

Forward Together as Innovators Discussion Guide

Open with Prayer

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 43:16-19, Revelation 21:1-5

Share These Points on Innovating:

Pastor Patricia Davenport spoke at synod assembly and shared her observations about innovators. She said, “Innovators are willing to take risks, have an innate ability to create something out of nothing, make life better, have a passion for transformation and want to take the world higher - drawing everyone in to a closer relationship, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Characteristics of Innovators:

- Relentlessly focused on meeting the needs of people
- Problem solvers
- Meets people where they are
- Are present in and connected to their community
- Collaborates with church and community - moving forward together in faith

Instead of looking for “safe” opportunities, in a fluid landscape such as ours “we need to be iterating and experimenting and innovating all the time,” says Pastor Keith Anderson. “We have to try things to see if they work and be okay if they don’t, and try something else.”

Video Examples of new and innovative ministries in our synod:

Living Gospel Ministry - Living Gospel Ministries fills a need: More than 35,000 persons return to Philadelphia from incarceration each year. Many have difficulty re-integrating, finding jobs, or locating faith community. This is one way our Synod provides support to marginalized persons in our region. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBYZTv7YrRw>

God on Tap - Upper Dublin Lutheran Church's God on Tap is one of the theology pubs springing up around our synod taking the gospel out of the church to where people are. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-qJ2zr9XvM>

Reflection/Discussion Time:

How does the scripture connect with the synod’s campaign vision of innovating as well as in your congregation?

What are some innovative ideas your congregation is already doing? What might be some innovative ideas that you would consider exploring in the future? Are there needs in your community that you could meet through a new and innovative ministry?

What is the Holy Spirit calling you to do? What are you going to do about it?

Notes – Share With the Synod Helpful Discussion Information