

Group I

Female	4	Lay	5
Male	5	Clergy	4

Diocesan Christian educator	4
Parish Christian educator	3
Seminary Dean	0
Seminary faculty	0
Canon to the Ordinary	1
Commission on Ministry member	3
National Episcopal Schools member	0
Multi-cultural ministry	0
National Association of Christian Education Directors	2
National Organization of Episcopal Resource Centers	1
Education for Ministry	0
Professor of education / college	0
Endowed Episcopal Parish	1
Diocesan School	2
Lay leader with educational responsibility	3
Clergy with educational responsibility	0
815 staff	1
Deployment Officer / staff	1
Episcopal Camps / Conference Centers	0
Anglican / Global Relations	0
Other denomination	0
Disability Network	0
Episcopal Council for Christian Education	2
Other: Diocesan Ministry Developer	1

Dioceses represented: Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, San Diego, Western North Carolina

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

What have you heard?

- We are all on a journey – individually & together and we need to be awake & aware to that journey
- Faith changes our perception – moving our hearts & souls to a new awareness
- The transformation happens within each of us / within each community – and then we move into action to give away what we have
- We must also be open to the changes that are necessary to leave the assumption & stereotypes behind and claim each part to discover God in us

What are the implications?

- Sharing our life adventures / our stories in the various circles we are part of
- Being part of a variety of circles / communities
- Sharing our gifts and talents for ministry / for action
- Being open to God’s timing in our lives – remember & celebrate those times
- Find ways to turn down the “chatter” – the noise of our lives – to hear the voice of God around us

Anything else?

- Way to help create these safe places
- Invite people to come into the ‘circles’ – Ask! And to include / seek people who might be on the margins & not just safe people

Session II: Hospitality in Teaching & Learning

What have you heard?

- When is our church safe?
 - Mutual respect
 - Together – companionship
 - Honoring gifts
 - Invitation
 - Reflect back what we have experienced
 - Be authentic
 - Mutual places
 - Open our homes for things
 - Meet where you are – not where you want to believe you are
- When are we not safe?
 - Having those “habits” that only we know that can trip up the stranger
 - Excuses vs. lip service vs. lifestyle
 - Systemic issues: altar guild is for the retired women only & much more
 - Attitudes & filters – personal and the community’s
 - Inadequacy / fear & shame / exposure / vulnerability

What are the implications?

- Importance of building community with the education time
- Have flexible boundaries to keep circles from excluding others
- Draw circles different and in new ways – draw more circles that overlap
- Pay attention to the multiple ways people learn – multiple intelligences
- What you do – do well, because it matters!
- Intergenerational activities to help us reclaim the child
- Don’t expect only clergy to do the invitation – raise up leaders
- Check our language & methods for the points of access we have – “us vs. you” / “welcome vs. hospitality” / “invitation vs. active”
- Find our persona passion and share it
- Do it outside the structure of the church – forget “school” formats – focus on the non-school approach
- Remember that our guests/visitors are mainly attending for worship – the teaching is in the sermon – there is a need to strengthen sermon skills to be authentic – great preaching will bring great teaching!

Anything else?

- Lack of knowledge about who we all are – know your audience – the church does a poor job understanding who is in the pew
- Find a real way that clergy can have doubts/challenge/etc. in a safe place. There is a real need for circles of trust for them
- Trapped by a 3-hour block on Sunday – are we?
- Biblically – maybe we just “wipe the dust from our feet”

Session III: The Stranger as Spiritual Guide

What have you heard?

- Age doesn’t matter – we all have the many of the same doubts/questions/concerns within us
- Identifying both the inner and outer selves and working as hard as possible to find the integrate/mobius strip way to appear to others

- “will anyone love me?” when we change our approach / our behavior – when we shed our blindness and our mantles
- I am the only thing that I can change, that I control and I need to deal with me and what I must do
- Whatever the mask, we all have them and wear them

What are the implications?

- Keep finding / using / creating circles of trust where we can go
- Share “The Hidden Wholeness” with others

Anything else?

- When we do bear ourselves to someone, usually the person we never thought we could “tell,” and they say, “You, too?”

Session IV: Leadership for Community & Abundance

What have you heard?

- Community:
 - Safe place / created time & place
 - Relationship / respect
 - Honors all gifts / uses them
 - All have eternal significance
 - Honors voice & honors silence
 - Knows each other / knows names / uniqueness
 - “Gardening” – planting seeds / nurturing / watching growth / sharing harvest – the sower!
 - Spirit-filled

What are the implications?

- Okay when some decline our invitation – but invitations still need to be issued