

2008 Vision Initiative

Growth through Welcoming and Inclusion

Activities and Ideas

Draft 1

February 2008

Growth through Welcoming and Inclusion

The following ideas were received, primarily, at the joint meeting of Bishops Council and Romero, the Right Onward Committee, and various leaders from Diocesan Committees and Commissions on January 23, 2008 at Diocesan House in Trenton. Some are programs that are up and running, others are dreams for the future. Additions and further suggestions are always welcome and may be submitted during Convention at the Right Onward Committee Booth or sent to Diocesan House, sent via e-mail to right_onward@yahoo.com or to a Right Onward Committee member in person. Thank you for using these ideas, for submitting new ones, and for prayers for welcoming and inclusion and growth in our parishes, missions, and ministries. For further discussion on any specific activity or idea please contact us.

Welcoming Activities & Ideas

Liturgy & Music:

- Special liturgies that welcome others (e.g. St. Florian Day for firefighters, St. Francis Day for pets, High School graduation, Bikers, U2charist, Soccer Mass at start of soccer season, etc.)
- Faith story telling
- Sermons geared towards welcoming & inclusion
- "Invite a Friend" Sunday
- Rediscover Evening Prayer
- Plan a special musical service, e.g. a Jazz Mass
- Celebrate Recovery Sunday
- Involve many people in liturgy, children, youth and adults
- Offer organ recitals at lunch; encourage listeners to bring lunch
- Offer healing services, on Sundays or other days such as weekdays at noon for downtown and area workers
- Plan a special service outdoors, at a park, the beach, or historic location, e.g. Washington Crossing Park
- On the first Sunday of each month, hold an early evening service; a large banner advertises these services to the community

Welcoming:

- Start a welcoming committee
- Prepare welcome packages (e.g. bread gifts delivered, prepare visitor bags, deliver altar candles as extension of liturgy)
- Greet people on the Front Steps
- Hold a newcomer meal and/or class; take newcomer group “class picture “
- Identify parishioners who are good welcomers
- Say “Hello!” to someone you don’t already know
- Incorporate newcomers into congregational activities
- Host a yearly festival of welcoming/inclusion
- Involve young people, they are natural welcomers
- Invite a friend to church for service project
- Invite a friend to church for social activity
- Invite a friend to church for lecture
- Use mailing label services for new resident mailings

Program:

- Intergenerational Programs
- Use “Happenings” model from Diocesan Youth program
- Sunday celebrations of different nationalities in your congregation
- Outreach projects, service to the community, e.g. day laborers meals
- Youth "Generations" event
- Offer Spanish lessons
- Special and/or ecumenical Advent & Lenten programs for the public, e.g. teaming with 3-4 other churches to provide a rotating Lenten program with a light meal at host church
- Activities for 20/30 year olds

Space Planning:

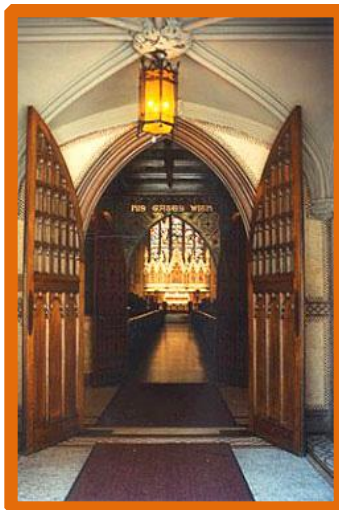
- Designate some reserved spaces for visitors in our parking lots
- Structural Evangelism - how does your building look, are different entrances used?, is your building welcoming?, are their signs to narthex/nave, church school, coffee hour, office areas, school offices? Have you applied “Episcopal Feng Shui?” 😊

Personal/Church Development:

- Be triumphant and joyful!
- “Knock down the walls”
- Redefine congregational boundaries
- Be open to include those who use our building
- Is our self-concept of congregational friendliness true for newcomers?
- Step into unfamiliar situations
- Plan for SUCCESSFUL Growth! What will happen when others are included and welcomed!
- Share ideas between congregations
- Take anti-racism training

Resources:

- Website Development
<http://www.newjersey.anglican.org/Resourceses/BuildingParishWebsite.html>
- Radical Welcome
<http://www.churchpublishing.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=product&ProductID=451>
- Assessment by outsider leading to self assessment (congregation), e.g. Natural Church Development for which we have three (3) Diocesan coaches & significant resources
<http://www.ncd-international.org/public/?jsessionid=F1924AB95CF838924F1694753D93D7CF>
- Diocesan Magnetic Church Workshop, May 2-3, 2008 at Trinity Cathedral
<http://www.newjersey.anglican.org/MI/indexa.html#Magnet>
- Magnetic Church Concept <http://www.magnetic-church.com/>
- Diocesan Website <http://www.newjersey.anglican.org/>
- Beyond Inclusion <http://www.beyondinclusion.org/>



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