St. Episcopal

Genogram

Background: Located in north of a well-established wealthy neighborhood. An east-west street runs from the west boundary to the east boundary of the neighborhood. The property is on a street that is the only north south passage through the location of the neighborhood. The neighborhood consists of 1970’s ranch homes that are gradually being replaced by new home. The average income is about 200,000. On the west side of the human boundary are apartments. On the east side is a toll road. On the north end of the neighborhood, the toll road meets with an interstate. 65% of the children in the neighborhood elementary school are on free lunch. The property is on 8 acres of wooded land—however a major 36” pipe line runs through one fourth of the property.

| Date | Clergy | Laity/Events | Kairos | State, National and World | Strengths |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1962—Church founded as a mission from large congregation 1967—Bought land. Built church, parish hall. 1976—Second rector called197819801985—Third rector199219931996199620012002-Fourth rector called2003Late 2004200520072008—fourth rector takes another call2008—former associate becomes interim rector2009—interim becomes the rector2017 Rector resigns2017 Diocese takes over—vicars2020—Parish closes | First rector--appointed by the Bishop. Charismatic, good preacher, “laid back” attitudeThough children could learn all about faith through osmosis—in worship.Did not pass the plate at worship or have pledge cardsDon’t invite anyone—church in the woods—everyone who is here is here. No sign—did not want the word “Episcopal” to be evident.Church built with no debtRector was known for his counseling. Eventually divorced wife and married a member of the parish (former wife still in the congregation)stewardship expert“stirred things up”First woman ordained at the parishRector divorced within first year of tenure—remained single.Laid back, low energyWoman hired as first full time assistant—spiritual director and spiritual growthAssistant “fired”…rumors were the rector was threatened by her popularityTwo clergy hired as part time assistants Rector retired and three large donors left…budget fell $100,000Part time assistant becomes interimOther assistant resigns because of financesRector called to help church grow both numerically and spirituallyFocus on leadership developmentLiturgical changesYear round stewardshipRetired clergy from the 1960’s…older members align with himThe assistant who resigned in 2001 becomes the interimAnglo congregation remains Conflict over money and LatinxRedevelopment and changed name of the congregationMatriarchs and patriarchs who were there since 2002 and before were only ones left. An Episcopal school purchases the land from the diocese and makes it a second campus.  | Four founding families. Founders alive and well through 2010. Set up church every Sunday in cafeteria of school. “Stored in the back of the station wagon”Flexibility in worship spacePatriarchs “built” part of the church with their own handsSense of ownership and emotional enmeshmentSeveral “retired” and non parochial clergy attended. Some members of the congregation leftA group tried to force rector out after two years. 1/2 of 1% of budget to outreachOutreach/evangelism meant moving the coffee from the kitchen to the parish hallNot a challenge to change from 1928 prayer book to 1979 prayer book...First lay stewardship sermonMore hands on outreach projects startedRotating lay leadership who were friends with the rector/the biggest pledgers in the congregation“Outdoor” ministry begun…groups of congregation went on trips on the weekend…sometimes the rector.More outreach…10% of the budget given for outreach projectsMany laity were involved in spiritual growthMore “wounded clergy” in the 1990’s. AttendedCapital campaign and new parish hall, gathering area, kitchen built. Nave refurbished. Highest average Sunday attendance in historyMoney continues to be a secretBruised egos of some member General Convention—a few families left the parishFirst Christian Formation Coordinator hired…offended peopleMinistry coordinator hired…member of the parish…caused controversyA group of folks write letter to Bishop—wants removedConsultant brought to mediate conflict…supporters of the third rector Strategic plan implementedSpace provided for after school program for Latinx children. Latinx children join VBSThree services implemented…different stylesMany vestry and members who supported fourth rector leaveMembers who left because of fourth rector return. Latinx ministry starts to take off. Worship and formation for Latino congregation begins in the afternoon | Founded because mother church was “too big”. Stewardship not taughtFormation of faithSecrets became the norm“Refuge” for wounded clergyTheological foundation for stewardship and outreach“inclusive” attitude promotedEnvironmental theology“God loves you no matter what” and that is all you need to knowKingdom of God emphasisVestry and leadership support the rectorLeadership with visionSecrets about money lifted |  |  |