

Rooted and Growing in Christ

Experiments

By Lisa Smith Fiegel

“All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better.” Ralph Waldo Emerson, author



The word “experiment” brings me back to high school science classes with test tubes and beakers full of mysterious and unstable substances. Now that I have a preschooler in my house, those experiments look more like glue sticks, construction paper and tiny dump trucks (don’t ask). You may do experiments in some aspect of your work or life, but do you think of the church as a place to run experiments? Why or why not?

In our upcoming synod emphasis “Rooted and Growing in Christ,” your congregation will be invited into a journey of experiments for the sake of growing deeper in Christ and sharing the Good News with others. A mindset of church as a place to experiment frees us from “the way we’ve always done it” and keeps us open to the life-giving Holy Spirit that makes things new.

“Rooted” workshops will be offered in October to give you and your congregation tools for experimentation in spiritual practices and community engagement. Your congregation is invited to send a team to participate in one of three workshops offered October 7-8 in Juneau, October 9 in Anchorage and October 10 in Fairbanks. Registration materials will be available in late August and will be on the synod website at that time. Travel assistance for a representative from every congregation will be provided by a churchwide grant.

A team of five from our synod were trained in transformational ministry resources in June. This team is preparing to work with your congregation in practices that nurture spiritual growth. For those willing to go an extra step with accountability and additional resources, this *Rooted* Team will lead a cohort in 2017.

Remember, the purpose of an experiment is not to get things right. It is to learn. If an experiment “fails,” we learn something. And as we learn, we can grow more deeply rooted in Christ and our communities. We hope you’ll join us in October as we learn together.

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