

Vision Theology and Worship WG

Highlights from Nov 14, 2008

Present: Jonathan Schmidt (convenor), Susan Titterington, Nigel Packwood, Colleen Sym, Margaret Cornish, Bill Mous, Maylanne Maybee, Lydia Laku (staff). **Regrets:** John Brewin.

Broader scope for Terms of Reference

- Providing worship
- Spaces for theological reflection
- Ecojustice
- Also reports for example?
- Theological reflection in documents
- Themes?
- Grounding in principles

Brainstorming, Suggestions

- All our work needs foundation – where are we coming from?
- Could we give time for reflection while we're there? Add another day or two?
Model the combination of theology and praxis
- Indicate to COGS a positive response to meeting once a year – “a good and healthy development” – reduces carbon footprint, allows us to gather a different and wider perspectives, presents an opportunity to devolve leadership to the wider church.
- Our mandate is to reflect theologically at each meeting, for example focus at one meeting on stewardship, environmental impact associated with mining practices
- “produce post meeting theological reflection”
- Give feedback to COGS – challenge them to think differently
- Reflection on process as well as content
- Communication Working Group is discussing a DVD for parishes and synods with stories of partners, etc. in Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India.
- Could we not develop a theological basis for use with the DVD?
- The theological principles we should be promoting are things like, “Justice not Charity” or “Partnership” – including within the House of Bishops
- How do we have a “vision”? Is our role to serve as a conscience? Reflection at the end might be more concise, using an overarching theme.

- Using a model of constructive theology, we could invite people to add their reflections by e-mail when we go away – something that is thought provoking, placed on the agenda early on.
- We focus too much on words. Could we not use a video instead of written reflections? How could this possibility be shared with communications?
- We should consider leading into meetings with a theme and questions for reflection.

Jonathan proposed asking the co-chairs for a fifteen-minute slot on day one to re-visit the theme from the last meeting and themes that have emerged between meetings. It would be a way of providing continuity - connecting with past reflections and linking them with what's coming up, drawing from scripture to capture and inform the worship.

Summary of Discussion

1. Role of this Working Group:

- Facilitate theological reflection from the past meeting(s)
- Prepare and coordinate Worship
- Prepare a theological reflection for the next agenda.

2. Key points arising from Brainstorm:

- Maintain the thread of what was learned in past theological reflections.
- Capitalize on positive aspects of reduced meeting times and use of technology.

3. Next steps:

- Create a document for ourselves
- Keep a notebook of our reflections – on what's going on, what has been discussed.
- Jonathan will consolidate and clarify themes and reflections from our last meeting; identify emerging themes in the world around us (e.g. the economy!) for our next conference call; suggest what to include in the meeting as worship themes.
- Margaret is preparing a report to Synod for Spring 2009 and can share this document with us.

Next Conference Call – late January/early February 2009, tba.

[For information – under discussion by Communication Working Group:

- *How to tell our story to ourselves*
- *Generating ideas for a 6-10 minute DVD*
- *Communication with diocesan editors, asking what they want*
- *Work on a power point presentation template*
- *How to use secular media.]*