

2018

Dee Anne gives intro and overview of Ian's talk, potentially highlighting:

- *Christendom (past) vs. New Missional Age (present)*
 - *Church is no longer the center of society, but GOD still can be*
 - *Moving from economy of scarcity to an understanding of abundance*
 - *Moving from accumulation to transformation*
 - *Less concern for growth; more concern for connection*
- *Spiritual practices*
 - *Listening*
 - *Discerning*
 - *Trying on*
 - *Reflecting*
 - *Deciding*
 - *(reminder that this is not a linear process)*
- *What can we imagine?*

Andy/Kristin highlight the resolutions of Convention and the 4 breakout sessions:

Amidst this big picture dreaming, stirring worship, and fellowship, we still had to accomplish the business of Convention. The first business session of Convention was held on Friday. The Convention budget and clergy compensation resolutions passed, as they always do, and a resolution also passed to update canonical requirements for choosing bishops. A resolution regarding the definition of clergy in good standing was tabled. St. Paul's, Darien's was taken under supervision of the Bishop as a mission to promote reconciliation between the parish and its pastor. Separate resolutions for Affirming Racial Justice, Healing, and Reconciliation and

recognizing and affirming the inherent dignity of gender non-conforming people as children of God passed with amendments.

The second business session, on Saturday, ran a bit differently. This year, we were asked to “try on” a new format, in which we broke out to discuss four pressing questions for the ECCT today:

1. How do we meaningfully engage ECCT in the existing work of serving God’s mission among the poor & marginalized?
2. How can ECCT raise awareness of the sin of racism in our Church and promote healing toward true racial reconciliation?
3. In these changing times and consequent needs of our worshiping communities, what are our expectations of priesthood leadership currently defined in ECCT as missional, provisional, conditional, or part-time?
4. How would the practice of Open Communion change the life of the church?

Each of these questions was discussed in small, rotating groups of five delegates, building the conversation over several rounds and then collaborating with a larger group to create action steps which could then be voted on by the larger Convention. From this new set-up, the convention was able to generate ideas and take action more quickly than the previous process for resolutions, and it will be interesting to see if this format we “tried on” becomes something permanent.

As we thought about what it would take to create change on these various questions, an overarching theme seemed to emerge - that of “trying on” new ideas

and methods. And so we come back to you, the members of St. Paul's, to ask what you would like to try on. As we enter into a new fiscal year, our stewardship committee, for instance, is trying on "Donut forget your pledge card Sunday", and I'll go on the record as being in favor of anything that involves Neil's Donuts. 96 of us (what an astounding number!) "tried on" the Renewalworks survey with the hope that we can discern opportunities for growth and transformation within our own spiritual lives and that of our parish. And we even have our Choristers today "trying on" their robes, both figuratively and literally, to sing in church, some for the first time. What other ideas, large or small, should we try on? What challenges can we take on or test out? Our tests may not always succeed, and trials may not always be neat or linear, but, with God's help, they will get us closer to each other and closer to meaningful engagement in the higher purpose that calls each of us here. Amen.