

Small Group Summaries UMASCE Consultation 07

Change, Praxis and Vocation

Our group was extremely adept at raising questions (rather than coming to conclusions) related to issues of change, praxis, and vocation in Christian education, particularly in how we form leaders. Among the primary questions we wrestled with were:

- Can we learn leadership? How does that happen?
- How are we transformed?
- How do we learn?
- How do we develop holistic leadership?
- How can we transform our places of ministry if we are not transformed first ourselves?

We concluded that the best way to explore some of these issues was to use ourselves as case studies, realizing that typically, the “real way you learn to do your job is by doing your job.” We covenanted to meet approximately twice a year between now and the 2009 consultation, with each of us bringing to our meetings a case study on a “disorienting dilemma” we are experiencing (or have experienced) in our practice of leadership in our respective ministry settings. Our goal is to see what we learn about how leaders are formed by observing our own leadership.

Theological Education

(from notes by Mai-Anh Tran)

- create “Living Methodist” curriculum
 - determine the audience
 - Small team to lead us in thinking structurally about such a new curricular resources, to ensure quality & depth
- web site:
 - syllabi for intro courses in CE -- this is now in process with a meeting scheduled next May to analyze the content.
 - annotated bibliographies
 - vetted articles
 - create ways to converse around intro courses – ways to do assessment
- develop ways to be in contact with one another – continue the conversation to build up to next consultation
- collect & lift up data/resources from creative congregations
- apply for Wabash grant to support work

Vision

The Vision group did a great deal of sharing around the nature of Christian Education and the demands of the calling, too much to put in this form, but which will be shared on our web site. The group did work with a beginning statement of vision or purpose for Christian education as follows, but which will be worked on in the future:

As CEs, we are called to...

- **Facilitate “beloved community” – “communities of justice and peace” – “reign of God”**
- By helping people to grow in their relationship to God through Christ (individual

growth in faith)

- By building communities of peace and justice, led by the Holy Spirit
- In order to incarnate God's love for all creation.
- We do this through: (List is a result of brainstorming process)
 - Creating contexts for learning
 - Designing curriculum – “prescribing programs of study for the education of the church”
 - interpretation – texts, locations, situations
 - sharing/telling/interpreting/engaging/synthesizing the story
 - reflecting on their lives
 - through disciplined practices
 - responding to the Story through action
 - creating spaces of love