

Eastern Assembly Workshop Options

1. Prayer & fasting, paving a way for effective gospel proclamation – Archdeacon Paul Crossland

Fasting for a Christian involves the whole person and symbolises total discipline. Christian fasting is not a ritual to be indulged in regularly, but is a source of intimate delight, even though it may involve heart searching. The value of this discipline lies not in its immediate effect, but in the results which flow from its practice, and the gradual effect that it has upon the believer.

Prayer is for the Christian a form of communication with the Godhead. Jesus practiced prayer continually as we read in Scripture. Prayer is a two way street, speaking and listening...if your prayer life has become jaded, simply a matter of rote, a time of empty ritual, then it is time to re-vitalize your prayer life. Our hope is that this time of learning about fasting and prayer will offer you ways of becoming more intimate with the Lord.

2. Diving deeper into God's Word (a necessity for effective gospel proclamation) – Archdeacon Paul Charbonneau

The Goal is Soul: The Word of God in the life of a believer

Greed, grace, life, death, lust, laughter, intrigue, sex, murder, birth, beginnings, betrayal, power, and God. And that's only the first book of the Bible, Genesis.

Spiritual leaders from all generations have agreed upon the importance of the Word of God as a vital means of growth and maturity. You cannot do without it, but many Christians ask, what do I do with it. How do we make sense of the Bible? What is more, are we aware of how powerful the word of God is? We have in our possession a Book that has so many promises of what God can do for us, we also possess a Book that can do so many things through us in the world. And yet we often use the bible to sustain the few things we are already doing anyway.

What would it mean to allow the Word of God to fully take hold of our lives?

In this workshop I will try to answer this question and to equip us with some practical instruction in allowing the word of God to fully impact our minds and the depths of our souls.

3. Ministry to children and youth (a central and strategic part of gospel proclamation) – Archdeacon Tim Parent

Lamentations 2:19 "Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the night watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord! Lift

your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint for hunger at the head of every street."

Making disciples out of kids and teens is crucial to continuing Jesus' mission to the world and to our neighbourhoods--but how?? We want to share God's leading in our church and hear about yours, from successes and frustrations to hopes of resurrection in all our different circumstances. There are principles to explore, resources to pool, and an opportunity to encourage one another and to pray for all we need to proclaim Jesus faithfully and effectively in a challenging world. Sharing is encouraged but not required!

The workshop will include some 'hands on' examples of ministry to children and youth.

This workshop will be led by Archdeacon Tim Parent and his wife Deacon Jane Manary Parent with input from other veterans in youth and children's ministry.

4. Planting churches (a platform for gospel proclamation) – Archdeacon Michael McKinnon

Aside from our worship of Almighty God (in Word & Sacrament) church planting is our first priority in Gospel proclamation. We are in the midst of a new reformation. It is no longer a call to reform the doctrine of the Church *per se* (for we have done that in taking our stand for, the faith once delivered to the saints), rather it is a call to reform the culture of North America through church planting as a primary tool for evangelism and Gospel proclamation.

The Canons (the governing laws) of the Province of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) state, "*A congregation, with the consent of the Bishop, should plant new churches whenever possible...*" (Canon 6, Section 7). Romans 10:14-15a states, "*How are men...to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent?*" The word "apostle" means, "to be sent". Therefore, planting new congregations is the apostolic mission of the Church. We are all familiar with the Great Commission, "*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age'*" (Matthew 28:18-20). We have been commissioned by the Lord to make disciples (through evangelism and church planting)! It is important for us to realize that we are in the midst of a new Reformation. It is not the existence of our local congregation that is in peril, but the existence of the very Gospel in North America! We are called to be missionaries for the Gospel in our own land and the local congregation has become the primary agent for apostolic mission. We are to, "plant new

churches whenever possible". The hope (through prayer and a lot of hard work) is that these church plants will one day become Parishes, who will in turn plant new churches and reach generations yet unborn with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

5. Ministry to sexual brokenness (all part of faithful gospel proclamation) – Archdeacon Darrell Critch

"I've been dealing with my issues for so long I don't have hope anymore. Every time I ask Jesus to take my struggles away, nothing changes. When I tell my church friends about my hurt, no one is willing to listen. I'm stuck in my brokenness. There's no way out." This is a sad and very telling quote from the website for Living Waters.

Though most people in our ANiC parishes know that there is always hope, few believe themselves to have the skills necessary to help such a person. Building on some very good work already happening in ANiC parishes, it is our hope and prayer that the Eastern Regional Assembly workshop on ministry to those with sexual brokenness will encourage and equip parishes to offer a holistic healing ministry of hope to those in need of transformation. After Archdeacon Darrell Critch sets this much needed ministry in the context of the fulfillment of the Gospel message, Deacon Ray Smith will share his experience of leading Freedom Session and Father Andrew Carlson will present his experience of leading Living Waters. These two programmes are well established and have a proven track record. A brief explanation of each programme is below.

Freedom Session is an effective, 28 week, Christ-centered 12 Step healing ministry that will lead you on a journey towards the freedom and healing you've always hoped was possible for you. While most people refer to Freedom Session as a Christian recovery program, it really goes much deeper than recovery - our goal is healing and we are convinced this is God's desire for your life as well. Freedom Session has been proven effective to help people from every walk of life, every economic level and virtually, every possible area of woundedness. People like you have been set free from chemical and sexual addiction, sexual and physical abuse victimization, codependency issues, perfectionism, the scars of divorce, betrayal, abortion trauma, homosexuality, anger issues, gambling, eating disorders, frozen emotions and just plain old hurts. If you can relate to any of these issues or love someone struggling in these areas, we invite you to spend a few minutes perusing our site and find the courage to start your own personal freedom journey. Life is simply too short to be lived out while enslaved to our past hurts and unhealthy habits. If you are already ministering hurting people from a Christian worldview, you are definitely on the right track. But we need to do more than tell others about Jesus and the freedom He offers. We need to patiently walk them through a process, showing them how to invite Jesus into their pain and how to deal with their pasts in such a way as to break the

cycles of abuse, escape and dysfunction. Freedom Session has also been written for you and will equip for more effective ministry. It is transferable, user friendly and comes complete with DVD teaching support so that you can start a Freedom Session Ministry in your community and watch the miracles begin.

Living Waters is an in-depth, 25 week, Christ-centered program for people seeking healing in areas of sexual and relational brokenness. A healing, teaching and discipleship series, Living Waters addresses the reality that we are all broken in our ability to love others well. The goal of Living Waters is to lay a foundation for sexual and relational wholeness in our lives. With groups all over the world, and with over twenty years of ministering God's healing love, the Living Waters program is a proven path of healing.

Living Waters is particularly relevant to those struggling with homosexuality, sexual promiscuity, the effects of sexual abuse, codependency, self-hatred, or the inability to love others well. Thankfully, Christ's capacity to touch and restore us at deep levels of shame and brokenness extends to all of us, regardless of the specifics of our issue.

Through the worship, teaching, prayer and small groups of Living Waters we learn about:

- God's powerful love for us and how Jesus is central to our hope for wholeness
- The depth of our brokenness and our profound need for Him.
- The power of the cross to restore our souls, sexuality and relationships
- The process of walking out our healing
- Our place in the church and loving others honourably