

MAP Stage 3: Storytelling Event

The Appreciative Way

About the workshop

Gathering core values and hopes

This workshop is designed to gather the core values and principal hopes of the community through appreciative story telling. Participants remember a time with the community when they felt most connected to God. Through telling that story, the values and hopes for the life of that community are woven together into collective values and hopes.

Uncovering community values and hopes requires the community to gather. It cannot be done through a questionnaire or individual interviews. The richness of this process is found in the interaction of the individuals in community and comes from where the values and hopes intersect.

Philosophy

The process is based on Appreciative Inquiry. It assumes that communities are blessings to be released, not problems not be solved. The principles are:

- Start with what is working, not what is broken.
- What we focus on becomes our reality.
- People have more confidence and comfort to journey to the future (the unknown) when they carry forward parts of the past (the known).
- What we carry forward should be what is best about the past.
- It is important to value differences.
- The language we use participates in creating a new reality.

Process

A principal event is held when the community can gather for a period of three to four hours. It typically involves worship and food. Although each parish community has its own rhythms, most communities find it works best on a Saturday morning or Sunday following worship. It can also be effectively done with a dinner.

In most communities, despite best intentions, not everyone is able to be present at any event. A supplementary event, often in the form of a coffee party or home event, is helpful in bringing in those who could not attend the main event. It is essential for the supplementary event to use the same corporate process. Individual responses miss the interaction and can skew the results. The full process takes three hours on average.

An alternative is to hold a series of 'coffee parties' inviting parishioners to come to one of the parties where the process is repeated. It is imperative that each group be a mix of parishioners, and not special interest groups.

Agenda

1. Gathering

This can be as short as 15 minutes for registration and coffee, or as long as an hour for a meal.

2. Worship (15 minutes)

An inclusive service of the word, with an opportunity for short reflection on Luke 17:20-21 (reflects the Appreciative Way).

Jesus asked by Pharisees "when is the Kingdom of God coming"

- Pharisees were not the bad guys they are often made out to be; they were the religious orthodox of their day.
- Trouble is, they made the rules more important than the heart and the relationship.
- Jesus says to them (paraphrased) "you can't point to this or that but, in fact, the Kingdom of God is already among you. It's in your relationships, your attitudes, if you but have eyes to see it, eyes to celebrate it."
- Today is the opportunity to see and celebrate; where God is at work in our midst, where the Kingdom of God is breaking out.

Contact information

To request more copies, please contact the M.A.P. Resource Associate
604-684-6306 ext 227 or 1-800-665-1105

tcarrothers@vancouver.anglican.ca

© 2009 Diocese of New Westminster



Diocese of New Westminster

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

#580 – 401 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 5A1

Agenda, con't

3. Introduction (10 minutes)

Set up the room with tables for six. If possible, the facilitator should be able to present from within the tables. As people arrive, they may sit where they wish; they will be rearranged later.

Review the basic assumptions:

- Our community is a blessing to be released, not a problem to be solved.
- What we will focus on will become our reality.
- It is important to value our differences as gifts.
- The language we use participates in creating our reality.

Implications of today (and future)

- Where and what is the blessing God wants to release?
- What reality do we want to focus on?
- How will we treat one another on the journey to the future?

Facilitator then instructs the participants to rearrange themselves as follows:

- Six people at each table (tables of four or eight are also acceptable)
- Each group should be mixed; participants should choose people whom they know least well, of different ages and interest groups (for example, choir or altar guild should not sit together).
- Couples should go to separate tables.

4. Exercise #1: Interviews (45 minutes)

Facilitator makes the following introduction:

- Each of us has a sacred story, personally and in community.
- Our faith is not private, it is corporate: we are the body of Christ.
- We each have a part of that story, now is a chance to share it.
- Listen closely to instructions.
- Choose a partner at your table, the person you know least well.
- You will interview each other: person A will interview person B for 20 minutes, then person B will interview person A for 20 minutes.

Facilitator distributes the interview guide and walks the participants carefully through the details.

1) Review how the interview should be carried out:

- a. When being the interviewer, try to keep the subject telling their story for as long as possible, up to ten minutes. Ask supplemental questions to keep it going. Do not write anything down; rather, pay attention to the storyteller.
- b. Scribe the subject's answers to questions #3 and #4 only.
- c. When the first interview is complete, we will start again and reverse roles.

d. Important: This interview is not a dialogue; pay attention to the person being interviewed. The interviewer should not inject their own story.

2) Review the questions (see interview guide).

3) When you return to the table, you will be asked to introduce the person you interviewed.

5. Exercise #2: Table Conversation (30 minutes)

Facilitator distributes markers and flip chart paper, 2 sheets per table, and instructs the participants as follows:

- Assign a person to scribe.
- Going around the table, introduce the person you interviewed, including two sentences only on their story (give example), their core value, and their hopes for the future.
- This is not the time for discussion: simply get the values and hopes on the table.
- You will have up to 6 core values and 18 hopes named.

When the introductions are complete, have a table conversation to find:

- 1 to 2 core values and 3 to 4 hopes that have the greatest degree of consensus or commonality.

When consensus has been reached record them on the flip chart paper.

6. Exercise #3: Plenary Presentations and Discussion (20–40 minutes, depending on number of tables)

Each table in turn presents their values and hopes to the whole room. Post them on the wall.

The facilitator then leads a discussion to determine a growing consensus:

- Are there core values that were named repeatedly?
- Are there hopes that were named repeatedly?
- Are there core values and hopes that lie beneath the ones expressed?

7. Dismissal

Join hands and recite "Glory to God, whose power working in us ..."

The Appreciative Way

Interview Guide

Instructions:

- In pairs, interview one another using the questions in this handout.
- *Be a generous listener.* This is not a conversation. Actively listen to the other person. If you need more information or clarification, ask follow-up questions.
- When both interviews are completed, you will share your partner's responses with the wider group.
- Before you conduct the interview, read the questions and decide how you will personally answer the question. Make a mental note of your response, then proceed with the interview.

To the interviewer:

- Focus on the storyteller. Listen to the story; do not write it down.
- Stay with the story as long as you can: up to ten minutes.
- Do not interject your own story.
- Write the responses of the person being interviewed to questions three and four only.

To the person being interviewed:

- Put this sheet away while you are being interviewed.
- Allow the interviewer to lead you through the process.

Question 1. Best Experience: Reflect on your entire experience as an Anglican. Recall a time when you felt most alive, most involved, spiritually touched, or most excited about your involvement. Tell me about it.

Describe the event in detail.

- What made it an exciting experience?
- Who was involved?
- How did you feel?
- What did you do as a result of the experience?

Question 2. Values: What do you value deeply? Specifically, what do you value about yourself, being a parishioner, and your church:

Yourself: Without being humble, what do you value most about yourself? For example, as a human being, an employee, a friend, a parent, a citizen, and so on.

Being a member of this parish: When you feel best about being a member here, what about yourself do you value?

Your church: What is it about being an Anglican that you value? What is the single most important thing that the Anglican Church has contributed to your life?

Interviewer: Make notes on your partner's responses questions 3 and 4.

Question 3. Core Value: What do you think is the core value of this parish? What values give life to your congregation? What is it that, if it did not exist, would make this church totally different than it currently is? If you ascribe a single word or phrase, please define it.

Question 4. Three Hopes: If you had three hopes for the future of this parish and the Anglican Church in your region, what would they be?