

Go And... Plan

October 17, 2024 Minutes

Number of Participants: 18 at 7:04

Welcome and Prayer: Rev. Judy Anderson

- People plan, God laughs - despite our best planning, life can be unpredictable
- As we go about this work, planning is good and helpful, but being open to listening and changing/adapting is also key
- “Good and gracious God, thank you for each and every person gathered here this evening. Be with us as we think about planning and some ways to plan. As we begin to plan, help us to listen to you, to each other, and to our communities so that we might discern how best to serve you in the places you have called us. And if our plans make you laugh, help us to be nimble, flexible, and adaptable so that all that we do is pleasing in your sign. We pray in your name, Amen.” - Rev. Judy Anderson

Dwelling in the World: Rev. Menzi Nkambule

Reflecting on the previous week, answer the following questions and share with partners

- When was there a time when you had an opportunity to share God with someone?
- What might God have been up to in that moment

Listening to How God is Calling Us: Lois Parrett

- Go and Dream idea percolating at Abiding Presence, Ewing to use as an example as we explore 90-day plans
- Book study between friends led them to start wondering what it would look like to shift from membership to disciples, from attracting people to being mission focused, and building sacred partnering
- Reading in community brought ideas and inspiration to church members to give them fuel to have the conversations in their congregation.
 - They shared Alan Roxburgh’s book with church leaders and got the church on board. Then they developed a Reflection Group of people from a variety of backgrounds to vision and dream together
 - These people have been reading and discerning together using scripture, guiding questions, and prayer
- Discerning questions for groups:
 - How can we learn where that is and how can we help God in those places?
 - Where have you seen God in your daily life this week?
 - What is your story from the first time you visited our church
 - Realizing not all stories were positive
- This process takes a lot of time and effort - answers will not come overnight but taking the time to listen, process, and discern is so important to success in these conversations and exploration
- Books used for discernment:
 - Shift - 3 Big Moves for the 21st Century Church by Mark Tidsworth

- Soul Feast by Marjorie Thompson
- Dream Like Jesus by Rebekah Simon-Peter
- Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World by Alan Roxburgh

Learning Opportunity 90-Day plans: Rev. Joe Graumann

- If you're well planned, you can laugh along with God!
- Steps to making a 90-Day Plan
 - Goal: what do you want to do
 - "We Have" List: what do you already have in your toolbox
 - "To Do" List: what do you need to do at each step of the 90-day planning
 - Recommended benchmarks are: 3 months, 2 months, 1 month, the week of, the day of the thing
 - Evaluate: how did it go, what could be different next time?
 - Repeat: do something new, different, or similar, just do something!
- Using the example of Lois and Abiding Presence, Pastor Joe and Lois talked through a 90-day plan for her congregation
 - Who/what are the assets you already have?
 - This is also sometimes called Asset Mapping
 - Everyone has their own story and interactions, ask them!
 - Make sure you have one project lead who is the point of contact and logistics coordinator
 - Spreading the word and working with partners are incredibly important to making an event or activity a success
- Please reference the planning document for more specifics on 90-days out

Small Group Breakout: sharing and talking about 90-day plans

Large Group Reflections

- Events and plans can be for big and small things
- In conversation, you give and take together in dialogue. This is so essentially to helping make things happen
- Complex and large events can be overwhelming but planning them out can help break it down and bring forth partnership

Closing Rev. Danielle McCleary

- Dwelling in the Word: 2 Kings 4:1-7 "The Widow's Oil"

4 The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." 2 Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a small jar of olive oil." 3 Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. 4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side." 5 She left him and shut the door behind her and her

sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. 6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing. 7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

- What might God be inviting you to through this passage?
- Community is fundamental to all that we do - this passage reminds us that we can search for vessels and relationships within our community especially when we have nothing ourselves

See you next month for: Go and Give Thanks for November 21st at 7:00 pm

- We will have an opportunity for follow up questions from Go and Plan while also spending time giving thanks for the many blessings in our lives

Go And Planning Team:

- Rev. Maristela Freiberg, Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to Bishop
- Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund, Messiah Oakland
- Rev. Danielle McCleary, St. Matthew Secaucus
- Lois Parrett, Abiding Presence Ewing, and NJ Synod Staff
- Rev. Judy Anderson, St. Thomas Brick
- Rev. Dianne Lewis, Trinity Jersey City
- Rev. Menzi Nkambule, St. Matthew Jersey City
- Rev. Joe Graumann, St. Stephen Woodbury
- Lynn Perry, Grace Mendham