

Theo's Cafe - Young Adults Conversation

- The church needs to come out of the building, get to where people are. The parishes want the diocese to come be there.
- How do better resourced places share with other parishes who have greater need?
- It helps when a congregation has a "face" that is seen. We are more willing to help when we know specifically who is being helped.
- Communications need to be better. We need to tell our stories better.
- Most people of this age group don't get involved in church until someone invites them to get involved. Yet it's very frustrating when they are told they are too young or too inexperienced to be involved in certain ministries, especially Vestry or at diocesan convention.
- We need to constantly chat. It's tough to admit weaknesses.
- High school years were the best when surrounded by Episcopalians. There was so much support and activity to make things easier.
- Why is this age group missing from the church? Because when we go off to college there is not an intentional connection made to continue to be active in the church.
- Often, when young families come to church, and they have a small baby or toddler who gets fussy, they are made to feel really uncomfortable. Then the parent(s) don't want to come back to where they are made to feel unwelcome.
- Some of the best responses to babies in church have been when clergy take the child and help to settle him/her. This way the congregation sees it's okay for babies to be fussy and the priest makes it seem acceptable.
- We need to elect delegates who are under 40 so that their voices can be heard in the larger church.
- How do we include people with various disabilities in our services? Not just have special services for those who may have challenges, but include them in the main services.
- Jobs today are on such varied schedules that sometimes people arrive on Sunday morning coming home from an overnight shift. If they are tired and need to rest, or if they have an element of their personality that they need to disengage or rest at times, we need to help parishioners be more understanding of those needs.
- It is important to offer combined services or events so the attendees at each service get an opportunity to meet each other.
- It makes you proud to be an Episcopalian because you can be yourself and not have to be any particular way.
- We are comfortable with the deep questions and we have a big inclusive reach.
- We need to remember to have an edge of humility, and we are part of a church that strives to ask better questions.