

January 2018 Town Hall Table Discussion Notes

With the top priorities from each dot exercise identified (see page 1 of YCV January Town Hall Summary), attendees were asked to brainstorm within their table groups and identify steps that could move each priority forward as well as what resources (human, financial, other) would be needed to do so. Table notes are transcribed below. Each table was encouraged then to share one concrete action in each category as a preferred course of action (see YCV January Town Hall Summary).

CONTINUE:

Nurturing prayer and worship:

- Continue to provide opportunities for parishioners and friends to pray and study together and to reflect on sermon contents
Next Step: prayer groups for faith sharing; study groups with qualified people; train the trainers
Resources: time and being open to who could be a trainer / leader; time to train; time to find leaders

Evangelism (ties in with Outreach):

- Talk amongst friends and neighbours
- Reverence towards each other at church and about each other
- Continue with being open to conversations (Open Door, Our Place Peel; Out of the Cold; Bible study in mall, etc.)
-

Serving others:

- Continue to nurture and serve each other in our parishes
- Continue to serve our community (Our Place Peel; Open Door)
- Develop mentorship
Next Step: encourage more people to participate in tasks at church services
Resources: people

INCREASE:

Youth, children, young family ministry:

- Meet needs of young families; offer courses to meet needs
Next Step: identify needs of young families/children/youth and then meet those needs with activities
- Members of parishes could practically help young families with time etc
- Shares successes and not such successful things with other churches

Children's ministry:

- Churches share what they do with children ideas
Resources: opportunity to share

January 2018 Town Hall Table Discussion Notes

Lay leadership training:

- Ask parishioners who are already providing a role to train new participants; doesn't need to be a priest or Warden to do this

Cultivating new non Sunday worship:

- this is a good idea but we did not have time to discuss this

CONTINUE:

Nurturing prayer and worship:

As individuals, churches, and community, how do we make our liturgies and prayer life a living thing.

- Teach our people what our common prayer is about. Instructed liturgies for Holy Eucharist and morning and evening prayer (what is a collect, a creed, etc.; why do we do what we do and worship).
- Nurture people's prayer lives; spiritual direction and what are common prayer is about

Resources: An online repository on Diocesan website of liturgies that clergy can access

More opportunities to come together to pray

Prayer groups in sort of the same manner as Bible study and with small groups for them to build trust and community to pray together for each other

Evangelism:

Evangelism without serving others is meaningless. They go hand-in-hand. Actively live the gospel. Evangelism is serving. How do we build communities that are welcoming--ministry of hospitality and invitation? How do we nurture our congregations so they can go out into the secular world and live out the good news in their daily lives?

- More training and teaching around new forms of ministry beyond Sunday morning worship
- Ask parishioners what does it look like to be a Christian in your work setting; perhaps resource our parishioners to pray and live their faith
- More and increased team ministry; hub churches
- The diaconate-- more deacons. Diaconate Ministry can and could be an integral part of bringing the gospel into our communities.
- Increase training for lay leaders to visit and bring the gospel to the wider community
- Teaching around the priesthood of all believers and that the work of evangelism of all members—priest, deacon and laity--are all important aspects of evangelism

January 2018 Town Hall Table Discussion Notes

- How do we empower people? Deacons encourage and enable the laity to become more involved in serving others because they are called to interpret the needs of the world to the church and to dismiss the congregation to send them into the world to love and serve the Lord

INCREASE:

Youth ministry:

- Create a repository of resources—games, liturgies, etc.-- that youth leaders can use increase connection of youth from multiple parishes
- More area events for youth retreats

Children:

- Better or new models of engagement of parents and grandparents beyond Sunday morning
- More resources like Messy Church
-

Cultivating more non-Sunday worship:

- Increase teaching about non Sunday worship and teaching congregations that with new initiatives the goal may not be turning the new people into Sunday worshippers

Resources: online resource of new ideas/new ministries; increase networking between parishes

CONTINUE:

Nurturing Prayer and Worship:

- Serendipity Bible – themes; guidance reuse
- Meeting House – reflect on sermon and readings
- Small groups – take time to reflect and connect with others

Evangelism:

- Knowledge of beliefs needed; how to share this daily connection to God
-

Serving Others:

- Keep going!!; shared value in small ways as well as more organized -- visit seniors; Out of the Cold; Faithworks

INCREASE:

January 2018 Town Hall Table Discussion Notes

Youth ministry:

- How do we get them in and to stay?
- Mentorship
- Learn from other parishes practices (Outreach; homework clubs)
- Cultivate parents of young families; make them welcome; servers in the liturgy

Children:

- Share our programs
- Teachers visit other churches (tour by Grace and Sonia and Linda);
-

Lay Leadership:

- Mentorship
- Meetings to show appreciation and visioning

Non Sunday worship:

