Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District Convocation

***“Retooling for Responsible Evangelism”***

January 24-25, 2019

Rev. Dr. Evalina Huggins, Presenter

“Go ye therefore (evangelism), and teach (discipleship) all nations (inclusive), baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”. (Matt. 28:19-20).

**Objectives:**

1. Our objective is to revisit the biblical mandate that commands us to “go and make disciples”.
2. Together we will explore what evangelism is, is not, and potentially could be.
3. We will self-reflect, repent, and examine to what extent we have been complicit in the failure of the church to make disciples.
4. To challenge ourselves to continue “Retooling” for Responsible Evangelism

At the conclusion of our sharing together we will leave empowered and challenged to refocus, “retool” and redeploy those who have been converted, to return to the place of their conversion **to make DISCIPLES!** Our Mandate and our Mission will be clear.

**Exercise:**

**Retooling means** – to equip with something new, because what was previously thought to work does not; or to adapt, adjust, or alter the tools we have for maximum use or impact.

1. **Evangelism Defined** (develop a working definition) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Archbishop of Canterbury c. Bishop Reuben L. Speaks
2. Bishop Darryl B. Starnes d. Dr. Evalina Huggins

1. **Signs of “evangelism deficits”** – indications the discipleship may not be our priority

* Less than 3 people join our church within our buildings zip…
* New members never process their conversion or salvation with anyone in the church
* We make new members class more about our Discipline and denomination, than about God’s Word, Holy Living and people’s responsibility to live as citizen of the kingdom of God…
* We pin tags on VISITORS, reminding them they are not one of us…

Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District Convocation

“Retooling for Responsible Evangelism”

* We wait more than a week to follow-up with new worshippers (no phone call, no email, no letter from the Pastor, nothing…)
* Bulletins are faded, light bulbs are blown, ushers are means, members are territorial (seats/ ministries), children are frowned upon…
* Signs on our property – no loitering, no unauthorized parking, no trespassing, no cell phones in the sanctuary all say to possible disciples you are not welcome here
* All the doors of our churches are locked during the week…
* There is no activity at our churches except for Sundays
* 90% of our ministry takes place inside the church rather than the community
* The church answering machine still has the message from the former pastor

All these are potential indicators that “responsible evangelism” has slipped through the cracks, and we are living our best lives believing that what we are carrying out the mission of the church. I contend that disciple-making and

1. **Why Evangelism?** - the answer is simple, we evangelize because the Lord tells us to do it (Matt. 2:19-20). Saving (winning), the lost is the Lord’s purpose for coming and our purpose for being. The Lord has commissioned us –
2. The great commission – Go ye therefore and teach… (Matt. 28:19)
3. “He has come to seek and save that which was lost” (Lk. 19:10)
4. “and he said, follow me and I will make you fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19)
5. **Evangelism is:**
   1. Proactive –
   2. The Preaching of the Gospel –
   3. Transformational –
   4. Ongoing, it’s a process –
6. **The Manner and Matter of Evangelism**
   1. Personal Evangelism
   2. Public Evangelism
   3. Planting Evangelism
7. **Retooling for (Responsible/ Effective) Evangelism**
   1. Repentance – taking an honest look at ourselves
   2. Returning – taking a serious look at what our biblical mandate as the church is…
   3. Regroup and Redirect – Examples of Responsible Evangelism.

**Conclusion:**