

## Group CC

Female	6	Lay	5
Male	4	Clergy	5

  

Diocesan Christian educator	5
Parish Christian educator	5
Seminary Dean	1
Seminary faculty	0
Canon to the Ordinary	0
Commission on Ministry member	2
National Episcopal Schools member	1
Multi-cultural ministry	0
National Association of Christian Education Directors	2
National Organization of Episcopal Resource Centers	1
Education for Ministry	1
Professor of education / college	1
Endowed Episcopal Parish	1
Diocesan School	3
Lay leader with educational responsibility	3
Clergy with educational responsibility	2
815 staff	0
Deployment Officer / staff	0
Episcopal Camps / Conference Centers	1
Anglican / Global Relations	0
Other denomination	0
Disability Network	0
Episcopal Council for Christian Education	0
Other: Bishop	1

*Dioceses represented:* Atlanta, California, Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Jersey, Northwest Texas, Oklahoma, Oregon, Western North Carolina

### Session I: Christian Faith & How We Learn to Live It

*What have you heard?*

- Essential role of storytelling
- How much broader formation is than just information
- How we are with one another – attention is deeply important (circles of trust)
- Help people to enter journey in new ways again & again

*What are the implications?*

- Create safe space
- Assessment and accountability must be a part of education – how?
- Paradox of goal setting and faith formation as a journey – full of surprises
- Craft essential questions

*Anything else?*

- How do we help people be open to learning that is more than just information? How do we get beyond “elitist intellectualism”?

### Session II: Hospitality in Teaching & Learning

*What have you heard?*

- Church is not a safe place to be if you’re vulnerable
- Unsafe: not okay to have questions, to be different, to be “other”

- This church is (liturgically) unsafe: shuts down people, makes them uncomfortable, not okay to risk, tell the truth, there is a hidden agenda (not here to restore you to God – but to become a pledging member!)
- There is an assumption that we are of one mind; not allowing differing ideas

*What are the implications?*

- Education needs to be less narrowly defined
- Power/authority should be shared by all (rather than power/hierarchy based)
- We need to figure out what our parishioners need and offer “practical spirituality”
- Model vulnerability – be this place – see how they love one another
- Give people the basics so that they don’t feel stupid (language, liturgy, how to get involved, etc.)

*Anything else?*

- We need to teach about how people learn best!
- We need to help people have “best learning” experiences
- Trust circles
- We must not let authority figures to shut down questions
- Education can’t be too narrow – we learn as we worship, do outreach, stewardship, pastoral care, etc.

### **Session III: The Stranger as Spiritual Guide**

*What have you heard?*

- Stumbling blocks in our faith include:
  - Claiming what we already believe to be “right” and liking it to remain “as is” because it tidies up the world
  - Fear – of losing control, of learning what God wants for us
  - It is in RELATIONSHIP with others that we come to true understanding, truth, forgiveness
  - We get STUCK in our faith and unexcited
  - When we risk something new/different, it can lead us into new, amazing learning

*What are the implications?*

- We need to rid ourselves of:
  - Clericalism
  - Elitism (expert-ism)
  - The need to be perfect
  - The need to be busy
- We need to stop doing what we hate doing!
- We need to encourage others to do . . . .
- We need to notice what we notice, pay attention to what we pay attention to

*Anything else?*

- If the Church is a place where people cannot (feel they cannot go) in their brokenness, how can we provide places/circles of trust that are already in place for them? (unemployed, parents of teens, sick, grief-stricken, depressed). The beauty of Jesus’ question was that he offered Bartimaeus the dignity of having the question asked – rather than assuming
- How can we get to a place where people CAN ask for what they need? Do we have a responsibility to help people figure out how to live in our crazy-making culture?
- What REALLY is best for children? All “As” or real learning? Soccer superstar-to-be or rest, fun, play?

## Session IV: Leadership for Community & Abundance

*What have you heard?*

- To be community means to graciously invite and accept – invite gifts (however small – to be able to give makes one part of the community)
- Food helps! (companion – one with whom you share bread)
- Live into the model of plenty – you have all that you need – you simply need to call out the gifts (even in the face of disaster or impending disaster)
- Laughter is important!
- Transformation occurs through acceptance, love, compassion, support, deep friendship, companionship

*What are the implications?*

- See things from the perspective of many different lenses:
  - Invite gifts
  - Invite change – change is life
- Be aware of the shadows of community – loving “being the community” can bar others from entering awareness
- People in our culture are so wounded – especially by the messages of (???), but also by the need or message of affirmation – we need to help each other to stop looking outward and look inward to our inner teacher
- Set community standards – valuing all, holding the circle in trust

*Anything else?*

- The ‘cheerleading’ scene has been food for reflection