R3 Congregational Renewal Process

Homework from Event #1

One important part of the R3 process is that it is action oriented. We don't come to events just to learn – we come to take what we are learning and then put it into practice when we return to our congregations.

Here are the things that should happen before your team returns to the next event in December.

1. Take the Congregational Vitality Survey. Get the responses sent in.
2. Install and Commission your team during a worship service. We will post a commissioning rite on the synod web site early next week.
3. Meet as a team (preferably within 48 hours of going home)
4. Meet with your coach
   a. Reflect on what you heard and learned at the event.
   b. Talk about what you are to do with this in preaching, worship, education and fellowship to try to help others begin to talk more clearly about how God is at work in the world and in their lives.
   c. Go over the results of the Congregational Vitality Survey. What does it say about your congregation? In what areas does it point to further work being a good idea?
5. Work on the following ways of speaking about God:
   a. **Pastors:** go over your sermons and determine how you do or don't talk about God now. Work to make this more present tense and active as you speak. Reflect on if and how your theology changes as you do this.
   b. **Laity**: reflect over the last month and think about situations of some significance in your life. In a journal write about the story and also how you see God being involved in it. Try to use "God language" as the subject of sentences and describe what you see God doing in these things. The share what you thought/wrote about with a partner from your team.
   c. **Teams**: work to invite people to share how their lives are part of God's work in the world. You may want to look at the worship resources at www.theologyofwork.org and especially the vocational interviews resources. How can you help others begin to talk about their livers being connected to what God is up to and useful to God?