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 called  1978  1980  1985—Third rector  1992  1993  1996  1996  2001  2002-Fourth rector called  2003  Late 2004  2005  2007  2008—fourth rector takes another call  2008—former associate becomes interim rector  2009—interim becomes the rector  2017 Rector resigns  2017 Diocese takes over—vicars  2020—Parish closes | First rector--appointed by the Bishop. Charismatic, good preacher, “laid back” attitude  Though children could learn all about faith through osmosis—in worship.  Did not pass the plate at worship or have pledge cards  Don’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 debt  Rector 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 parish  Rector divorced within first year of tenure—remained single.  Laid back, low energy  Woman hired as first full time assistant—spiritual director and spiritual growth  Assistant “fired”…rumors were the rector was threatened by her popularity  Two clergy hired as part time assistants  Rector retired and three large donors left…budget fell $100,000  Part time assistant becomes interim  Other assistant resigns because of finances  Rector called to help church grow both numerically and spiritually  Focus on leadership development  Liturgical changes  Year round stewardship  Retired clergy from the 1960’s…older members align with him  The assistant who resigned in 2001 becomes the interim  Anglo congregation remains  Conflict over money and Latinx  Redevelopment and changed name of the congregation  Matriarchs 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 space  Patriarchs “built” part of the church with their own hands  Sense of ownership and emotional enmeshment  Several “retired” and non parochial clergy attended.  Some members of the congregation left  A group tried to force rector out after two years.  1/2 of 1% of budget to outreach  Outreach/evangelism meant moving the coffee from the kitchen to the parish hall  Not a challenge to change from 1928 prayer book to 1979 prayer book...First lay stewardship sermon  More hands on outreach projects started  Rotating 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 projects  Many laity were involved in spiritual growth  More “wounded clergy” in the 1990’s. Attended  Capital campaign and new parish hall, gathering area, kitchen built. Nave refurbished.  Highest average Sunday attendance in history  Money continues to be a secret  Bruised egos of some member  General Convention—a few families left the parish  First Christian Formation Coordinator hired…offended people  Ministry coordinator hired…member of the parish…caused controversy  A group of folks write letter to Bishop—wants removed  Consultant brought to mediate conflict…supporters of the third rector  Strategic plan implemented  Space provided for after school program for Latinx children. Latinx children join VBS  Three services implemented…different styles  Many vestry and members who supported fourth rector leave  Members 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 taught  Formation of faith  Secrets became the norm  “Refuge” for wounded clergy  Theological foundation for stewardship and outreach  “inclusive” attitude promoted  Environmental theology  “God loves you no matter what” and that is all you need to know  Kingdom of God emphasis  Vestry and leadership support the rector  Leadership with vision  Secrets about money lifted |  |  |