

MC Called Meeting
Sunday November 3, 2019 4 PM

Present: Mark Tidsworth (potential consultant), Rob Martin, John Phillips, GC Pundt, Karen Pearson, Donna Andreo, Deb Marshall, Jim Lawler, Fr. Charles Smith

Fr. Charles began the meeting with Evening Prayer in the chapel and we retired to the St. Augustine room.

Fr. Charles gave a brief introduction of Mark Tidsworth and Mr. Tidsworth began his presentation asking people why they attend this church.

Mr. Tidsworth followed up with the question “what do you hope for the future of this church in the next two to three years?”

Growth with young families, sustain it so that it is here for our children’s, children’s, children, shoring up in the precarious waters, worry about declining numbers/finances.

Mr. Tidsworth noted that relationships and knowing/being known sounds like a core value for the congregation. This is a difficult time to be the church regardless of denomination and we are in a time of transition.

SHIFT initiative is a year”ish” Commitment/relationship with Mr. Tidsworth and Pinnacle. We would get a team together who would walk this journey and help us.

First shift is from membership to discipleship.

Second shift is from attractional to missional—becoming a sent church

Third shift is moving from a consumer culture (what have you done for me lately) to a partnership culture (we are in this together doing God’s work).

There is a weekend for the whole congregation followed by 10 weeks of small groups meeting on this. Then there is another gathering for everyone where we brainstorm and begin to work on what it would mean to do this.

Pie Sharpe asked about specifics from congregations who have done this and the results. Mr. Tidsworth noted that Holy Cross in Simpsonville did this and developed a communal rule of life around this and now share that with new people.

Fr. Charles asked specifically about evangelism and churches who have done this program and had success in Evangelism. Mr. Tidsworth noted St. Andrew’s Presbyterian in Greenville, SC did this and decided to stop Sunday School and move to small groups in people’s homes and have increased attendance in CF activities from 10+/- to 70+/- . They now use these groups to invite people from the community as this is an easier initial ask than a Sunday worship service.

Mr. Tidsworth also mentioned a personal design process which is similar to the shift process. But it provides a bit more flexibility and the congregation designs the process. Strength of the SHIFT is that it does a good job of educating the congregation about the difference in the world today and the need to

approach it differently. If this educational piece is not done frequently congregations will look back to their heyday and attempt that with more excellency.

The personal design tends to be better for congregations who have already completed the education work about adaptive change.

Deb Marshall asked if he has every worked with churches where some people who are not willing/interested in getting on board. The trick is not to spend too much time/effort/work with those who are not interested but to focus on the naysayers but to get on with the work and love people where they are.

Pie Sharpe asked if there are specifics they have for how to attract young people. Is there a change to our music or some other programming that will make the young people want to come? Mr. Tidsworth noted that they do not make those type of suggestions because that is the purview of the congregation. There is also some discernment around who specifically we are connecting with and living in that.