

BUILDING BLOCKS

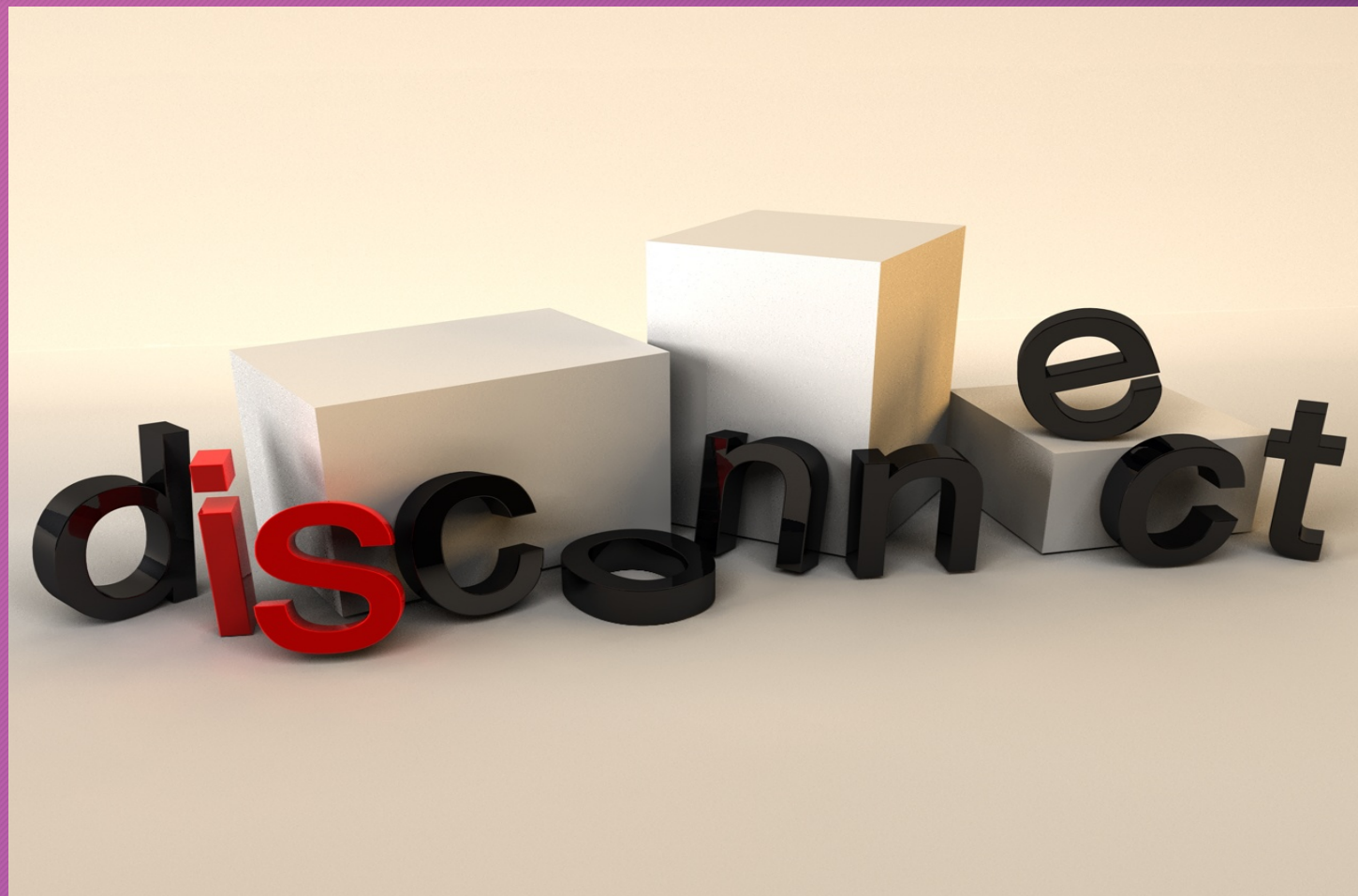
HEALTHY PARISHES

Presentation for Parishes and Regions
Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island





