



Archdeacon and Deacon Director's Conference Spring 2013 Open Space Notes

Next Steps for *The Seven*

-Caricature of diaconate as “hobby” for wealthy and/or retired people-- what do you do with that? -Balancing gifts and calls across class, race, age, gender.

-Programs like The 7: accessible, can be used as “target” programs for under-represented leadership in our diocese (whether the under-represented are youth, people of color, poor folks, etc).

-Push for young priests, discouragement of young deacons in many diocese.

-Community organizing model for programs like The 7 is strong because it identifies people's strengths, grounds them in wider community, does not put pressure on them to step into particular role (like formal discernment can) but engages them in identifying their own call.

-Adding younger mentors, non-ordained mentors w/diaconal ministries, etc. for future.
-Blend of local, small-group, in-person community and broader, web-connected/phone connected, (inter)national community.

-Regional small-groups also offer more opportunities for local mentoring (if one mentor is busy, another local one can step up as needed).

-Relationship w/emergent church?-- non-existent

-What could The 7/AED do to support future programming elsewhere?: Peer-mentoring participants, mentoring new mentors.