

Altoona Convocation, November 2012

Notes from the CD process

Bible Study responses to Colossians 3:15-17 and responses to questions: purpose and definition of convocation and of the Diocese.

St. Paul:

Giving Thanks for what we do have, do not complain about what we don't have
Looking for ways to be thankful in even the smallest of things
Being together in mission
Remembering how once we were stronger in mission together, seemed less complaining about the diocese and not as focused on the decline in the smaller church
We are a family

Larger congregations include gifts of smaller congregations; real sense of community within the convocation and challenges within include geography, location, financial struggles and need for outreach ministry.

10 years ago stronger in convocation more full time clergy to gather with, clericus is strong.

Our unity is key to our spiritual survival
Teaching and Spirituality are our grounding
One hope is for more communication to share the Gospel with each other across geographic boundaries...here we are in Hawk Run.
Hospitality is very important, all kinds of food prepared for our gathering shows hospitality of smaller congregation is sometimes easier than larger congregation.

Best Ministry story from this convocation:

Clericus is important for our unity
Congregations working together to share ideas and resources
Working together for Diocesan Convention

Acolyte Festival did not work recently but learning from it included how lay folks continue to share responsibility.

Clergy are stretched too far sometimes for added convocation work.
PB Katherine's visit and display of ministry
Diocesan Gathering of all parishes and convocation at SHIKELLAMY STATE PARK

Ideas for next steps:

- + Grants to each convocation\
- + Regional ministries within the convocation
- + Question should Convocation boundaries be re-defined

- + Leadership work and development where we could share ministry ideas with laity
- + Communication among parishes
- + Safeguarding God's People trainings through convocation.