

Trenton Convocation Lay

Dwelling In The Word

Took a year - takes time to build community. Must be devoted.

Who are our prophets?

We should feed everyone, not just believers.

An entire plan was set up in one sentence [Acts 11:29-30].

They found their abilities within themselves, they were a community.

We speak only with those we are comfortable with.

Barnabas is the impressive example - full of the Holy Spirit and so many were converted.

Only spoke to the Jews because they were afraid.

They did what they could. They could not feed the whole world so they fed each other the best they could.

Get out and talk to the communities at festivals and events and invite.

Memorials for those who were murdered in Trenton last year to bring attention to them.

TASK feeding programs to guests who come for meals. It's outside of your comfort zone.

They did the relief, but was that just what was convenient? Are we called to give all we can, or what is easy for us to choose to give?

The church persecuted is more engaged than the church comfortable.

Vital Questions

Younger generations - movement of people toward spirituality. Core values have become secularized, sanctuary cities, environmental movement for example.

We are all conflicted between uses of money - do you have enough to take care of yourself in your old age? Self focus. The tithe is the standard. Vestry especially and their commitment to the diocese. We need to assess value statements in not paying the fair share.

Board of consultation will kick it off in the fall. It is not a financial issue, but a pastoral one.

Priest/pastor leads community meetings. It should be the concern of everyone. Other churches need to offer to help each other. Everyone should include the names on the prayer list. Urban Promise had volunteers from Trinity Princeton. We need to reach out where we are not comfortable.

Congregations that are Christ centered but still see mostly their local communities not other areas. Innercities can see need right outside the windows, but other places are more sheltered.

Are we supposed to continue the way we are going? It's continually being put back on the parishes. The Diocesan staff is not assessing if what they are doing is the call of Jesus. Need more transparency on where the financial support is coming from. LGBTQ commission was formed and they have done nothing. Local Roman Catholic congregation is more open and supporting of this community than I see in this diocese. Organization based on the feelings of the heart, where we chose to give.

Worldwide famine metaphor. The Prophets are all around us. This will pull us in many directions, but we have to come back to where the resources are. We have underestimated the value of our biggest resource, which is our people.

Values are expressed by what you give as a person and financially. The church gives nourishment, the very basic need. Where are we getting it from if not from church?

In the 70s, Episcopal Church was seen as a place where intelligent people could believe. Now people feel that they must believe without question, because they are told they must believe certain things to be Christian.

Not just value of what we have, creating community and teaching needs to happen. We need to teach not just throw money at the problem. Build training programs.

Episcopal Church breaks down barriers. Change to Book of Common Prayer. There are more things holding us back. We don't talk to each other, we only worry about our parish. We need to be more active in our life of Jesus. Baptismal covenant has become more central. There is evil in the world and in us.

We deal with scarcity not abundance. We look at what we have from the perspective of scarcity. If stewardship would work from the idea of abundance it would be more successful.

Come to this church because there are rules of the road in the Episcopal Church. Not a fun conversation but what is fair.

Sermons focused on what is the word of Jesus and how we are supposed to live our lives.

We started talking about scripture (tonight) what do we do after we read the three scriptures on Sunday. If we had more Bible study, to talk about our walk with Jesus. What are we doing to learn?

We have a specialized language. People do invest in keeping others out.

Why the clergy and lay separate at the meetings?

Nice to see people from multiple churches together.

How did we get here financially? Special programs were supported for 3 years.

Were the special initiatives successful? Canon for Black Ministries was part time, made full time, now done by a deacon. Convention decided to make it full time, from the initiatives, but ended at the end of the year. Didn't want to lose Brian Jemmott. We wanted it to be seen as a place of value. How do we assess success? Is butts in pews effective? Is Rob Droste's work helping congregations to grow in faith? Metrics need to be beyond Sunday morning. The charettes will be the time to discuss values.

Episcopal Church is great place for introverts. Faith training includes talking with others.

We have to rely on God. We have to be open to letting God provide.

The church structure was created to facilitate relationships.