

How Change Comes to Your Church

Nebraska Synod of the ELCA
Theological Conference
Lecture #2, October, 2019

Missional Thirst for God's Desired Future

- ▶ “We live in a culture that makes it hard for people to imagine and be led by God”
- ▶ Mission not a program; core of the church's identity
- ▶ Asking what God is already up to, not only in our congregation, but in the community and world outside of us, and ahead of us
- ▶ Missional not attractional; life and death issue

Making Space

- ▶ Cannot rely on the normal governing process
- ▶ “Disruption” created by leaders
- ▶ Entering “liminal space”
- ▶ Time; change is not punctual

Nurturing a Climate of Discernment

- ▶ Changing the way we change
- ▶ Organizational culture—“culture eats strategy for lunch”
- ▶ Discernment: desire to reach one mind, “the mind of Christ”
- ▶ Consensus: not binary; methods available

Dwelling in the Word

- ▶ Specific method: text, respond, listen to the other, share; keep repeating.
- ▶ The text wants to do something, not just say something
- ▶ Not search for answers, but living with questions
- ▶ Imbed congregation's story in God's story

Sharing the Journey

- ▶ Begins with congregational discovery process
- ▶ Discover your particular missional calling—one thing
- ▶ Pain because you are moving forward
- ▶ Share with other congregations—walk together in covenant