

“What is Happening at your Church” – Workshop

@ Kenesserie Camp on June 7th, 2011

2:30 to 3:30 pm

Opening:

- Welcome
- London Conference Covenant
 - o Listen!
 - o Speak!
 - o Wonder!
 - o Pray!

Concerns:

- Older Congregations and smaller numbers
- Town and Rural businesses have disappeared
- Congregations are spread out – folks come from a distance
- No or Few children, youth, and/or young families
- Churches depend upon fundraisers
- The Help for fundraisers are older, and cannot help like they used to
- Number over 40
- “Slave to the Printed Word” (including our own)
- Time of meetings
- Length of meetings
- Focus of meetings (survival) (Purpose)
- Mission Statements are not what we are doing (Focus ?)
- Lack of people resource
- Will we go to the very end?
- Who shows up on Sunday morning?
- Survival of Paid Accountable Ministers
- Part Time Paid Accountable Minister working more than Part Time.
- No Direction from Presbytery
- Presbytery gets in the way
- How do we start talking to other Congregations (Pastoral Charges)?
- In Limbo – How do we work within the process?
- Fear & Uncertainty
- Looking back to “The Good Olde Days”
- Priorities
- Oversight visit – Is the truth shared?
- Oversight Visits – What is done with the results?
- Needs Assessment – Are they Truthful?
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Assets:

- Buildings are in good condition – some are accessible
- Use assets to do Outreach/ministry/mission
- Money
- Stop being churches – “Be The Church”
- Future – Ecumenically
- Our Blessings (Building) (People)
- Who does show up on Sunday mornings?
- Simple, Basic Church – Sunday Activities

Celebrations:

- money is not always the problem
- Ridgetown’s Ministries – (the United Church’s and their shared ministry with the Ridgetown Ministerial).
- Those who show up on Sunday morning.
- Growing Spiritually
- Groups get together during the week
- Spiritual Reading Group

What Churches need from Presbytery:

- Direction
- Explain the process (es) (there are many processes depending what you wish to do).
Examples: close, amalgamate, join with another Pastoral Charge, dissolve your Pastoral Charge etc.)

The intent is to take these ideas (Kent Presbytery held a workshop from 4 to 5 pm), and discuss how Kent Presbytery (who is all of our churches together in Kent) might work with congregations to address these ideas.

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Presbytery Workshop:

@ Kenesserie Camp on June 7th, 2011

4 to 5 pm

1. Kent Presbytery realized we do not have a mission statement or a set of values that we should work with. (Judith Fayter has agreed to chair a committee to do this work).
2. Kent Presbytery has some materials that were put together 5 years ago to start the conversations (Pamphlet for Church Change). Redistribute to those at the workshop.
3. The numbers who attended the Congregation Workshop speak volumes that we have passionate folks who care about their churches and their faith.
4. What mission does Kent Presbytery churches already do? (Should we do a list like Chuck, did for how we already address Hunger?).
5. How much mission work in the community is done on behalf of the church (other than Sunday morning) by volunteers, by the Paid Accountable Minister – which includes Presbytery, Conference and National work, Breakfast Programs, Funerals, weddings and baptisms, counseling, hospital and nursing home visits, etc. What happens to that work, if the church closes?