

**Two Pre-Consultation Sessions were held with:
Council of Seminary Deans & Episcopal Council for Christian Education**

HOPED FOR OUTCOMES AND BIG QUESTIONS

1. As outcomes of this consultation what I (ECCE) would most like to take home or to my workplace?
2. What are the one or two big questions that I (as a Christian educator) hope this consultation will begin to address?

DEANS' RESPONSES

As outcomes of this Consultation what I would most like to be able to 'take home' are:

- Strategies for accepting our seminaries' vocation in Christian Education
- Increased understanding in the Church of the role of seminaries as theological and educational resources
- 4-5 contacts with previously unknown people or groups doing education in the church

The "Big Questions" I most hope this Consultation will help us begin to address are:

- Why doesn't the Episcopal Church in the USA fully embrace its educational calling?
- What is 'in the culture' that discourages critical thinking?
- How do we love God with our minds as well as our hearts and souls?
- Why aren't seminaries viewed more broadly as a resource in/to the churches?
- How can a deeper theological understanding be incorporated into church debates?

ECCE RESPONSES

Note: this was a large group and so the following are response from several small subgroups. There was not time to combine them into a shorter list.

As outcomes of this Consultation what I would most like to be able to 'take home' are:

- Common understanding of relationship of education and formation
- Common understanding of formation in the Episcopal Church
- Appreciation of our interdependence – sense of partnership; well-being of all depends on our common toil
- Sense of sacredness in having safe places to ask questions where all will be treated with dignity and respect
- Everyone embraces the formation of an Anglican identity (all stakeholders)
- That the seminaries get it
- Relationship and collegiality building among all stakeholders
- In touch with questions people in the pew are asking and struggling with
- Commit to shaping future clergy to be able to listen for the questions and address them and to understand that this is essential for the formation and development of clergy
- Resources to each other
- Openness that we may all have to change the way we do our work

- To know what people think and reaction to – reflecting about exciting questions; being able to explore the questions that are burning inside that cannot come out in any other way.
- Conversation between professionals of theology (those who study theology) and the ‘doings’ of the Christian theology (education)
- A bridge is forged and built between those who are centered on seminary education and schools of thought with those who ‘work in the trenches,’ helping those connect faith in their daily lives (those in our churches)
- A recognition that there are deficiencies in our seminaries in curriculum of Christian education – how are priests prepared to teach others?
- Questions on the General Ordination Exams in regard to Christian formation that are related to the practical life (as opposed to theology)
- To get seminaries and dioceses to support local training and education of lay people
- Gathering of resources (written literature) that can be used in education in our churches that is accessible – bringing theological material down to the lay person’s level
- Get in the way of the wind: sparks ignited; benign flu infects each other’s work
- Make Life Long Faith Formation the core of everything we do
- Difference in response to a spark – but demeaning each other is not helpful
- Be open to proclaim the Gospel in new ways; nurture and support one another in living into vocation
- Help us (and them) to keep asking the questions; How do we live into the questions? Stay with the questions.
- A provocative place to raise questions
- Break down the assumptions we make about each other
- In that mix – listen to one another – unhinge expectations

The “Big Questions” I most hope this Consultation will help us begin to address are:

- How do we stay in dialogue?
- Will we have a model?
- How can we be vehicles for change?
- How can we make preaching a Christian formation opportunity & experience?
- How do we walk this journey living together as partners in formation?
- How can we motivate others about Christian education?
- How can we provide Christian education and formation in a world/culture that is historical, materialistic and Marxist in its theology? The world (in Dominican Republic and other Latin American countries the government) teaches our children not to believe in God. How do we stand up against this and celebrate/exhibit another way of living?
- What are the core things we absolutely want to share with those who long for spiritual feeding?
- What are the bonds of our common humanity that bind us to one another? (share & grow into)