

Trinity Episcopal Ministry Focus Discussion

On Sunday, September 9, 2018, parishioners gathered in the undercroft to discuss areas of ministry focus. The discussion centered around five values: education, fellowship and pastoral care, ministry to and with older people, outreach and social justice ministry, and youth and young adult ministry. The discussion summary is organized by value around 5 key questions.

- 1. What opportunities may be presenting Trinity in this particular ministry focus? What might it be inviting us into?**
- 2. In what ways would this ministry focus challenge the congregation? What would be the risks?**
- 3. How might we grow in faith and enter more deeply into the life of God through this ministry?**
- 4. What is likely to be the impact within Trinity? Who is likely to be impacted beyond Trinity?**
- 5. What are the gifts/resources Trinity has to offer in this area? What commitments might you make?**

Comments can be turned in to the vestry by Sunday, September 16th in a number of ways.

- email Kami in the office office@oshkosh-episcopal.org
- leave comments in the designated basket found at the sanctuary entrance
- drop off at the church office (see office hours)

EDUCATION

What opportunities may be presenting Trinity in this particular ministry focus? What might it be inviting us into?

- Periodic spiritual events
- Short one-time topics
- Book club
- Guest speakers from diocese and community

In what ways would this ministry focus challenge the congregation? What would be the risks?

- Getting enthusiasm
- Finding the right time
- Community involvement - VBS

How might we grow in faith and enter more deeply into the life of God through this ministry?

- We can always be learning
- Building relationships

What is likely to be the impact within Trinity? Who is likely to be impacted beyond Trinity?

- Enthusiasm growing
- Sharing ideas/fellowship
- Deepen connection with God

- Diocesan-wide impact

What are the gifts/resources Trinity has to offer in this area? What commitments might you make?

- Fr. Chris – gifted preaching
- Commitment to attend
- EFM

FELLOWSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

What opportunities may be presenting Trinity in this particular ministry focus? What might it be inviting us into?

- Participation provides opportunity for connecting with others (ECW, choir, Compline, Wed. Loaves & Fishes)

In what ways would this ministry focus challenge the congregation? What would be the risks?

- Transportation/ride sharing
- Lunch vs. night (safety – difficulty driving at night)
- Number of participants (Risk of not having #s)
- Size of homes – downsizing
- Not thinking outside the box
- All ages – Casino Night

How might we grow in faith and enter more deeply into the life of God through this ministry?

- Get to know each other better/share stories
- Share burdens and joys “Someone else has same issue.”

What is likely to be the impact within Trinity? Who is likely to be impacted beyond Trinity?

- Think outside the box
- Friendship, bring people together, less isolated
- Greater care for each other

What are the gifts/resources Trinity has to offer in this area? What commitments might you make?

- Pomp and circumstance
- Many talented people (music, Fr Chris, volunteers)

MINISTRY TO/WITH OLDER PEOPLE

What opportunities may be presenting Trinity in this particular ministry focus? What might it be inviting us into?

- Facilitator of speakers/programs on aging issues
 - widowhood
 - solitary life
 - social security/Medicare
 - spiritual life of the elderly
- Organizer
 - Trinity Angel’s List – trustworthy go-tos for odd jobs, yard work, tech assistance, etc.

- Business card exchange
- 60+ outreach
- writer's club for obituaries

In what ways would this ministry focus challenge the congregation? What would be the risks?

- Not the sexiest emphasis for young folks
- We will have to be the “facilitator” more than the “doer”
- Financial
- Transportation

How might we grow in faith and enter more deeply into the life of God through this ministry?

- Aging with grace
- as we age we don't stop growing spiritually

What is likely to be the impact within Trinity? Who is likely to be impacted beyond Trinity? What are the gifts/resources Trinity has to offer in this area? What commitments might you make?

- More interaction with and respect for older adults

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

What opportunities may be presenting Trinity in this particular ministry focus? What might it be inviting us into?

- Legal aid
- Blessing Box
- Introduce us to different needs/demographics
- Connect us with real downtown needs
- Connecting and welcoming folk we may not feel comfortable with
- We would have to sit and question: How do we address our own discomfort?
- We'd have to go through training: create a safe ground for all
- an outward push for Trinity

In what ways would this ministry focus challenge the congregation? What would be the risks?

- Financial investment
- Conflict
- Political/politicized
- Can involve specialized training
- More people would need to volunteer
- Demonstrating what it means to be Christian

How might we grow in faith and enter more deeply into the life of God through this ministry?

- Where would Jesus be in Oshkosh?
- Living the Beatitudes
- Mt. 25 – “Whatever you do to the least of these...”
- Humility
- We enter into God's vision of how we ought to be

- Bring us into the community in very real, practical ways

What is likely to be the impact within Trinity? Who is likely to be impacted beyond Trinity?

- Sense of purpose and direction-focus
- More cohesive effort/buy-in with congregation
- We'd learn to become bolder and braver
- People would see relevance in churches
- Larger concentration/impact by partnering with other organizations

What are the gifts/resources Trinity has to offer in this area? What commitments might you make?

- Space!
- Downtown location
- Bargain Basement, Loaves and Fishes, etc.
- Already have ties with other churches and organizations
- We have \$25,000 set aside specifically for outreach
 - grants
 - seed projects
- We are compassionate

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

What opportunities may be presenting Trinity in this particular ministry focus? What might it be inviting us into?

- Intergenerational contact
- Bring in all age groups
- Partner with college groups

In what ways would this ministry focus challenge the congregation? What would be the risks?

- Challenge:
 - Communicating outside of parish
 - Buy in by the parish
- Risk:
 - Burn out of volunteers
 - Bringing up our next leaders

How might we grow in faith and enter more deeply into the life of God through this ministry?

- Reconnecting with other generations
- Communicating with other area churches

What is likely to be the impact within Trinity? Who is likely to be impacted beyond Trinity?

- Richer life in all generations
- Involvement with older parishioners
- Cross over into other generations and outward into community

What are the gifts/resources Trinity has to offer in this area? What commitments might you make?

- Downtown location
- We have a youth group program in place
- Booth at Farmer's Market to get more exposure