



“Reconciliation: God’s Mission – and Ours”

May 24-26, 2017 Camp McDowell, Nauvoo AL

Small Group Sessions

Small Group 1: Wednesday May 24, 2017

“Reconciliation: The Heart of Mission After Christendom”

Plenary Address by Bishop Mark MacDonald

Reflect:

Bishop MacDonald’s summary of his talk:

“Reconciliation is the heart of post-Christendom missiology. Using Luke 10:1-12, we are looking at the direction of ministry, as imagined by Jesus. The rediscovery of this direction is essential to a missiology of reconciliation.”

Luke 10:1-12: The Mission of the Seventy

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go.

2 He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

3 Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.

4 Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

5 Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’

6 And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.

7 Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.

8 Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you;

9 cure the sick who are there, and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.”

10 But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say,

11 ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’

12 I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

Discuss:

1. Relate what Bp. MacDonald describes as the post-Christendom situation to your context for doing global mission.
2. Relate Jesus’ sending out the Seventy to your work in global mission – and to the challenges and opportunities for reconciliation.
3. How do you feel you can implement a ‘missiology of reconciliation’ in your global mission work?



Small Group 2: Thursday May 25, 2017

From Suffering to Redemption: The Healing Power of Reconciliation

Plenary Address by Ms. Heidi Kim

Reflect:

Ms. Kim's summary of her talk:

"The Christian impetus to serve others through mission and ministry often reflects the intersection of a compassionate heart with an observant and analytical mind about systemic injustice, oppression, and suffering. Yet our good intentions can contribute to persistent inequality if we maintain intellectual or spiritual distance from our neighbors whom we believe need mercy."

Our Prayer Book tells us that "The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ" (BCP p. 855).

- *What does that look like as we engage our individual and collective ministries?*
- *Whose suffering is being healed, and whose soul is being redeemed?*
- *Is the goal of reconciliation to achieve an absence of conflict?*
- *Or is it a necessary element of justice-making, and a framework for spiritual formation and transformation?*

Discuss:

1. Describe a ministry where you thought you were providing a service, but instead were given a gift you did not expect. How did it change you? How did it change your approach to ministry?
2. How might we shift the narrative of mission trips from "It made me so grateful for what I have" to something that more closely resembles gospel values?
3. Truth-telling and justice-making are integral elements in the lifelong journey toward reconciliation with God and one another. Why are they so difficult? How can we move beyond fear or shame to mutual understanding, right relationship, and redemption?

As we go out into the world:

A Prayer for Reconciliation

God of compassion, you sent Jesus to proclaim a time of mercy, reaching out to those who had no voice, releasing those trapped by their own shame, and welcoming those scorned by society. Make us ambassadors of reconciliation. Open our ears that we may listen with respect and understanding. Touch our lips that we may speak your words of peace and forgiveness. Warm our hearts that we may bring wholeness to the broken-hearted and dissolve the barriers of division. Guide the work of your Church and renew us with the Spirit of your love. Help us and all people shape a world where all will have a place, where the flames of hatred are quenched, and where all can grow together as one. Forgive, restore and strengthen us through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Paulist Prayer)