

**Diocese of Wyoming**  
**Newsletter article**

While the Colts and the Steelers wrestled for a chance at the Super Bowl - the Ministries with Young People office, the Office of Ministry Development, and the Seminaries wrestled with how to listen to and learn from one another to plan an integrated educational formation for the Episcopal Church. Parker Palmer, well know author and speaker on education and spirituality and being a Christian in the world was the keynote speaker. Utilizing the method of listening to one another found in his book, "A Hidden Wholeness: the journey toward an undivided Life", people from various educational disciplines within the Episcopal Church learned from one another and looked at how we can better offer teaching and learning experiences. Palmer's book postulates that the soul knows what we should do with our lives, but often we don't take time to listen. The process he offers is one of providing safe space so that people can speak their soul truth. As he says, to get beyond role to hear the soul. The consultation revealed that much of this is already happening in Godly Play, in EFM, in other programs that base their educational model primarily on discernment instead of only "facts." The act of storytelling is at the heart of this process. It is well know that the mind retains stories and does not retain unconnected facts and dates. I attended this consultation to facilitate a small group. Several EFM trainers and mentors were recruited to assist the over 300 people in small groups of 8-12 as they heard from one another the joys and sorrows of life as a committed leader in educational work for the church. I was surprised how little I knew about all this before attending. I learned that there is a world of good information and resources out there in our church and that often we don't talk outside of our particular piece of the action. The group charged with collating and reporting and implementing the learnings of our weekend is PEALL: Proclaiming Education for ALL. They will be making an interim report to General Convention 2006 and continue to work for a theologically educated soul-full church.

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