

The Death of Sunday School and the Future of Faith Formation

Congregational Conversations: A Taste of Dialogue

Agreements:

- We can always pass or pass for now.
- We will respect time limits.
- We will speak one at a time and share air space.
- We will keep things confidential – the learning goes with you the stories stay here.
- Speak for yourself and not on behalf of others.
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Structured Go-Rounds:

- One person read the question aloud. One person times two minutes of silent reflection to prepare to speak.
- The first person speaks for two minutes and then each person follows, going clockwise. You can always “pass” or “pass for now” without explanation.
- Pause between speakers so that what was spoken can be fully heard and absorbed.
- Time each other, passing the timer at the end of two minutes, to indicate the speaker’s time has ended.
- As you listen to others, make notes about things you’d like to learn more about. You will have the opportunity to ask questions of each other next.

Question One (Up to two minutes each)

1. Please share a life experience that might help others understand how you came to have the perspectives, concerns or values you have related to faith formation.

Question Two (Up to two minutes each)

2. What is at the heart of the matter for you? (In other words, what is it that really matters to you related to these issues?)

Question Three (Up to two minutes each)

3. As you think about your perspectives and experiences with this issue, can you speak about any ways you might be pulled in different directions? Like: On the one hand I really care about meeting the needs of our families and on the other hand I care about or appreciate our Sunday school program so it’s a little complicated for me.

Questions of Curiosity (15 minutes total)

Now is the time to pose questions to each other, preferably ones that spring from your curiosity and desire to better understand the speaker. Avoid rhetorical questions (those to which you already have an answer), or questions designed to give advice, challenge or imply judgment. The speaker can respond briefly, so that everyone gets a chance to take a question.

Closing and Final Go-Round (Up to one minutes each)

What would you like to continue thinking or dialoguing about?