

Rethinking what it means to be Church today!

Join in the conversation on the second Tuesday of the month (next one is *November 14th*) from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. to help us rethink what it means to be Church today. On October 10th, twenty-four members of the congregation engaged in lively conversation in response to the second 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.

Daring to Define It

- The point of church is the big something that God is up to: bringing this whole wonderful world back home again. (pp. 22-23)

Reflections:

Church's call to participate in God's mission goes unanswered.

God calls us to be his church active in the world.

It's all about helping people to get to know God and Jesus.

Communion of saints

Get caught up in other things and forget the basics – back to what community is

We must face what we have become and done.

Recognizing and naming the stuff that we see God doing out there.

God's mission to be carried "out there."

We are trying.

The point of church is GOD's mission.

- ... the church had become defined by the way it was organized ... Church became *organized religion*. (p. 24)

Reflections:

Here for everyone. It is not always organized but we all come together to worship God and spread the Word.

Where the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered

Church is a safe haven

Organized – limited – regulated – rites and rituals

"Organized religion" – turn-off for next generation

Church is small groups, committees, any way of coming together

This is funny – the building has always been the church – never referred to as the people

Church – the building, my social life, never changing because that makes me uncomfortable

Inseparable from building, budget, pastor, bishop, constitution, hymnal

Need a certain amount of organization

Need to be able to adapt to the times to be successful

Bible does not describe the church as "organized religion"

- The church is the **assembly of saints**. (p.29)

Reflections:

Who are at the same time forgiven sinners.

Church is about people – not just about the building and the pastor

Assembly – not perfect, but willing to "socialize together"

Assembly – party word – less formal than what we think of as Christians

Assembly – party word – a whole lot of everything
People with a purpose
We are the saintly, because the Holy Spirit is within us
Gathering of Christians
If church is dying, then the people are dying

- (the church is) people who are being transformed, in whom faith is yielding “good fruits”. (p. 31)

Reflections:

Food Pantry
Pre-School and Kid’s Korner (before and after school program)
We are the fruits of the church
People doing good deeds and helping people
A community serving a community.
Transformed by the Holy Spirit to proclaim gospel in word and deed.
We do things here – but we can learn to do better.
Rally for Reilly – started with a few seeds – and grew – felt God’s presence
All people are welcome
You need to be involved in the church to be the church.

- The church is the people of God, who are being transformed by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. (p. 31)

Reflections:

Has always been, always will be
Holy Spirit creates faith to yield good fruits
Who have lots of faith and share it
People coming together to cause a “Pay it Forward” effect.

- Church > Pastor + Building

Reflections

The church is more than the building and the pastor
The church is not the pastor and the building.
Far beyond the pastor and the building – how we treat everyone everyday
You need a church to have a place to worship
The church is how we go forward to do good deeds throughout the community
Church is the people fulfilling God’s mission.