



Church of the Redeemer
Visions of Ministry 2011
Continuing the Discussion – Posts to our Online Forum
<http://theredeemer.freeforums.org>

The following suggestions have been posted on our online forum as at October 9, 2011.

Building Community

To build community within Redeemer, I believe it is of the utmost importance to create a church directory. This would allow members of the parish to put a name, and any other available information, to a face or a face to a name. The creation of a directory was discussed at the Visioning Retreat. Privacy concerns was one of the issues raised. Most members of the church, I believe, would be willing to have their name and photograph in a directory. Additional information, like e-mail address, roles in the church, years of attendance, etc would be optional.

Another way to develop community would be to organize an annual retreat. This would allow members of the parish an opportunity to interact beyond the regular church services, educational and volunteer opportunities. It would also bring together members who don't normally see each other because they attend different church services. I suggest the retreat take place in early fall and be held at location outside of the city.

Dr Tim Keller says,

"Urban areas are fundamentally different than suburban and rural areas, but most churches are indigenous to non-urban areas. The gospel will reach urban areas only by churches that are contextualized for an urban environment and through citywide gospel movements."

<http://conversation.lausanne.org/en/conversations/detail/11512>

http://www.copgny.org/files/Movement%20Day/Ministry_In_Urban_Centers.pdf

<http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/urbanophile/17178/religion-and-city>

Children/Youth/Young Adults

A parishioner has sent the link to this article about what 20-somethings are looking for at church:

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/80263_129223_ENG_HTM.htm. What do you think?

People Resources

One of the statistics that came out of the pre-retreat survey was that 16% of respondents were interested in contributing their time and talent but weren't very involved, and another 16% were involved but would like to do more. How do we help people get connected with Redeemer's work?

I think it is important to identify AB and Board of Management members each Sunday during Newcomer announcement, so people have an opportunity to buttonhole them during coffee. I suggest we have a "Ministry Fair" where various groups can identify what they do, when they meet, what time commitment is involved, what support they can expect, etc. Finally, we need to provide computer access at the back of the church, so people can get on the database, update their profile, identify their interests, etc.