

People of the Way – Questions for Discussion

Introduction

1. Tell a story of where you met God. Was it in the church or elsewhere?
2. How did you come to the Episcopal Church? What is at stake in its renewal for you personally?
3. Do you ever feel like Martha in Luke 10, “worried and distracted by many things”? What might it mean for you personally and for your congregation communally to focus on “the one thing” that Jesus calls us to?

Chapter 1: The Legacy of Establishment

1. What establishment influences and assumptions do you see shaping your congregation’s life and ministry?
2. What signs do you notice in your community of the cultural shift to a post-establishment world?
3. How does your personal story resonate with what has been discussed in this chapter? Does the loss of establishment bring a loss of something precious to you?

Chapter 2: A New Apostolic Era

1. Think about people you know who don’t participate in church or any faith community. Why do you think they don’t? What can the church learn from them?
2. What might those people be missing? How might you communicate that to them or provide them a taste of it?
3. How might the church offer a different sense of belonging, meaning, purpose, and security than the dominant culture in America?

Chapter 3: A People...Sharing Communion

1. What does the Eucharist mean to you?
2. When have you experienced the creation or restoration of community? How do you imagine God might have been at work there?
3. What signs do you notice of God circulating around your neighborhood? How might God be present? What might God be up to?

Chapter 4: A People...Reconciled in Difference

1. How have relationships with those different from you influenced your identity and way of seeing the world?
2. Have you ever been an outsider to a community? What did it take (or would it take) for you to be welcomed without having to give up your uniqueness?
3. When have you experienced God’s Spirit alive and moving within your congregation’s life? What about in the neighborhood or in your daily life? Share a story of this.

Chapter 5: A People...Seeking the World’s Hospitality

1. Share a story of a time when you received or depended upon the hospitality of strangers. What did it feel like? What happened there?
2. Has your church ever gone into its surrounding community to share the peace with neighbors without carrying baggage or resources? What might it mean to do so?
3. How might your church “seek the peace of the city” in your local community? What kind of public presence does it currently have, and what kind of presence might God be calling you to?

Chapter 6: A People...Living as Disciples

1. Which parts of the baptismal covenant resonate most with you? Which do you find most challenging or difficult to live into?
2. How would you positively define Anglicanism’s gifts for your local community? What do you see as the most precious treasures we have to offer our neighbors?
3. What does it mean to embrace the identity of learners of the Way of Jesus? How might focusing on this affect your church’s life and ministry?

Chapter 7: A People...Organized for Mission

1. How might your church better support your ministry in daily life?
2. What seeds of a new future might be present within your congregation's life? How might you discover them?
3. Many gifts are needed for the innovation of new forms of church in our day. What do you personally feel called to contribute?
4. How do you envision the transformation of the structures of church life to support mission in this new apostolic era?