

Session 1: Enculturated Worship

Learning from New-Old Models

Reckoning: Temples, Synagogues, and Tabernacles



"Temple"

Production Quality
Stability
Space/Architecture
Tradition
History
High Overhead and Risk



"Synagogue"

Must Negotiate
Between

← ? and ? →
To Discern and
Discover a Sustainable
Path Forward



"Tabernacle"

Nimble/Transient
Seasonal
Experimental
Low-Overhead
Native to Current Zeitgeist

****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.

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

Interest in food
Nurtures creativity
Existing Relationships
Existing Neighborhood

Confronts culture by:

Dinner Church
Art Gallery
Friday Night
Open Table
Empowering Liturgy
Blurring boundaries

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

Thad's

Vivifies culture by:

Word-based Church
Writer's Boot Camp
Uneven "faith topography"

Story drives culture
Artistic Venue
Reflects Demographics

Confronts culture by:

Emphasis on intimacy
Telling the Christ-story

Highly individualistic
Unchurched

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

- 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