

Learning and Formation Working Group SPP 2.0

Discussion Notes - 12 and 23 Oct and 26 Nov 2017

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12 OCT

1) Discussion on the trajectory and qualities of a relationship

-Seek – acquaintance // -Discover – friendliness // -Become - friendship

a) SEEK (Invite and accept)

Needs of those outside our church, needs that St. Matthews can address, intentions

-Encounter God, spiritual experience

-meaning making, hope, reflective and safe space

-need fulfillment, self actualisation, exploration

-wholeness, well being, peace of mind, security, certainty

-help others, opportunity for service and giving and make a difference

-connection, community, family, acceptance, love

- comfort (for those experiencing crisis and trauma)

b) DISCOVER (Friendly acquaintance)

Needs of those beyond initial seeking

-dialogue, sharing, more self-giving, deeper relationship

-understanding, engage, asking first questions

-Christian practices: scripture, meditation, prayer, habits

-Commitment, association

-How being a Christian plays into your daily life

-Connect own experience to the faith

-opportunity for challenge and growth

c) BECOME (Friend)

- trust, shared values
- commitment, decision and action
- attachment, belong to each other, family, joy of company
- fulfilment of the initial yearnings
- seeking and growing in community
- common experience
- union with Christ, Christian identity that drives how we live
- taking our faith outside, equipping to lead inside and to mentor

2) What does this relationship journey mean for a Christian?

SEEK

Experience through worship and through relationships

Encounter God through our welcoming atmosphere

Connect to the community and to new parishioners

- Education to support expression of faith at all ages and stages
- Engaging and relevant programs for children, teens, and families
- activities that would attract non-church goers/ the un-churched
- Programs already developed and resourced that can be used to teach new believers and attract seekers
- how do we meet people where they are at through out their ongoing relationship with God and in the context of Christian Identity?

Receive Christ

DISCOVER

Learn the story, study groups

Participate and engage

Christianity 101, Alpha, other short courses

Learn prayer, meditation, and other Christian practices

A gateway stage of lifelong formation and conversion

- Rooted in Baptismal identity: Baptismal Ecclesiology
- focus on Relationship (with Jesus Christ)
- Understand "initiation"
- Mature Christian formation for parents of children receiving infant baptism
- Identify the formation journey to baptize and confirm new believers/parishioners
- Sustainable Sunday school programming – find new an innovative way to resource and deliver children's Christian learning

- Provide opportunities to nurture and develop discipleship – deliberate and structured, variety of methods and locations, retreats.
- Promote spiritual disciplines
- Understand life long Conversion

BECOME

Discipleship

Discover and nurture Spiritual Gifts

Become who you are in Christ

“Become the story we tell”

Practice and share in the Spiritual Disciplines

Learning to be His hands in the world (equip for social justice)

Baptism and/or renewal of Baptismal vows

RELATE/OTHER

What kind of practical, secular programs could St. Matthews deliver in order to relate-to and reach out to our community? What are the community’s learning needs?

Implement a variety of learning models and methods

- Scripture study outside of worship
- scripture and teaching as part of worship/liturgy
- share in other spiritual disciplines (prayer)
- what do we call the Christian learning journey? Formation versus programs versus courses?
- how do we effectively communicate in order to attract?
- Identify questions related to the sermon – field Q&A sessions, online chat, community/small group meet-up.
- Establish and communicate digital/online formats of sermon.
- implement a mix of old and new practices (ie. foot washing, table fellowship,)

Collaborate with local faith community for the delivery of formation programs/activities.

- Grow participation in Anglican Fellowship of Prayer
- Leverage Diocese programs and Bible studies – share resources, improve efficiency of delivery, promote cohesion within Ottawa’s Anglican community
- Explore ecumenical Christian learning and formation in cooperation with community churches of various denominations: to maximize resources and to promote community fellowship.

23 OCT – meeting focus was to expand the discussion to the ways St. Matthews could realize each stage of the journey.

▲ SEEK

WHO/Target Groups	What/How	Resources
Students (eg. Carleton University)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Free meal/food (Pizza/Coffee) -study space -recreation space (games night, music jam, Ceilidh Irish night) -Counselling services, mental health, vocation direction, mentoring, support groups - occupation/vocation mentoring network -social justice, action groups, letter writing network 	Hosts, “monitors”, money, space (at St. Matthews or on-campus)
Families – in the neighbourhood and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Meet-up groups for parents/moms (run, jog, walk, yoga) -Parenting short courses (with hospitality) - childcare programs, “date night” babysitting service on Sat nights, partner with local restaurants (ie. coupons) -counselling on career/job opportunities -“Messy Church” services - church activities and liturgy at alternative times 	<p>Leaders, curriculum developers, money for hospitality.</p> <p>People to preside over the liturgy, music, etc for Messy Church</p>
Unchurched, Intellectuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -“10 minute Sunday School”, delivered via the Internet, social media, in-person -Leverage Trinity Institute resources -Short courses that examine “BIG questions”: eg. Christianity 101 and Alpha -host/organize Book Clubs (topics that promote searching and seeking Spirituality and Christianity) 	<p>Leaders, communications team, IT-savvy people</p> <p>People, space, time</p>
Exiled Christians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -provide opportunities for Social Justice action -volunteer opportunities (to meet community needs, ie. Centretown) -create “exploration” opportunities, gatherings for dialogue, interfaith panel discussions, promote environment for questioning 	<p>Leaders</p> <p>Connections</p> <p>Communications plan to reach/advertise</p>
Elderly/Retired/ Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pastoral care -explore big questions of life -Funeral/End of life planning 	<p>People and Time</p> <p>Financial experts</p>

