

Locally grown ministry- helping it grow!

Diocesan Churchwarden and Parish Administrator Conference October 12th 2019

How God calls us to serve him in the church and community varies from person to person and church to church. This workshop reflects how disciples are encouraged to live out their gifting to serve Christ and how churchwardens and parish administrators can help their churches to be more fertile environments for growth in ministry.

1. Introductions

2. How is ministry 'grown'?

Every church has a different 'culture' of ministry. Why is it that some churches find people volunteering to do all sorts of things and others...not quite? We will work through some options of what church wardens or parish administrators might do to make their church environment more productive.

Proposed outcomes

- To gain insight into how ministry 'grows' from a NT perspective
- To consider what actions can help change our church's culture of ministry for the better

3. Conversations about how we got to where we are!

4. Overview of our ministry contexts - what are some of the ministry challenges we now face? -a helicopter view!

5. Word associations with calling, growing disciples and ministry

Points to make:

a. Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13 *All are called?*

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. 7 But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

11The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

b. All disciples are gifted for ministry inside and outside the church

c. Churches purposely need to help people to grow in discipleship and ministry

6. Rainbow Exercise- What can you learn about the way your church 'grows people' and how could you do better?

- When people are asked to do something they are given instruction and a clear set of expectations **vs.** they are told to just get on with it
- People are approached to do a task because no one else will do it **vs.** entering into a conversation considering their gifts and skills and whether God might be calling them to do it.
- Lots of affirming and constructive feedback is given to a person whatever task they do **vs.** no recognition, a thank you or being told how important what they are doing is to progress God's mission
- People feel compelled to participate in church ministry because they understand what direction God is leading it in and want to contribute **vs.** people aren't really sure why they are doing what they do as the church has no clear priorities
- The ministries filled first are the roles and tasks to keep the church 'show on the road' **vs.** testing newer ministry ideas that face outwardly into the community and wider world

7. Identify one action that could make your church culture more able to develop ministry?

- a. What next steps could you take?
- b. Who could you share this with?
- c. Who could help you keep to this?
- d. How would you know it has changed?

8. Growing Ministry Together