

Notes from the Meeting with Bishop Rickel
At our new building
11:00 am, January 13, 2019

We gave a tour of the new building to the bishop and our guests from the Diocese, then we gathered in the coffee room for a meeting.

An assistant bishop will soon begin working in the diocese. He will assist with church visitations. Bishop Rickel will be on sabbatical from July to October 2019. This is the year for discernment. Input from the members of the diocese will be obtained during the WalkABOUTs.

Question: Based on Bishop Rickel's experience with new church construction and with churches going thru major renovations, what suggestions does he have for us?

- This change will bring joy and grief. Acknowledge the grief and discuss it. Relocating will change who we are as a congregation.
- Be conscious of the appearance of the Nave. Put out only the chairs we need. Too many chairs makes it look like the number of people attending services has declined when that may not be true.
- Plan a meaningful departure from the old church building and say hello to the new building.
- Tell the congregation what we will bring from the old church (chairs etc).
- Our energy now is very high and positive. There may be a letdown after we move into the new building. To sustain our energy we should plan several big events for shortly after we move in. Don't go too quickly into a routine.
- There may be an initial surge in attendance after we move into the new building. We should be ready for that. Make new people feel welcome.
- If people brought a small amount of dirt from their homes, it could be incorporated into the construction of Phase 2 or placed in the garden area. Be aware some people may want to include ashes from their loved ones.

There was a discussion about the placement of the baptismal font. If we had two, one could be placed at the back of the nave and one in the courtyard.

Jeff (last name?) from (church name?) asked if we have maintained our outreach efforts while focusing on our new building.

Bishop Rickel stressed the importance of a sabbatical for our vicar and also for our congregation. The congregation as well as the vicar need to step away from our routines for a short time.

Sarah mentioned how valuable the leadership conference she attended this year was. Bishop Rickel said the next leadership conference will be April 27 – May 1, 2020 at Fort

Warden. In addition to the scheduled events, it offers an opportunity for a group from our church to be together to discuss how the material presented at the conference effects our church.

Bishop Rickel feels it is important to remind people of the baptismal covenant. He includes it every Sunday when he officiates.

Regarding the Walk About on April 6, 2019, besides providing the meeting space, all St. Antony's needs to do is provide coffee and snacks. At the Walk About Bishop Rickel will present his vision for the future then he will leave. The people present will then discuss what they see for the future. This information will be collected but no decisions will be made at this time. After his sabbatical and the Diocesan Convention, he will decide if his vision for the future matches what the people in the diocese want. If it is similar, he will stay on as bishop. If not, he will leave.

We adjourned about 11:50 am.