

Notes from St. Paul's Sources of Transformation Recap Meeting July 9, 2018

Vestry Members Present: Rev. Ed Bird, Pat Brown, Maureen Gerrity, Marv Kombrink, Linda Lorbach, Freyja Rasmussen-Johns, Gretchen Schlabach, Brad Smith

Gretchen coordinated and led the meeting, which began at 11:00 a.m. with a review of our Sources of Transformation workshop. The four sources of transformation for congregational development include: Study & Learning, Prayer & Worship, Action, and Life in the Community, all of which are interactive and interdependent in a healthy, active congregational life.

Study & Learning – consists of Mind, Heart, and Practice

Some of the thoughts we had at the original workshop included:

Mind - adult formation, Mother Heidi's book discussion, the children's programming

Heart – choir, Stations of the Cross, new friends

Practice – serving on vestry, listening to others

Responses and Discussion: We can incorporate these responses with an “envisioning” group or committee; the Formation Committee has already started some of this. We need to be more mindful of where we're going from here. Our congregational members are all genuinely interested in each other, both formally and informally.

Prayer & Worship – consists of Holy Eucharist, Daily Office, and Personal Prayer

Thoughts from the workshop included:

Holy Eucharist – openness of each person to all, God's “special food”, mindfulness, music, Christmas Eve service, kids playing bells, the Peace, Eucharist is open to everyone

Daily Office – work and home life is ministry, meditation

Personal Prayer – silent prayer, praying in church, daily devotion, relating sermon points to home life, mindful meditation

Responses and Discussion: Regarding the Book of Common Prayer, what are types of personal prayer? How can we make that a regular practice? Holy Eucharist is our center and strongest area, while Daily Office is our weakest point

Action – consists of Stewardship, Service, and Evangelism

Some of our thoughts included:

Stewardship – music, Playground, assisting with activities

Service – gardening, singing, serving on committees

Evangelism – inviting folks in, discretionary fund, prayer list

Responses and Discussion: We should make up some type of template for each of the various committees, which could be displayed and rolled through on the large

screen in the parish hall. We need to develop opportunities to serve, such as a well-thought-out service outreach for the whole congregation, and then ask for volunteers to assist.

Life in Community – consists of Conversation, Food, and Silence

Some of our thoughts included:

Conversation – greeting visitors, acceptance of others, no judgement, town hall meetings

Food – coffee hour, Low Sunday brunch, fellowship dinners, lobster boils, making a dish to pass

Silence – listening, sitting in silence before church, listening to others' faith journeys, Blue Christmas service

Responses and Discussion: We are very good at listening to others and at fellowship.

NEXT STEPS:

When an “envisioning” committee is formed, they may want to review some of what we have gone over here today.

Needs: Formation, and how do we grow? What are our community needs? How do we reach out to the community and beyond?

Some next step ideas: We need to define our “product” and then promote and market that. A committee or group, other than the vestry, needs to be identified to get organized in time for our new priest to become involved. **Maureen volunteered to be the vestry liaison for this group.** A few ideas to get started with reaching out included informational booths at CornFest and Pumpkin Fest.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.