

Nitty Gritty Questions

The Bishop in her charge to Synod likened the present situation of ministry to an overturned jigsaw puzzle where you don't know what the end picture is supposed to look like but grope around blindly to figure out where the pieces fit together.

Discussion on what to discuss at the Fall Conference – explorations.

1. Authority

What added responsibilities should/could Licensed Lay Ministers take on to help with diocesan staffing shortages? Or to facilitate the sharing of resources among parishes?

What does collaborative ministry look like when the clergy is spread thin over several parishes?

Is Lay Incumbency an option? How would lay incumbency work within the power structure of a parish? What would the expectations be around his/her relationship with the wardens and other parish officers? Would that entail a separation of duties, the office of rector from liturgical ministry?

Currently, Licensed Lay Ministers are licensed to a parish. Could certain future Lay Ministers be licensed instead to the Diocese? Or to more than one parish? To whom would he/she be accountable?

2. Qualifications

What training is needed or desirable for Licensed Lay Ministers? Who would provide it?

What education is needed for Licensed Lay Ministers to help with their expanding role? How do we prevent credentialism from creeping in?

What would be the qualifications for different tiers of Licensed Lay Ministers if perchance lay incumbency or diocesan or multi-parish Lay Ministers came into effect?

3. Remuneration and Compensation

For the scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." -- 1 Timothy 5.18

How do we remunerate or compensate people for doing what they do?

How do we forestall overburdening or passing on too much to the Licensed Lay Ministers?

4. Catechesis (Passing on the Faith)

Christianity is caught more than it is taught. Our prayer life informs our beliefs and our beliefs inform how we live out our lives. LEX ORENDI LEX CREDENDI LEX VIVANDI

As laity takes on more and more, what should/ can be provided to aid with sermon preparation, bible studies, meaningful worship practices, and baptismal, confirmation, or funeral preparation tips?

How do we maintain a Eucharistic presence when parishes are deprived of the benefit of clergy?