

Motivating the Church to Be or at Least Support Missional

- Getting buy-in, teaching the idea
- What drew us here? What needs to change in ourselves?
- It can't be imposed - seeds can be planted - but it needs to rise up within the congregation.
- If you build it, they will come
 - but be careful of just going with fads
 - e.g., community youth group - eventually parents (non-churchgoers) have come on board to organize
- There cannot be an expectation that whatever is started will result in new people in the pews on Sundays
 - though that would be excellent!
- Return on investment is very long-term
- We are not called to build St. ... Church but to build the Kingdom.
- Phil Potter: Congregation needs to first look at our values.
- People afraid to change and afraid not to change.
- Acknowledge that it is okay to fail.
- One church culture is to worship the priest.
- Priest should not start initiatives (as they will only last as long as priest there)
 - but priest should support initiatives - and encourage and implore others to start
- Priest/leader needs to ask and listen to the congregation as to what the needs are in the community
 - we often start things for which there is no need
- A good leader plants seeds.
- But when congregants are used to following the priest, how do you get them to come up with the ideas to move forward vs. simply status quo?
- How do you cultivate their hunger so that they'll go find their food?
- How do you make them recognize their hunger? How does priest model finding food?
- Priests are to equip the laity
- "Come From Away" story - i.e., Gander during 9-11
 - people stepped up when necessary - likely beyond what they ever believed they were capable of
 - people brought food and supplies from hours away - which brought their own communities together
- There are now more parishes with shared leadership - which is resulting in more lay people stepping up.
- Example from situation of parish forced into using lay leadership - people finding their gifts and their voices - but how to continue and grow?
- Question on training for ministry at seminary? Training to be missional? No To equip the laity? Some
- Necessity is the mother of invention - when people empowered they grow
- Parishioners very good at identifying "needs" when they are outreach related (XX needs this).
 - but not good at identifying missional needs or opportunities.
- Priest: "I start things and try to bring others along so eventually I can hand it off" - be a coach
- Enthusiasm is contagious
- 3 generations of people unchurched - that don't understand our culture
- If you fall overboard - and try to hold on to your most valuable possession, you will sink - and not be able to save someone else
- How do we motivate?
 - go back to our core - we are all called to love
 - go God-ward
 - instruct on how to explain why we help in the community - I love you because of God's love
- "Missional" may be perceived as jargon, a fad, a buzzword
 - maybe we need to "repurpose" this to frame it in Christ's love and compassion
 - people can get on board with that
- Anglicans know what they believe - but don't think we know it - and don't profess it
 - it is sometimes all by rote
- Allow for testimony in worship services

- Allow worship to be a dialogue rather than a monologue
- Instructed liturgy > towards determining our values
 - changing up the liturgy sometimes so people listen
- What is preventing us from showing our faith out in the community?
- If someone feels your love - they will ask from where it comes
- First stage is renewal > group bible studies
- Book clubs with Christian themes
- How often do we want to invite someone to church but don't think our church is right to do so?
- Wrap-up:
 - turning around concept of honouring our forebears - re reason they built the church
 - values before structure change
 - listen to other voices
 - show the love of Christ everywhere > let Holy Spirit out
 - having fun together and/or working together as a team - helping us to grow together
 - fun activities with some showing of faith
 - God uses the foolish things
 - do we work with the 80% (consumers of the liturgy) or the 20-25% to release out
 - start small

(Notes by Cheryl Jacobs, Anglican, Fredericton NB)

TOPIC: Faith & Fitness / Self-Care

Host: Brenda Munro, Halifax, NS, United Church

- Self care plans – reward yourself, not with food
- How can we as communities help others?
- Listen to others. Take a break.
- Generational differences in taking time for yourself
- Aquafit/floor Pilates
- Buddy system
- Tradition of sabbath – some kind of time tradition that works for you and your family
- Find a way to settle your mind
- Courses on mindfulness, a discipline on early(?) how “pray as you go”
- “Examine” – unpack your day
- Etch-a-sketch moment – shake it away
- Wellness is now an industry, a commodity
- Guided walking meditation

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TOPIC: Social Media

Host: ???

