

Rethinking what it means to be Church today!

Join in the conversation on the second Tuesday of the month to help us rethink what it means to be Church today. Due to the report on our Internal Processing Review, our next meeting will be on Jan. 9, 2018 from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. On November 14th, several 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 Do It Chapter 3

- We're stuck with the church because *we are* the church. The only question is: what kind of church will we be? (p. 36)

Reflections:

What kind of church would those who meet us say that we are?

Community center – more than a church

Serving the community – doing kind deeds – social ministry, fellowship

Traditional Church with many good programs

Organized – tight with one another

Somewhat friendly – new nametags help

Community oriented

Friendly

Active

What kind of church do we want to be?

Youth centered

More welcoming

We want to be the church wherever we go by doing God's work.

Outreach programs – where members take our blessings out to share and bless everyone we meet.

Open

More loving

Giving

Extending

Reaching

- They couldn't wait to get together to hear about the latest, greatest thing their God had done and to teach each new and important things they had learned about God through the strangers they had met and the strange places they had been. (p. 40)

Reflections:

Have you ever had this experience of sharing or of hearing someone else's story?

If yes, share?

Going out there – met God and Christ out there

Going out there and making an impact on someone else's life – come back excited

White water rafting – awareness that God is with us.

Mission Trips – opportunities to serve – fills your "love bucket".

Caroling at nursing homes – Youth group Bingo – serving the lonely

*We share stories in Sunday School
Group activities and fund raisers
Taking time to share what we have accomplished*

- ... they went to Temple expecting to not just to listen, but also to speak. (p.41)

Reflections:

How does this change of mind-set impact the culture, the energy, and/or the connectedness of the church community?

Surround yourself with grateful and thankful people

Going out to do – coming back to share “God moments” brings energy and excitement

Going out to do – coming back to share where you have shared and received God’s love

Now – outside world drains – coming in to be recharged

Sharing creates a growing energy and a feeling of connectedness

What if – outside world fills our “love bucket” – and then inside sharing transforms and encourages us to go back out there

Learning from one another

We make a difference one person at a time – let’s share that

- When we come together – as church, *in here* – every single thing we do ought to be for the purpose of equipping and empowering us to be the church *out there*. **Every single thing**. (p.43)

Reflections:

List three or four things we do as church in here and note how they are or how they are not equipping and empowering us to be church out there:

Youth group and social ministry

Church a place of transformation

Focusing on “how we have always done things” keeps us focused on ourselves, which could be preventing growth.

List one thing that we are not doing that we could do that would equip and empower us to be church out there:

Adult forums with a focus on the sending

How to express our faith

Having time to share our “God moments” of the week

- ... for these things to happen, we need to begin to imagine **together** a new kind of church ... where the most important thing is not what happens *in here* but, rather, getting people ready to be church *out there*. (p.45)

Reflections:

A new vision will not happen if we don’t start imagining together even though change is hard, messy and scary

All people are the ministers of the church.

Focus on the positive and not the negative

- *Other comments and reflections:*

People respond to change in different ways:

Early adopters – willing to take risks and experiment

Middle adopters – reluctant - want to see “proof” that doing something different will work

Late adopters – those who will initially put up barriers to preserve the “way we have always done things”. They may never be able to adopt the changes as their own, but may be willing to join in.

All have important roles to play in vibrant and healthy church community.