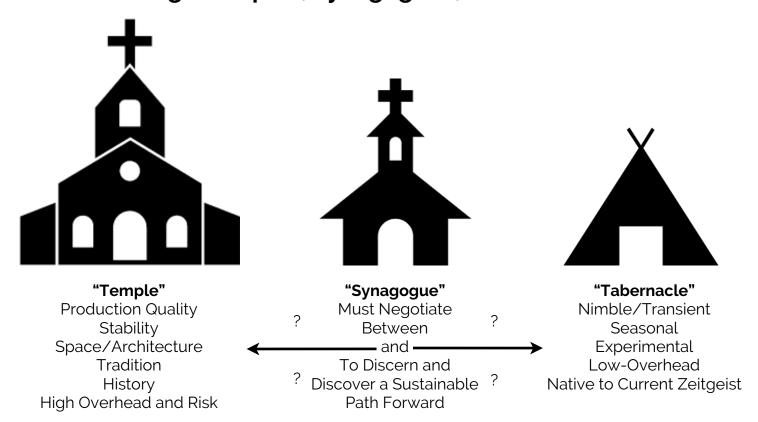
### **Session 1: Enculturated Worship**

### Learning from New-Old Models

Reckoning: Temples, Synagogues, and Tabernacles



\*\*\*Thanks to The Rev. Michelle Bolt For offering the original metaphor of Synagogues and Temples.

### **The Emerging Church**

**Definition:** Communities that practice the way of Jesus within postmodern cultures. This definition encompasses nine practices. **Emerging churches:** 

- (1) identify with the life of Jesus,
  - (2) transform the secular realm, and
  - (3) live highly communal lives.

Because of these three activities, they

- (4) welcome the stranger.
- (5) serve with generosity,
- (6) participate as producers,
- (7) create as created beings.
- (8) lead as a body, and
- (9) take part in spiritual activities.

Creating Christian Communities in Postmodern Culture, Ryan Bolger and Eddie Gibbs, 2005

### **Enculturated Worship**

- Both confronts and vivifies culture.
- Does not simply mimic or reject but is **countercultural**.
- Rooted in the soil of the local community.

- Emily Scott

To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. - 1 Corinthians 9:22

### St. Lydia's (2014)

# Vivifies culture by: "Dinner Church" Sunday evenings Open Table Zen Center

Vivifies interest in food Caters to young professionals Low threshold for unchurched Partnership across faiths

## Confronts culture by: Sit Down Meal Personal Interaction Participatory Liturgy

Living in isolation Virtual Community Consumerist Culture

### Southside Abbey

Vivifies culture by:
Dinner Church
Art Gallery
Community Partnerships
Honoring Diversity

Confronts culture by:
Dinner Church
Art Gallery
Friday Night
Open Table
Empowering Liturgy
Blurring boundaries

Interest in food Nurtures creativity Existing Relationships Existing Neighborhood

Scarcity of food Fights homelessness Welcomes the outcast (Re-tells the story as good news) Gives voice to oppressed Defeats cultural barriers

### **Context**

- Brooklyn New York
- Urban
- Postmodern
- Young Professionals
- Interest in food
- Isolated
- Connected Virtually
- Many unchurched
- Religiously Pluralistic
- Large LGBT Population
- •heavy gentrification lots of art and hipsters
- •young/old, rich/poor, ethnically diverse but divided
- •Food desserts vs. nicest restaurants
- •Bible Belt: anti-churched and over-churched

#### Thad's

Vivifies culture by:
Word-based Church
Writer's Boot Camp
Uneven "faith topography"

<u>Confronts culture by:</u> Emphasis on intimacy Telling the Christ-story Story drives culture Artistic Venue Reflects Demographics

Highly individualistic Unchurched

- •Los Angeles (Santa Monica), California
- •Lots of transients; highly unchurched
- •Everyone has a story
- •Story drives culture
- •Highly creative; fast-paced
- •Highly individualistic; lacks intimacy