

Growing Young – Text of Questions and Resources from the Chat Log

11:18:35 From Bishop : My concern is that if we begin with the declining numbers, we turn new people into a resource to turn our numbers around. I would much rather begin with the gospel and the good news we have to share. I think we're preaching salvation in Christ not how do we save the church. I say this because this is where future church is coming from and ELCA.

11:27:19 From Betsy: methodological question: when you talk about what the 'research' is showing--does the research cover multiple ethnicities and economic situations?

11:37:18 From Janet Wulf-Marvin : across the US?

11:48:00 From Betsy: liturgy

11:48:15 From Dan: keeping quiet

11:48:17 From Betsy: and also with you

11:48:18 From Matt: Wearing red on Reformation Sunday.

11:48:22 From David: open and accepting

11:50:15 From Betsy: seeing the people

11:50:49 From Betsy: we had to start with actually seeing the young people who are present. Many of our adults didn't even know who they were (their names)

11:52:37 From Bishop: Just so I understand: If Growing Young is a slow process that involves changing a culture, getting young people is not a way to save congregations because they may not have that much time?

11:55:17 From Julie: it would be a good reflection on what we as congregations/pastors spend most our time on. I am guessing it is not Jesus stuff--but complaints, disagreements, and who knows what else. and this is only magnified by the situation we are currently in council agenda items

12:01:54 From Jake Mulder: <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/growingyoung/assessment>

12:11:27 From Christina: yes it is a fair characterization

12:11:36 From Jayme: i feel like it's accurate

12:13:41 From Julie: one comment I hear is "the church is letting the world lead us and the church needs to lead"--but what I hear them say is we are not adhering to the teachings I learned as a kid--2 parents households, sexuality and gender issues, etc. Focus on the ten commandments over and against love.

12:13:44 From Dan: Yes. that is a fair characterization of our Church. But if you asked us all individually, most would say that is not me. But somehow we collectively end up there.

12:19:12 From Jayme: if people keep saying "it's not me", change may never come.

12:22:48 From Richard: Please say more about building a "critical mass" in the congregation. About what percent of the participating community might it be and how does one build that critical mass and how long might it take?

12:23:59 From Jake Mulder : 1. Build a team

12:24:42 From Jake Mulder : 2. Read the book, listen

12:25:22 From Jake Mulder : 3. Experiment on the margins

12:27:04 From Jake Mulder : 4. Build on what is working. Create a pocket of greatness.

12:27:41 From Jake Mulder : 5. Maintain disciplined attention (2-3+ years)

12:28:09 From Jake Mulder : 6. Integrate changes in overall congregation

12:32:23 From Bishop: How do you be a family without being a closed family? An iron Circle. The only way in is through birth or marriage. My comments are based on what I hear in our congregations.

12:35:18 From Betsy: much of what you are talking about is also true--necessary--for new members of any age

12:36:00 From Vicki: Another important point is that young people will sense if you are real or if you are being disingenuous.