

West Branch Convocation, November 29, 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.

Bible Study responses:

In peace Christ dwell among us

Empower all; youth choir, altar guild

Reaching out

What does it look like to admonish in word/song/hymn?

Don't/can't be distracted by other events in life/world while still connected to God and each other.

Challenges:

- + Distractions
- + Sports
- + Younger generation
- + Entertainment/liturgy
- + Draw them in

Share resources

Connect congregations:

Youth visit other parishes

Can begin with youth

Summer X-Teen: Service and work, service and worship= deep connection

Youth mission trip to Renovo

Distance to connect

Combined events in Williamsport

Town and out of town

Bigger Question: IS it worth going the extra mile for church events?

Aging congregations and region

Economic opportunities?

Youth grow up, go to school and do not come back?

Inwardly focused: Discussion "us" not "serving others"

Ministry Stories:

Jersey Shore: Working together with Lutherans—packaging food, assembly line, but spiritual and emotional 221,00 and food packets

Camp in CA left shoes at altar "leave your soles at the altar" 500 +shoes

Sense of community by doing a parish work day

Convocation and it's work

- + Different function and purpose depending upon location, city vs rural, geography and travel time.
- + Different boundaries?
- + Parishes isolated “up here”
- + Don't hear from others—diocese and congregations
- + Bible Study or forum for discussions about issues” what is going on right now? Right here?
- + Tunnel vision, can we connect with Lutherans and/or others to “team-up” for problem solving
- + Discuss regional/local concerns then report to diocese.

Bigger Question: The number of people from the diocese, did we need 4? Or support from diocese?

Diocese and its purpose:

Administrative body for guidance and assistance

Listen to local concerns

Not alone it brings connection

Leadership organization and gifts and skills

Conduit for National church/General convention

Notice trends and larger systemic issues, fair share

Resentment from small congregations who pay full fair share when large parishes don't pay full fair share.

What about accountability when fair share is not paid? Changes coming soon through

Finance Committee

Culture of not paying full fair share in some congregations.

Education/Formation events

Networking opportunities

Spiritual formation

Deaneries strong and connected, leadership currently “chewing up and spitting out”

Episcopal leadership

Fulfill the larger purpose of church.