

Congregational Development Task Force

Transformation 2.0

3X9 Event April 28

19 persons from 8 congregations gathered at the Xavier University Innovation Center for our final learning cohort event on April 28. The morning included Dwelling in the Word, a campus walk and time praying for the Bellarmine Chapel parish and their ministry in the neighborhood.

Participants shared three things they learned from the 5-Step Process (Listen, Discern, Experiment, Evaluate and Live a New Future). These learnings focused on community, the cyclical nature of working toward adaptive change – no straight lines, and failure teaches at least as much as success.

Sycamore Guiding Team presented a power-point of their most recent experiment to engage their congregation in the community. 150 Sycamore members participated in a day of service led by the Guiding Team and Mission Committee. 20 area ministries were supported by volunteer workers. The most remarkable thing was the bonds that were created among church members with each other.

Our major participatory learning exercise was “Introduction to Design Thinking.” In 45 minutes the group paired up to listen, discern, experiment, evaluate and live a new future by designing and making a gift that resonated with their partner. It was fast paced, action oriented and deeply relational... all in 45 minutes. This pushes us toward action verses thinking, evaluation instead of admiration and risk not safety. “Fail fast” is the motto which pushes us toward trying new things and seeing how they work, so that we can learn enough to try the next thing.

The Transformation 2.0 events in September, January and April brought together folks from nine congregations to learn how to talk with Millennials, listen to our neighbors and work on racial reconciliation. The congregations involved have engaged in learning in their congregations and describing what they have done. We have encouraged each other and struggled through the vexing issues of our time.

The work of meeting adaptive challenges will continue among these congregations as we seek to be faithful to Christ’s call to the Church in our age.

Thank you for your support,

Kevin Stainton, Chair, on behalf of the
Congregational Development Task Force