RETHINKING FAITH FORMATION

CHRISTIAN IDENTITY IN A PLURALISTIC WORLD
RETHINKING FAITH FORMATION
THE CHURCH WE BUILT

- most powerful institution in the world
- liturgical
- Sunday mornings
- camps
- Youth gatherings
- Colleges and universities
- Hospitals and health care institutions
- Women of the ELCA
WE DID CHURCH IN THE BOX

- WORSHIP
  - identity

- CATACHESIS
  - information

- WITNESS
  - implementation
CHURCH OUT OF THE BOX

- WORSHIP
  - WELCOME
  - SAFETY AND BELONGING

- CATACHESIS
  - EXPERIENCE AND EXPLORATIONS

- WITNESS
  - FULFILLMENT OF POTENTIAL
REIMAGINING CHURCH
WHERE AND HOW PEOPLE EXPERIENCE GOD
MESSINESS - BOAT PEOPLE

Ethno-centrism
Racism
System of Entitlements
Potato chip people
LVC
RE-IMAGINING FAITH

• THE CHALLENGE OF RE-IMAGINING WHERE AND HOW PEOPLE EXPERIENCE GOD.
THREE WORLD VIEWS

• CONFORMITY

• RELATIONSHIP

• ACQUISITION
ACQUISITION

• How much money do you make?
• How much do you know?
• How much TIME do you have?
• Efficiency
• “Time is money”
MOST SEGREGATED HOUR OF THE WEEK

- Time
- Music
- Sermons
- Prayer
FAITH FORMATION

History of faith formation in mainline denominations: Right off the boat

• Cognitive based
• Acquiring knowledge
• System of belief
• Ready for the intellectual fight
What and who does your Sunday school look like?

• Sunday school
• Confirmation
• Worship
What does your worship look like?

- Music (Hymnody)
- Sermon
- How long is your service
REALITY

• 6 out of 10 people who enter the doors of the church non members
• The world and culture that shaped the church is radically more diverse
• The gift of the gospel is not ours, never was, never meant to be.
NEGOTIATE VS NAVIGATE

• This used to be our story – people came to us
• Used to be about membership – People are no longer coming to us
• Mainline churches used to call the shots
• Equipped to win the argument (proposition) and no one is listening (irrelevant)
RE-IMAGINE CHURCH

- Post modern church
- Not an argument but a radical experience of welcome
- Equipping people to engage the world
- Beyond membership
- Welcoming place where:
  - Everybody is safe and everybody belongs
  - People experience and explore a relationship with God
  - Beloved community
  - Fulfillment of potential