- Messy Church; worship with seniors; parish breakfast and dinners

- YCV should invest in a central child & youth education resource
 - something based off of the Church calendar
 - lower barriers for small churches
 - a toy / tool library so churches can share
 - can be used by parents at home too
- More gatherings for youth from different churches; cooperative youth groups between churches
- Resources for Bible studies;- building educated laity encourages evangelism
- Celebrate the church calendar outside of Sunday

CONTINUE:

Nurturing Prayer and Worship:

- Use current BAS forms / resources
 - Try a different form so we aren't just saying the words but hearing the prayer-- mix it up
 - Resources:* no cost; just need to be open
- Deanery or Area Ministry day
 - Have prayer and worship as the focus
 - Workshops on leading prayer; using prayer; using different forms; adding new ideas

Resources: need planning group/ location/ minor resources

January 2018 Town Hall Table Discussion Notes

- Plan intentional prayer service
 - For parishioners in need - small circles
 - For those who are sick
 - Prayer service or prayer breakfast
- how can we use prayer outside of worship; discernment

Evangelism:

- Plan “testimony” at a church service; find ways to get comfy speaking about our faith (start in Church; challenge to speak publicly); once comfy in church maybe speak openly and family, at work, etc.
- Area can encourage moments to express and evangelize
- Teach that our actions are also evangelism -- the word gets a bad rap
- Invite back people who no longer come to church
- Use Alpha via media

Serving Others:

- Investigate participating in programs like Out of the Cold to minister and support OR local programs in your area; partner with existing programs; do these on a deanery level or area level
- Reach out to long-term care to help

INCREASE:

Youth:

- organized group confirmation classes within deaneries to prepare
 - good for smaller parishes to join together
 - cost? Not much
 - as a group you can organize larger discussion or activity
- an area resource person hired to help with youth ministries and youth related worship programs
 - cost of the resource -- planning education resource will share the program and ideas
 - use smaller deanery days to share with parishes
- need to have a presence in universities and colleges

Children:

- plan an area or deanery children’s service
 - joint in one place
 - engage kids to participate

January 2018 Town Hall Table Discussion Notes

Lay Leadership Training:

- Plan an Area Development Day on different topics (how to pray; dealing with challenging people; dealing with gossip; visitation and listening)
- continue these [town hall] workshops
- Let people know what resources are already available; there's lots of there but it's unknown to many
- Lay deanery collaboration; not just clergy deanery meetings

CONTINUE:

Nurturing Prayer and Worship:

- cell groups at home for faith sharing
resources: workshop training (one shot deal); ongoing support—possible social media; evaluation
- area prayer circle; area Sunday with intercessions, collect—common to all
resources: someone to write this stuff

Evangelism: (“intimately linked” with above)

- what are parishes doing and what is working well? —expanding our definition and understanding of evangelism
resources: brainstorming; shared materials

Serving Others:

- Inventory taking and sharing resources
resources: create a database — this could be used for what is going on and also as a resource (example, someone who wants to start a community meal can call someone who already does)

INCREASE:

Youth:

- deanery youth groups / events resource
resources: Area Youth Person
- college & university students -- reach out; how?
resources: Parish based supported by Area Person

January 2018 Town Hall Table Discussion Notes

Children:

- New models — variety of models resources
resources: what's working where
- This is really family ministry -- support families
resources: inspirational workshops

CONTINUE:

Nurturing prayer and worship:

- Opening buildings for prayer during the week; choices for individual meditation, prayer groups, bible study
Resources: time; intention; development of leadership

Evangelism:

- Community visibility as first step/invitation; individual faith development; building maturity in confidence; sharing of stories/collaboration; intentional development of publicity materials; social media; nurture maturity and faith; affirm leaders and power; different styles of evangelism
- Share resources among parishes through better mechanisms
Resources: ongoing homiletical training

Serving Others:

- Community needs assessment; missional listening in collaboration with other faith groups, churches, community agencies
Resources: investment of time; inventory of existing programs; demographics

INCREASE:

Youth ministry:

- Events to nourish support and listen to youth ministers (Y-S has already done this)
- Mandate to new youth ministry coordinator to connect youth ministers across the area
- Above all include youth in discussion of next steps

Children's ministry:

- Children's Vestry
- Equipping lay leadership for children's ministry
- Ask professional teachers to train others rather than having them teach Sunday school themselves
-

Lay leadership Training:

- Just do it!; encourage attendance at Diocesan programs

January 2018 Town Hall Table Discussion Notes

- Pastoral care for Lay leaders – trust, confidence, sensitive and light-handed oversight

Cultivating noon on Sunday worship:

- make sure Sunday figures (ASA) are not the only data the diocese appears to consider important
- Contemporary worship forms