

Northern Tier Convocation, November, 28, 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.

- + Lack of Convocation Consciousness
- + Know about neighboring parishes
- + Need to increase convocation awareness
- + Hosting convention brought convocation together
- + Convocation exists when there is a need
- + Convocation gatherings are always enjoyed because people know each other

Best stories:

The people of the Northern Tier are the convocation, where God's grace is found and praises sung

It is not about geography, it is about culture, rural, family (kin)

Proximity to church is part of people's relationship even though they are not parishioners

Churches here are part of the community's identity ie, the church on the square.

People maintain their independence and refuse to join but welcome the support of the church as a member of their community.

of "others" exceeds baptized members in Northern Tier

Joint dinners, events, such as Lenten dinners and pulpit exchange are our highlight

Hockey practice on Sunday's cuts into church attendance, particularly with young people.

Family environment, welcoming new members, no outsiders.

2 people discussed how differently they were welcomed here vs in other parts of the diocese or in other states.

It is harder to be invisible in a small church,

Open to LGBT

Small community, Friday AM coffee hour @ local coffee shop

No church agenda, just folks getting together, St. James Mansfield.

Purpose of the Convocation

- + Attendance is dwindling, need for change so that people participate
- + Is convocation needed anymore in Northern Tier
- + How can we create community now

- + Purpose of the Diocese

+ Culture has changed, how we do church has to change

Obstacles to Overcome

1. LEM training—Why can't that occur at parish level
2. SafeGuarding God's Children, why can't people previously trained and former teachers of SGC teach it in their own parishes?
3. Problems should come through convocation to the Diocese and Diocese should support work together to address issues
4. Diocesan Policies need to not get in the way.

Purpose of the Diocese?

- Broader identity in the Anglican Community
- Standard bearer for all things, Episcopal in our area
- Reliance on use of technology, not fully accessible in all areas of Northern Tier.