- List serve – used to send group e-mails – could be on web page, Google
- Web pages – WIX, Vistaprint
- Some band new, some not yet – 1 to 15 years; 1 – IT specialist
- Facebook page
- Ways to advance website: blogs (passe), streaming services,
- Intra-parish ministry – share gifts between parishes
- TED Talks
- How do you adapt to the audience? The web, apps, live-stream
- Facebook Page – pictures from service/creation models, more drawing people in rather than mission
- Conversations on FB which draw many into the discussion is more missional
- Ex. – post a photo of one of the Faith Sharing Cards – could create conversation
- Flipchart outside post office and church FB page – “what can we pray for you for?”
- Virtual Prayer Walls – to go along with the prayer wall in the church (ex., new Alpha videos)
- Sketch Animation – You have about 10 seconds to hook someone.

- You have a max (if it is interesting) 90 seconds to keep them
- If you do a video about your church – 0 hits about elements of faith increasing # (well done)
- Most people don't think they are sinner. Unless they have problems, a shallowness to their life.
- Daily e-mail: Devotional – send to group of friends; include prayer, devotional, benediction, link to a hymn = share with friends.
- Be bold on your own Facebook page
- Podcasts
- If live-streaming, etc., only do if you have a quality product
- Social media/Internet releases dopamine. Facebook is engineers to keep you on. If as a church we want to share the message using techniques established and proven would help mission. Help them seek more.
- Social media is a marketplace – where people gathered.
- A group of “ticked-off Christians” who meet (never come to church) and sometimes even read the Bible. Is there an opportunity on social media for a group like this? (would need a good administrator)
- Individuals – what is your passion? Facebook? Start a group for mission.
- Whatever you do on social media has the feed the hunger that the lost have. Feed them in little tiny bites until they are fed enough to feed others.
- Sales sites have pop-ups [How can I help you?] when you go onsite. What about we have volunteers who chat with people who go to our site? Trained/checked volunteers.
- Canadian Coaching Association – long-term development – use this as a model for mission – take community engagement as the base for mission

TOPIC: Sports / Missional Church

Host: *Ed Trevors, Anglican, Shelburne, NS*

- Sailboat racing in the church parking lot!
- How to use church in combination (competition) with sports
- Prayer serve in between hockey games
- Discussion of only the best get to play sports
- Basketball Church – why is teamwork important to Bball?
- What does God have to say about teamwork?
- Faith Sharing Cards – use a question and talk on the question
- Talking in silence okay
- Pickleball
- Lots of great conversation

TOPIC: Assessing Community Needs

Hosts: *Michelle Bull, Spryfield, NS, and Sue Channen, Antigonish, NS – Anglicans*

- How do you identify the needs of your community
- Alban Institute may have resources
- Contact: City Hall/mayor, others on the ground; MLA, Social Services?
- Walk the neighbourhood – learn a lot from seeing people at grocery store, Tim's, etc.
- Talk to other churches and do programs together, ex. Pictou Council of Churches
- Draw on knowledge of parishioners and what they know of the community
- Blandford used direct mailing to reach people – 2nd class mail
- Look for existing community groups and connect
- There is no one way to do it
- It is a shared search, so if we're lost, we're all lost together
- Need to start small and do it. Get started
- Parishioners are often doing a lot of other work but not as a parish. Need to recognize that as part of their discipleship.
- If there are lots of wheels out there, there is no need to invent a new one
- Schools – can't go in to evangelize but can be reading buddies, run breakfast programs
- Goal to have young people – ask why?
- If just to guarantee the future of the church it's the wrong approach

- But if it's because young people are seeking spiritual guidance/outlets, then that's valid

TOPIC: Mission for the Marginalized

Host: *John Aikenhead, Fall River, NS - Anglican*

- Ideas, 'supplies' to the homeless, marginal
- Sample size products
- ?? purses filled with supplies for women and deliver to women's shelters
- Discretionary funds with the church. Bring me your bill so I can see it – helping you planning for future. Pay directly to account
- Relationship is huge. Create laundry service – stay with your laundry (build relationship)
- Listening to the stories is building relationships
- What are your expectations? Reasonable or necessary not for you to judge, but you do know what it will be used for
- Intentional Bible study for those in the margins. Friday before cheque day, Bible study. Heavily into Genesis, brings circles of support to form around people – volunteers commit to three years
- Lynn Uzans – community prayer, confessions
- Assist people where they are
- Use church as a place to address poverty – what if could work with the province on creating space for employment counselling? Ways to see the face of poverty
- On Fridays, ex. Sent kids home with backpacks with food for the weekend

