

Rethinking what it means to be Church today!

Join in the conversation on the second Tuesday of the month (next one is October 9th) from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. to help us rethink what it means to be Church today. On September 12th, we engaged in lively conversation in response to the first chapter of Kelly Fryer's book *Reclaiming the "C" word: Daring to be Church Again*. Below are some quotes from the book and our reflections. Thanks to all who participated.

Chapter 1 – Daring to Dream It

- God's mission is to do whatever it takes to love and bless the whole world. (p.2) To be church is to be part of God's mission. (p.6)

Reflections:

YES!!!

We are here to keep God's mission going.

All have a "call" to participate in God's work.

Walk in God's footsteps

Accepting others is one way that we share the love of Christ

It is not the church's mission, it is God's mission and we GET TO participate.

Need to be politically active

God acts through our actions to love and bless the world.

- The church draws people in and transforms them so that through them God can change the world. (p.14)

Reflections:

What we do when we are together as God's church prepares us to be participants in God's mission.

When our eyes and hearts are open, our minds will follow.

It is easy to get stuck in "we always did it that way."

God's work – our hands

Not just "go" to church, but "be" the church in the world.

The community of faith comes together to be "fed" and "recharge our batteries"

With Jesus all things are possible.

- The church is an agent of God's mission. (p.16)

Reflections:

God is the one who will set us in the right direction.

Coming together, not for the institution but for the mission.

Making a difference, outside of our walls.

Speak out when events go against God's mission.

We are given the task of sharing God's mission to love and bless the world.

We, as individuals are the agents of God's mission.

We are God's instruments.

- God is already out there on the loose doing all kinds of cool stuff. (p.17)

Reflections:

Watching for God at work

Helping people to see their God-given gifts

Name it when you see God working through us:

Muhlenberg Football Players at the Rally for Riley

People helping out in the disasters

God is with us in our everyday lives.

Not limited to church members

- Taking God's dream seriously means thinking differently about what it means to be church. It means doing things differently ... it means living differently everyday, out there in the world that God loves. (p.18)

Reflections:

Opening ourselves to think differently for a common goal

Accept others actions/ideas to see things differently

Get to know one another to appreciate their history and experiences.

What does this mean for church today?

This may be more than we bargained for, but it is necessary.

To take God's dream to bless the word seriously, we need to get out of our box.

True church is the body of believers, not the "brick and mortar" structure.

We need to be open and welcoming to new ideas.

It may take time.