

Town Hall Meeting

October 25, 2020

Next Century Vision

Tom Kent and Diane Ebbs, Co-chairs

The Way of Love

“Our Next Century Journey”

Inspired by our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. **Michael Bruce Curry**

The “Way” to the Next Century

- Our Objective
 - Chartered by Vestry in 2019 to create a vision for the next century
 - Team members recruited from the cathedral, community and the diocese
 - First decision: Base our vision and process on *The Way of Love* as a guide for The Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement
 - Second Decision: Engage voices from the cathedral, the community and the diocesan listening sessions

The Team

Christ Church Cathedral Members

- Dianne Ebbs (Co-chair)
- Garrett Gerard
- Mary Grover
- Clark Handy
- Jack Jose
- Tom Kent (Co-chair)
- Bailey Miller
- Ro Morsby
- Ethan Nichols
- Olden Warren
- Roxanne Qualls
- Judith Robinson

Representative from Diocese of Southern Ohio

- The Rev. Mary Carson, St. James

Community-at-Large

- Rabbi Abie Ingber
- Mary Carol Melton
- Derek Peebles

Clergy

- The Very Rev. Gail Greenwell
- The Rev. Canon Paul Williams

Consultant

- The Rev. Libby Berman

Twenty-one Listening Sessions were held from June 1 through November 21, 2019, with a total of 253 people participating.

Final Report

- Presented to Vestry (Easter 2020)
- Contains Five Focus Areas
 - Our Spirituality
 - Our People
 - Our Diocese
 - Our City
 - Our Work Beyond the Cathedral

We would like to dedicate this vision to all of those who have walked the “Way of Love” for the past 200 years and have inspired us as members of this Christ Church Community.

-

The Report

- Thoughtful objectives that suggest a **way** for the cathedral for the next several years
- A definition of who we are as a **people**
- Unique ways we can express and deepen our spirituality
- A plan to embrace our **work outside the cathedral** that reflects our historic values
- Our role as a collaborator and resource **in the Diocese**
- Our impact locally as citizens of **our city**

Vision for “Our Spirituality”

- Strategic Statement: “Christ Church Cathedral will strive to practice our spirituality in ways which will allow us to both know and be known, to receive the gift of God’s grace, and to connect with one another.”
- Key Objectives:
 1. We will establish and or support small groups which will allow for fellowship beyond cathedral walls and let us dig deeper into who we are.
 2. We will integrate spiritual practices from other faith communities into innovative and meaningful worship experiences

Questions asked at the listening Sessions:

1. Imagine the cathedral or the community five years from now. What would you like to see?
2. What are the biggest opportunities we have over the next five years?
3. Our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. **Michael Bruce Curry**, calls us to work in the way of love. Which one does our cathedral need to engage most to be able to move forward and why?
4. Asked of those within the diocese: What do you imagine God's dream is for our cathedral?

How Do You Bring Yourself into this Vision?

The following questions were asked during today's Town Hall meeting.

- When you looked at Spirituality, did electronics in the sanctuary come into the discussions? Those with disabilities enjoy being in the sanctuary environment but struggle with hearing, etc.
 - We did not look at specific items at this time but would pass these along to the appropriate areas for implementation.
- We have a new Dean coming. Are you seeing the Next Century Vision as a guide for the new Dean?
 - The short answer is yes.
- This entire project was done "pre-COVID" so should the team be gathered again and look at this with post-COVID eyes
 - We believe that the report will stand as it is but implementation will certainly require post-COVID attention.
- Could you talk about learning from other faith traditions?
 - We heard from Native American, Latino, Jewish, etc. traditions and will continue to engage with these communities.
- As we consider alternative forms of worship, is the vision to incorporate these into current worship services or forming additional services?
 - We see here an opportunity to have a place where laity can have a voice in designing the worship and could include other faith traditions.
- This work can be implemented now working through Zoom gatherings. We will be doing this for a long time.

If you have a question or comment email Tom at: jtomkent@gmail.com