TOPIC: Teaching Traditional Skills

Host: *Lorraine Otto, Tangier, NS - Anglican*

- Group got together to build room on church
- Workshop on how to grow a garden – start to finish once a month. Plant, grow, harvest, preserve.
- Knitting with grandmothers
- How to do a project – tile a floor, shingle a roof, etc.
- How does God get in? Missional
- Relationship-building, more love, less cost
- Meet people
- Learning skills gives great satisfaction
- Kids are not learning basic life skills
- Sewing buttons, hemming, etc.
- Repair, rather than buy new
- Public speaking – 2 young women not do announcements
- Snapshot: why are we teaching stewardship – reuse God's creation.
- Small steps. Inform. Invite
- Don't start a group to funnel people to "real" church on Sunday
- "Each one teach one"
- No skill is too small
- Advent event – stories – St. Nick – teaching about Jesus
- Invite people in
- Those who come bring gifts and skills

TOPIC: Missional Leadership Learning Cohort

Host: *Lisa Vaughn, Brookside, NS - Anglican*

- Cohort idea is interesting – "learning" + "cohort"
- Intentional learning in a group
- Group setting learning more about what is missional
- Not so isolated – support with/from others when face resistance
- 12-12-12 – Diocese of Fredericton
 - 12 clergy, 12 topics, 12 months with expectation to bring about changes in 12 years;
 - Parish Council is advised of their rector's involvement;

Costs approx.. \$12,000 / year + speaker fees

They are on their 3rd. cohort

Each session runs over 2 days

Bring in speakers

Some cohorts continued to meet after the 12 months – over 1 day (pay their own way)

Model: from the Wallace-McCain Institute – Building Entrepreneurial Leaders – Nancy Mathis, EDir

Part of each session is a deep dive – honest sharing, accountability

– related to goals and best/worth of the last month; total confidentiality

Agreed covenant – Session #1 – can be voted off the island!

Participants are hand-picked – some with potential, some needing support
(not husband and wife at the same time)

- Lay leadership Cohort – select participants with potential, interest
 - Need commitment from clergy and parish for lay cohort
- What could be the fruit borne from a MLLC?
 - New life, new energy (lift your canoe)
 - Feed, refresh your soul
 - A genuine horizon for change – “I’m not where I was....”
 - What is learned is applied – doing, ex. 1 congregation is no longer keeping their building – moving into a men’s shelter and for their worship space
 - Give permission to try new things
 - An opportunity to measure “success” instead of numbers – a missional report card – assessment
 - How to see, move into potential missional opportunities
 - A way to stay current
- Are there other ways of a focused missional model for intentional learning?
- More practice-based than event-based
- Peer coaching
- Phil Potter: School of Leadership – invest heavily with 10 clergy over a year
- Filling in the gaps and hone in on their needs and what the parish needs
- Pioneer community – a mixture of clergy and lay leaders – over 15 weeks
 - DNA has spread across all kinds of groups
 - Learning, support, partnership – share best practices
 - Confidential support group, help problem-solve
 - Create a network → strategic partnerships are formed
 - Emphasis on innovation and creativity
- What could a Lay Cohort look like?
- Meet over 2 to 3 days every month and a half
- Not in a church basement
- Make it feel valuable, it matters and you matter you are there

- How often to meet? – depends on geography – clergy have more ability to get away (paid)
- Helpful: projects start-up → follow-up, cross-fertilization
- Reimagine the model → be flexible, adapt to need
- Commit to a cohort and also commit to starting one in your parish (or region)
- Respect introvert and extrovert differences
- TTT = “This Time Tomorrow” – interview a parishioner during Sunday worship and then pray for that person and their work
- Prayer wall = 2 cardboard squares – prayers and thanksgivings – stickies; take requests from non-churchgoers

