



Last Sunday, at our annual meeting, I spoke to my written report by sharing briefly my working assumptions as a priest. It's what I've been up to with you.

++God always is engaged in mission — God is at work constantly drawing all to saving love. My challenge and that of the church I serve—be vigilant about where God's activity is showing up around us and join in. As Prayer C puts it, "Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us." We can study our context, engage in conversation with a variety of people outside our faith community, and keep asking the question, "Where do we see God at work here?"

++Divine abundance—We do not work from a position of "want" or fearing having enough. Divine abundance teems all around us. It's our challenge to discern that and welcome it and count on it. The faith community has within it all it needs to meet its challenges. We don't talk about what the church needs. The church has Christ, the Word, and the Sacraments. The world has needs.

++Lay Ministry is Foundational—People are complex and struggle with their own personal demons, but people also have the living Christ within. I trust the laity and have found that they will respond to an invitation that involves a challenge. Clergy come and go; the laity remain. The ongoing ministry of Christ Church involves a collaboration of clergy and laity but the lay ministry role is crucial and foundational.

++Community gets interwoven in conversation—A faith community can shift its focus from problem solving to discovering and actualizing its possibilities. Without blaming people for the problems of the past, together we can unearth our possibilities through conversation and lean into those possibilities with our prayerful discernment and action.

++Leadership is primarily about convening conversation and inviting people into shared ministry—I understand my role primarily as one of inviting people into conversation and facilitating the actualizing of the possibilities of the community. As the priest, I can invite people to consider prayerfully their service roles within the community, equip them for those roles, and protect them from those who would sabotage their ministry and the community claiming its possibilities.

++Prototype solutions quickly and tweak as you learn from mistakes—"Fail early, fail often," someone said. Once we discern a possibility for mission and ministry, we quickly design an approach and implement it and learn from our mistakes as we tweak what we are doing. It's called rapid succession prototyping.

God's peace, David W. Perkins, Interim Rector

David