

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY @ ST. BRENDAN'S

A brief report from the AI Committee; July 16, 2017

WHAT IS APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY?

Appreciative Inquiry is designed to encourage us to look at St. Brendan's with an "appreciative eye," to identify the good that already exists, and to figure out how to build on it as we discern together who God is calling St. Brendan's to be and what God is calling us to do.

1. WHAT'S OUR STORY? Sharing stories about our experience at St. Brendan's:



2. WHAT'S OUR DNA? Defining who St. Brendan's is today:

Culture Statement: *St. Brendan's Episcopal Church is an open and welcoming community of faith. We seek to serve God and support each other through worship and faith in action in an atmosphere of love, friendship, and compassion.*

3. WHERE IS GOD CALLING US?

Discerning how God is calling us to use our gifts going forward:

Existing Mission Statement: *Jesus said, "I have come to give life—life in all its fullness" (John 10:10). Our mission is the realization of fullness through: the worship of God; service to the world; active concern for each other; and education to expand the mind and spirit.*

Mission Focus Statement: *We reaffirm this mission as we strive to:*

- *love and accept all people as our neighbors;*
- *nurture one another along our spiritual journeys through worship, formation, and community;*
- *walk beside those with needs, responding to a changing world without ceasing;*
- *spread the good news of God in Christ and share the good works God is doing at St. Brendan's.*

4. HOW DO WE GET THERE? Developing a plan for responding to God's call:

Objectives	Responsible Parties
Love and accept all people as our neighbors	
Support and nurture the nametag ministry and newcomers committee.	Hospitality Committee
Ensure that preaching teaches us ways to be accepting of all people.	Worship Committee, Clergy
Actively monitor St. Brendan's messages to ensure we consistently communicate acceptance of all people.	Communications Committee, Hospitality Committee
Nurture one another along our spiritual journeys through worship, formation, and community	
Ensure that preaching reinforces St. Brendan's mission and culture.	Worship Committee, Clergy
Survey the parish about the types of worship/music they would enjoy.	Worship Committee
Develop a plan around children, youth, and adult formation.	Education Committee
Explore possibilities to partner with other churches for youth programming,	Education Committee, Clergy
Support and nurture the discipleship group, Bible studies, and other opportunities for formation.	Vestry
Follow up with those who have left St. Brendan's to determine why they left.	Vestry
Support and encourage the growth of "in reaching" stewardships, including LEM, supper club, meal makers, etc. as well as "Invite, Welcome, Connect."	Vestry, Clergy
Walk beside those with needs, responding to a changing world without ceasing	
Ensure that preaching includes messages about walking with others.	Worship Committee
Launch the Community of Hope.	(Ruth Horton, Joyce Donadee)
Foster and support ongoing outreach and encourage new ministries.	Vestry
Spread the good news of God in Christ and share the good works God is doing at St. Brendan's	
Create opportunities to worship outside the church.	(Peter Sweet)
Educate congregation about different methods of evangelism and create opportunities to engage in evangelism.	Education Committee, Clergy
Develop a "marketing strategy" for St. Brendan's to share our mission and our culture and to reach new people.	Communications Committee (Marketing/Publicity)
Evaluate in reach and outreach activities to document their impact.	Outreach Committee
Share the good works God is doing at St. Brendan's with the congregation and invite all members to participate/partake in in reach and outreach activities.	Vestry, (Julia Wick, Peter Sweet, Tom Waseleski, Annemarie Malbon)

WHAT'S NEXT? Developing detailed tasks and implementing the action plan:

- Present Appreciative Inquiry process and products to the congregation
- Develop detailed action plans with specific tasks and assignments
- Create parish profile and begin search process
- Continue implementing, reviewing, and updating the action plan