TOPIC: Sharing Faith Without Fear

Host: *Ariel Harper, Halifax, NS - Anglican*

- Within the church – Faith Sharing Cards (given out at Synod)
- Why are we here?
- Being open

- Mentorship
- Need for tools
- Earn the right through engagement – do you know your neighbour?
- Surrender yourself
- Testifying to your experience
- Block party
- Vocabulary – pressing need for language – Christianity versus Lion’s Club
- Being and doing versus speaking
- Different styles of expression/experience
- Spirit takes over
- Not giving up / ramming down throats
- Accepting ‘no’
- Coming on too strong?
- “Now” testament – stewardship ??? story
- Honour individuals connection with God
- Reaching family who are non-believers
- Faith ??? everywhere
- Is baptism/marriage/funeral a reason for pressure to attend church?
- Timing and non-judgemental
- Humanitarians versus reconciliation
- Intimacy in sharing
- Not being cruel or blocking others relationship with Jesus
- What are we in ????

TOPIC: How to Help Families Raise Their Kids to be Disciples

Host: *Sue Channen, Antigonish, NS - Anglican*

- What is a “disciple” – a follower, teach, mould, guide – one who is taught (needs a learner)
- Disciples, not converts
- Honouring Jesus and Kingdom-building
- Sharing your faith – an element of sacrifice
- Continuity – a gift received, is a gift returned; a precious gift so want to share with others; not a pyramid scheme
- How? Begin practicing it ourselves; Faith Sharing Cards – low stakes, but still feels risky
- St. Nicholas – 1/month sharing a testimony – like the TTT exercise
- Discipleship happens in the midst of story-telling
- Sunday morning – share your story with someone across the aisle – 5 minutes
- Disciples are disciple too – people we already have – how to go deeper, grow
- “Family Pray Ground” – 1 lectionary reading, all the worship elements
 - Reflect the theme of the day – intergenerational Sunday school
 - Act out the story, engage in exercises – full participation by the whole family
 - Have a question to take away each week
 - Building a Christian vocabulary
 - E-mail follow-up exercise for home
- Mini-VBS (a holy day) – a take-away for parents to continue the conversation at home
- Sermons – follow stories in continuity – ex. all through Matthew
- Intentionally create space to bring faith into daily living
- Repertoire: including tolls and vocabulary
- Using Christian jargon, language
- Focus on habit formation (like brushing teeth = a good habit)
- Spiritual disciplines – teach these – to existing parishioners and the unchurched (quite novel to new people)
- Importance of conversation space
- “Start with Why” book, YouTube – Simon Sinek
- Begin with asking the congregation on Sunday morning – why are you here?

- Creating safe spaces to talk, engage in faith
- Culture has very low religious IQ
- Who's responsible for religious education? – each person and parent
- Bonhoeffer's book "Life Together"
- Priesthood of all believers → you/everyone is responsible for Christian formation
- Spiritual disciplines build off a base foundation of faith
- Not just clergy and parents, but also the responsibility of the community – "It takes a village"
- What we're about is not about going out and getting people in church → but going out for them
- Need to change the culture first – not just vision, programs (those come later)
- Return to essentials of faith, foundational basics → brings renewal, changes culture
- 3 things related to this:
- Be vulnerable
- Focus for service
- Based in love

TOPIC: Teaching/Sharing Spiritual Practices as Mission (outreach) /Emerging Church