	-Estate planning (giving back)	
Children	-Sunday school content is Christian values-based, curriculum development -Sunday school relationships (teachers and volunteers that positively impact) -Music/Choir experience -Leverage alternative teaching/learning methods	People and Time Curriculum developers Music leaders/Choir master Youth/Children's ministry team
Youth / Young Adults	-create space for exploration, dialogue, and experience -nature adventures, retreats, hikes etc -gatherings held during alternative times (to deconflict with sports) -Book club -create meaningful experiences, "random acts of kindness" outings -free food -promote action for Social Justice	Youth/Children's ministry team Subsidisation for retreats (money) Leaders, space, planning
All/Any	-Evensong: advertise and promote it, make it accessible to a wide audience, "receive" mode, allows anyone to "enter" into the presence of God -attracts people into the Church Building -host a games night (ie. cards) to encourage connection, recreation, community	Communications/IT specialists Building is maintained to a standard to be inviting

▲ DISCOVER

Friendliness, leading to deeper relationship, intentional vows and commitment.

WHO/Target Group	What/How	Resources
Students and Young Adults	-opportunities to explore "truth" and to question -Bible studies -alternative liturgies that are College/University focused (ie. Sunday evening)	Leaders Space Curriculum
Unchurched	Grasp the Truths of the Bible -in the spirit of wholeness -the Resurrection -the miracles Explore Scripture/the Bible	Group leaders with experience Small group Bible study leaders/hosts

	<p>-literal and contextual Short courses/workshops -Christianity 101/Alpha -create safe and inviting place to question and to doubt, to ask the “BIG questions” Liturgical Formation – what is the significance of Hymns, Sermons, Eucharist, Church history? What does it mean to “confess the faith”?</p>	Curriculum
Churched	<p>Creates opportunities for Christian fellowship Mature exploration of the Christian faith and the Bible Introduce the Practice Christian disciplines: prayer, meditation, study of God’s word, liturgical year, fasting. Shaping one’s life as a Christian</p>	<p>Leadership, space, time Mentors, lay and ordained personnel</p>
Children	<p>Equipping parents to inculcate home-based Christian practices</p>	<p>Learning materials (electronic, workshop, guide books) Mentors/leaders</p>
Young Families	<p>Baptism and Marriage preparation courses</p>	<p>Leaders/ministers, time and space</p>



BECOME

WHO/Target Group	What/How	Resources
The Baptized	<p>Spiritual direction, to nurture sacred practices and lifestyle, magnify & hold-up the Baptized</p> <p>Church membership/ avenues to pursue commitment and sense of belonging *need to balance “rite of passage” and inclusion</p> <p>Promote future of the church -how to fulfil the great commission: “</p> <p>How does the future St. Matthews church community “create new Christians”?</p>	<p>Provide opportunities for both infant and adult Baptism</p> <p>Church membership curriculum</p> <p>Discipleship mentors</p>

Confessing and committed Christians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ministry discernment, Counselling/spiritual direction -how do exercise Christian identity in one's vocation -Workshops to encourage outworking and exercising of Spiritual gifts (in the church and beyond) -Training to be spiritual/Christian leaders in the Parish and in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordained ministers Mentors, volunteers Mentors, leaders, time and space “
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▲ WAY FORWARD

Identify activities/initiatives for which “we can do well”.

Find ways to tap into existing parish resources, recognise importance of focusing on young families (future of the church)

SUMMARY

	SEEK	DISCOVER	BECOME
Relationship	Aquaintance	Friendliness	Freindship
	curious, hungry <i>leads to desire to know Christ</i>	Come to meet, to know Christ <i>leads to baptism/recommitment</i>	Life long conversion <i>Baptismal living, fed by Word and Table to MISSION</i>
Qualities	formal, reserved testing unfamiliar hopeful open/critical Hearing the Story	uncommitted exploration Self- challenge questioning traying, risking Learning the Story	Identity/claim entrust commitment vulnerableness Deepening Becoming the Story
Hospitality - Table Fellowship - Relationship			
Formation and Learning Activities/ Examples	Taize, Evensong yoga useful learning events: parenting, end of life Book study Secular, open spirituality, education, concert Social events volunteer opportunities attend worship Tutoring, Student events	liturgical formation and learning Christianity 101 Scirpture study, Lectio Divina Book study participate in groups Baptisma/marriage I prep volunteering in committee Christian practice retreat	Leadership/mentorship Mission/ministry pastoral care Eucharist Book club Further Christian study Retreat interfaith dialogue

CHRISTIAN FORMATION Working Group (Claire Brama and Archbishop Barry Curtis)



- Christian formation begins at the seeking phase, but must also provide avenues to move toward Christian commitment.
- Acknowledge importance of our Baptismal identity and life-long Christian journey, which requires additional formation and relationship-building.
- Complement formation with activities that create and support community, including outreach and in-reach, and use outreach to reach non-practising Christians and seekers.
- Space, staff/volunteers, communications, and hospitality are important enablers.

26 Nov Parish engagement notes

Participants:

Missing elements for consideration: collaboration with others to leverage and maximize resources that could support learning and formation activities, both inside the church and in the community (ie. collaboration is a key element to keep in mind).

Feedback:

- Seek – Discover – Become is a useful framework to sustain moving forward
- recommend creating a “hub” for available learning/education resources so that people can access study guides as well as calendars of programming done both at St. Matthews and in the Diocese.
- need to make young people and youth a priority as part of the plan; for example create a physical space within St. Matthews for the teens/youth group.
- need to consider Formation activities that supports the community’s ability to deal with anxiety, stress, and fear. This is an area of growing need, among all ages and stages.