



## Innovation: God On Tap Video Discussion

### Open with Prayer

### Introduce video

Theology pubs and coffee conversations are two of the ways that congregations take their ministries out into their communities. Let's look at a video about one community, God on Tap at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church.

### Show video

### Discussion questions

Ask people to reflect on what the video says about how the church can better connect with the religiously unaffiliated and share their responses. Here are some ideas they might suggest. Let people express their ideas. Use these points to expand the discussion, and share those that the people did not suggest:

- Deanna said that she found God on Tap through a website called Meetup.com. This is an example of the importance of embracing social technologies, AND of being out where people are, physically or virtually.
- Deanna valued a safe place for engaging conversation, and Pastor Anderson said he achieves that through an "expert-free zone." This shows how many people learn through discussion and reflection on their own experience rather than relying on lectures or sermons.
- Pastor Anderson said that the various forms of God on Tap keep the congregation present and connected in the neighborhood. Research shows that the religiously unaffiliated are not coming to the church; we have to go to them, and provide many points of contact for new people.
- Deanna noted that she wanted to connect with faith "without having to go back to church." She seeks out informal, engaging conversation more often than she attends worship. For many who are unaffiliated, "church" can happen in a pub, on a soccer field, at work or on the street just as it can in a sanctuary.
- Deanna said "It was nice just to be myself." Many people avoid the church – or have left it – because they have to pretend to be someone they are not.

*If people suggest other ideas, please jot them down and share with us by emailing to [rfisher@sepa.org](mailto:rfisher@sepa.org).*

What physical places in your community, and/or places in digital space, could your congregation be present in to reach people who are not coming through the doors?



Do you learn better from presentation or through discussion? ... Think of your children, grandchildren or young adults in general. How do they learn?

How could "church" happen in other ways than worship services in your building?

What stops your congregation from starting outside the building ministries? What resources would help you?