Church and Culture



PLANNING RETREAT - August 2016

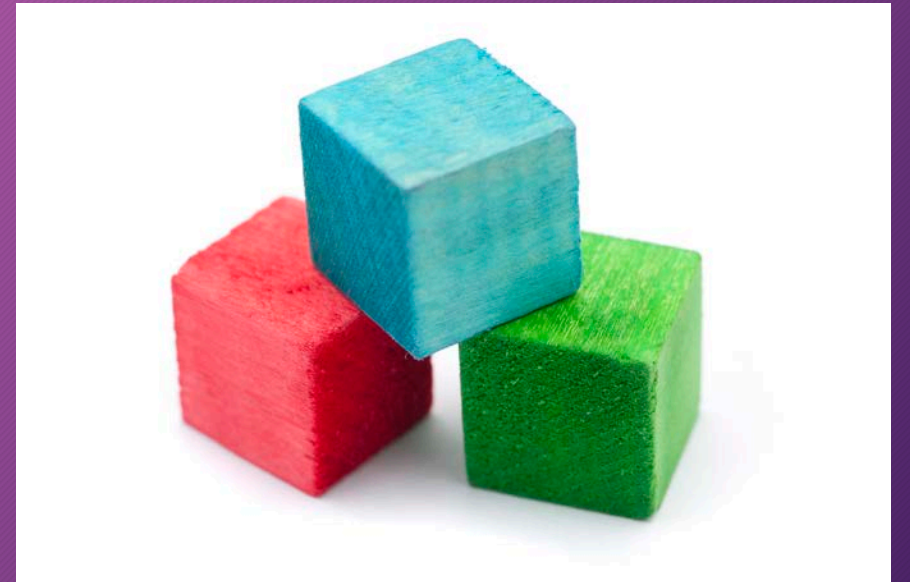
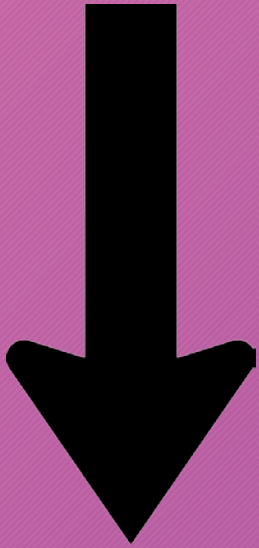
- Hosted by Building Healthy Parishes Team (VSST)
- 32 lay and clergy invited
- Various parish contexts, roles
- 19 people participated
- All regions represented (except PEI)
- Preparation reading





THREE FOUNDATIONAL BUILDING BLOCKS

- Christian Formation
- Building Disciples
- Leadership



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

- Introducing Christianity
- Fostering spiritual (re-)awakening
- A life-long process of 'growing'
- Leads to spiritual fulfillment
- Is more than education





QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- What are you doing in your parish relating to Christian Formation?

- How are you addressing the beginning and basic spiritual needs for...
 - Children?
 - Youth?
 - Adult 'Seekers'?
 - Long-time parishioners?



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- How well do you know your neighbours?
- What groups of people (demographics) from your neighbourhood are NOT reflected in your congregation?



THE GREAT COMMISSION:

Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” – *Matthew 28:19,20a*





HOW DID JESUS & THE EARLY CHURCH DO IT?



New Testament examples of how people were helped to explore faith and become disciples:

- Invited 'seekers' to investigate Jesus, "Come and see!" (John 1:35-42)
- Jesus invested time with those who were interested (John 3:22)
- His disciples engaged the community, served and shared the Gospel (Luke 10:1-11)
- The first Christians went where people gathered and entered into conversations about Christ (Acts 16:13-15)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION MEANS CONNECTING

Jesus used every opportunity to work with his disciples to teach, to form, to help them grow as his followers.

His approach was simple, non-pressured and connected with people where they were.

He did not have a big budget, a large staff or fancy equipment.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION: ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

WHERE CAN YOUR CHURCH BUILD IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION?

- Existing gatherings of people (meetings, groups, clubs, etc.)
- On-going activities, events
- Current programs, studies

WHAT STRENGTHS CAN YOU BUILD UPON?

- Hospitality
- Facilitation of discussions
- Teaching, etc., etc.



IDEAS & RESOURCES:

- Faith Sharing Cards
- Christian Formation studies
- Education for Ministry (EFM)
- Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)
- Cursillo retreats
- Diocesan Youth Conference
- Bulletin and Newsletter inserts
- Movie Nights & Book Clubs
- You Tube videos/channels
- Faith Explorers group

