

Task Force on Theology of Social Justice Advocacy Meeting  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

This was a pretty free ranging discussion. I took notes as we went along. As we went along the plan evolved. My basic takeaway is the Lallie and Suzanne would make the next run at finding themes out of our stories and suggesting foundation values, theological framework. Based upon this, we might break into working groups during the April 20-22 meetings.

I. Outcomes: Need to think about how to get our report ready. What are we offering the church?

A. Methodology: stories from the grassroots; problem of representation of experiences. Especially challenging for The Episcopal Church.

B. How might Covid 19 illustrate of advocacy and the work of the church?

C. What about our time later in April? Sarah suggests we organize the work in chunks and maybe make use of Zoom breakout rooms.

Sarah and Suzanne made the point we need to identify foundational values.

II. Content and process

Lallie -shared her screen to suggest a way of organizing our work with the Way of Love schema.

Suzanne: Using this chart/lens would allow a way to frame questions to what we have discovered what the foundational content contains.

Could practices be used as lenses?

We discussed how to be a community during covid when everything looks different: breaking bread; fasting from eucharist ; how to be a sacrament, not just consume the sacrament.

What does it look like to be a more reconciled people using the lens of social justice ?

Guy returned us to the basic question of the initial charge: how to articulate where politics and faithful witness to the gospel intersect.

Anne: What does the Body of Christ have to say about and to the body politic during a time of physical distancing?

Guy: hopes we will provide Scripture resources to challenge conception of keeping

politics away from church.

Brant – Faith is inherently a response. Advocacy is a statement.

For a value to be interesting it must create a tension. Particular values - practiced during particular time that manifest the reconciling presence of a Divine reality.

III. We discussed dividing into three groups (Not sure where this ended up)

1) A preface or introduction : first group - themes we have been grappling with; distilling the themes we've been lifting up over the last year.

Lallie and Suzanne. Sally and Suzanne willing to distill the stories - what themes and values. What comes out. calls us to take (Is this part of preface or what we asked them to do to get the rest of us ready to work in groups at during the zoom times in later April?)

Defining terms.. Would this include the theological framework? Agreement there needs to be a clear, theological framework – perhaps Baptismal theology.

2) Methodology

Where do Empire and Decolonization fit?

What does the Covid crisis reveal about the connections methodology? Covid lays bare pre-existing contexts of injustice. –nature of sin.

Covid break open what we have already been facing. But, as Guy points out, Covid not the be all and end all. what does the Covid crisis reveal about the connections methodology - how would we offer this to the church?

Covid break open what we have already been facing. Important of the Baptized giving a witness. Opportunity to break open.

3) Going forward: Dora: what is the product? Report? Memorial? Resolution? Sarah: come up with a living document. How would we offer this to the church?

Sarah will set up the Zoom meetings with GCO.