you doing to proclaim Jesus Christ? Where might the HS be leading us?

The language has been hijacked - relationship with Jesus, Christianity - it is people showing the kingdom of God that brings people in. We need to let people know why we do what we do - need the tag "made with Jesus".

New priest needs a chance to know the parish family.

Parishes who don't have jubilee centers feel like they are somehow lesser because they don't.

Language binds us and causes us stress. Are people really looking to be there on Sunday morning because they know they are needed?

&We need more young people& - they are seeking it, and we need to find what it is about us that they are looking for somewhere else.

Pop up churches. Bring church to the sports teams. We also need to teach about intergenerational joys. Value of house churches. Diners in NJ.