

Parish Community Ministry Conversation, March 13th

Twenty-seven people gathered in a circle to begin our small group conversations on the ministries occurring at St. Luke's. We found a common theme of the way hospitality and friendship undergirds all of our work. Ministries tended to be in one of two categories - open to anyone who wanted to attend, ex. House Church, and those for specific groups, ex. Women's Spirituality Group. Standout comment was one that suggested that these ministries formed a foundation for all our relationships. Once you have been in someone's home and/or had a meal with them, got to know them outside the church setting, that relationship kept conversations civil, even when we disagree with each other. Some general comments from each ministry follow.

Episco Peeps (20's and 30's)

What do you value? Youthful perspective unique to parish.

Strengths: The People

Hopes and dreams: That members will become lifelong friends even outside of ministry. More people. More active in parish.

Wholly Pages Book Club

What do you value? Great conversations, getting to know each other better.

Strengths: Books we might not otherwise have read leading to paradigm shift in personal outlook.

Hopes and dreams: More people/ more books. maybe even monthly.

30s and 40s + Group

What do you value? Great break for busy young people.

Strengths: Helps people form strong bonds.

Hopes and dreams: Meet more frequently, More spiritual component.

Women's Spirituality

What do you value? Relationships. Good respite from service ministries. no expectations.

Strengths: Rotating hosting alters the mix. once a year meeting to plan the rest of the year. Amazing Women Luncheon

Hopes and dreams: More ways to engage in women's retreat.

Fellowship/Foyers Dinner

What do you value? civility during discussions, deepening of relationships

Hopes and Dreams: more in the spirit of traditional Foyers Dinners/ More participation from other ministries.

Ashanti

What do you value? Celebrates Black History.

Strengths: Fundraiser luncheon supports GAIA. MLK Day Parade

Hopes and dreams: greater participation

Gay Men's Fellowship

What do you value? Getting to know people. greater acceptance

Strengths: Positive voice of acceptance in a Christian community to the greater gay community

Hopes and dreams: meet more regularly. retreat. Greater visibility in Gay community

Summer House Church

What do you value? Fun! Relationships, getting to know people

Strengths: Each form around a theme but discussion is informal. Civil discourse around a theme.

Hopes and dreams: Greater participation from parishioners and other ministries.

Satsung.

What do you value? Group meditation.

Strengths: Study of diverse spiritual texts.

Hopes and dreams: That it continues to exist and expands