Host: *Michelle Bull, Spryfield, NS - Anglican*

- There is a hunger for spiritual practice that will sustain us in our lives
- Northumberland Church has introduced meditation at church. Posters and people came. From lots of backgrounds, Christians and not. It's been going 3 years. Priest picks something from the Bible. Ex. Prologue to John's Gospel. Then did a lectio divina. What jumped out? Discussed it a bit. Read it again. What did you get personally? People share this. Read a third time, then 20 minutes meditation.
- There's a hunger not just to go and do – but to go within and have a real spirituality. Lacking in our society. God made us as spiritual beings.
- People can disagree about doctrine, but can still pray together.
- Weddings and funerals are an opportunity for this
- Got some instruction on meditation but all styles are welcome. In the church then can share/debrief. Then may go for coffee.
- It's becoming its own worship group. Usually 5 to 10 people.
- All Saints Bedford did Compline in the Park – led by the deacon. Walked around the park. Would need ???ad?? a spot and do Compline and then used Faith Sharing Cards. Usually 12+ people. Not just parishioners but became known in the community.
- Taunya's church had a procession and lots of people were interested
- Helen had labyrinth in Yarmouth. Didn't go anywhere much, but it's had some unexpected repercussions. A year or 2 later, someone who had done it came back (not a church person) and they started doing it in the hall, open to all. Don't know what will come of it.
- Christ Church, Dartmouth. Lots of people use the hall, including a meditation group. A lot of them feel a connection to the church, but they're seen as outsiders.
- Cannot discount other spiritualities, but acknowledge them and find the connections. Maybe work together.
- Parishioners are also looking for a deeper spiritual practice. There are some Bible studies led by lay people in their homes. One person called it Faith Explorers so people weren't ??????. Bible studies can be safe places for faith sharing. Yarmouth has started a group to explore their questions.
- One problem is when we are reluctant to talk about our faith. So people only see fundamentalist Christianity and think we have nothing to offer them. We need to speak up.

TOPIC: Hospital Care and Emerging Church

Host: *Gary Yetman, Truro, NS - Anglican*

- Palliative Care is more about hugs than drugs
- How and what we are offering seniors and nursing homes
- Guilt of having a partner in a senior's home
- Program of loving care (like a candy striper)
- ALC Unit to the TLC (translational????)
- Meaning and good coming out of suffering
- Die spiritually before physically

- End of life for psychology study
- Book: Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande
- Passionate about supporting end of life to talk about dying
- Open home for conversation

TOPIC: Ecumenical Outreach Partners, Humanitarian Issues in our Community

Host: *Kyle Wagner, Dartmouth, NS - Anglican*

- Sharing processes of getting together with other groups
- Kraft Dinner at school – stories – Fall River
- Music – Ukulele lessons – Pugwash
- Dartmouth Guest speakers within the church that could address issues within the faith communities
 - Gang activities, suicide, bullying, Ceasefire, etc.
- Theology on Tap – Antigonish – Professors go to pubs and give speech or discussion on hot topics, such as assisted dying, suicide, etc., as per gospel teaching (??or gospital?? hospital??)
- A discussion group on many issues and avenues to get some ecumenical discussions and activities

TOPIC: How Can Aging Rural Congregations Be Missional?

Host: *Ann Bush, Port Hill, PEI - Anglican*

- What would a vivid, rich spiritual life look like as we are aging?
- Alternatively, some aged parishioners feel they have done ‘everything’ for the parish and are now tired
- Others spoke of elders who have lots of energy and encourage others
- Many spoke of “Mary’s and Martha’s” who bake and sew – but is this being missional?
- Birthday cards are sent out to all baptized children
- Time does come then the abilities and energy of aged congregations from a “palliative care” perspective have reached their maximum output
- People of mission because we follow our God of mission
- Develop a sense of the treasure we are entrusted with by our God of grace – then others will want to share in this
- Need to name our fears
- “Missional people” comes in all shapes, sized and ages!

TOPIC: Church Partnerships: Sharing Buildings, Sharing Property

Host: *Tammy Hodge, Tantallon, NS - Anglican*

- St. Nicholas partnership – Baptist sharing the building allows us both to live more fully into our mission with less of our energy being spent on financing building
- Seniors Housing Alliance – lease land from us to build affordable seniors housing units
- How do we make our rentals as mission field?
- Perhaps the rentals are mission field, but perhaps by relieving the financial strain allowing for more energy for mission
- Our church is wondering if we can buy a building in the community. With partnerships this could be vital.
- Could you shut your churches and more into this new community hub? No, it would be good, but they will not let go of their church building.
- I had not considered opening our church building up. We are comfortable renting our hall, but I had never even considered sharing the church itself!
- Our church roof needs replacement and furnace is cooked, but people are fighting about removing 2 pews
- Lots of suggestions about sharing other church space in town → or business space → seniors home → disability home