



## The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island



Reimagining Church

freshexpressions.ca



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### The Sessions

Session 1: *Brave New World?*

Session 2: *What is God up to?*

Session 3: *The School of Jesus*

Session 4: *Changing world, changing church*

Session 5: *Where do we go from here?*

Session 6: *Next Steps*

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### Talk about...

1. your first experiences of church.
2. your current experience of church.
3. what excites you about church.
4. what frustrates you about church.

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### Our Prayer:

**Draw your Church together, O Lord, into one great company of disciples - together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving God's mission in the world, and together witnessing to God's love on every continent and island. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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## Brave New World?

Session One

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**The Choluteca Bridge, Honduras**

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## culture

Culture is "the way we do things round here."

*Archbishop Derek Worlock*



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## Pandemic Happenings



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The Canadian Centre for Philanthropy calculates that the 32% of Canadians who are religiously active contribute 65 % of direct charitable donations. Even in the secular sector, they provide 42% of the \$2.1-billion raised annually by direct giving.

Ray Pennings  
Senior Fellow &  
Director of Research at Cardus

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"...there is no alliance more determined and dogged in action than church workers, ordained and lay members, when mobilized for a common good. It is these Christians who are right 'on the front lines' of committed humanity today... I have never been able to reach these front lines without finding Christian volunteers already in the thick of it, mobilizing congregations that care, and being a faithful witness to truth, the primary light in the darkness and so often, the only light. . . . Let me repeat, I've never reached a war zone, or famine group or crisis anywhere where some Church organization was not there long before me . . . sturdy, remarkable souls usually too kind to ask, "What took you so long?"



Brian Stewart,  
CBC

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Are there any ways in which the present decline of the church is a good thing?

**Religious Attendance in Canada and the U.S., 1986-2012**

% who say they attend religious services at least once a month



Sources: U.S. General Social Survey 1986-2012; Canadian General Social Survey 1986-2011.  
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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- Makes us think about what is really important about church and what is secondary
- Raises the bar for membership: no longer just because we're "supposed to go"
- Frees us from being associated with the social status quo
- Frees us to be more like Jesus
- Opens us to new ideas
- Maybe the Spirit of God can use this!

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## The Marks of Mission

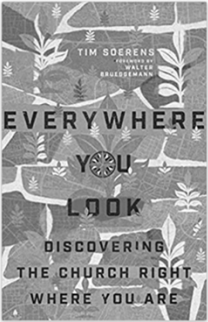
The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

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Everywhere You Look:  
Discovering the Church  
Right Where You Are

*By Tim Soerens*

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Though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ... I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

*1 Corinthians 9:19-23*



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- What is Paul's basic message?
- What would the opposite attitude be?
- What would the equivalents be in our world?
- What would the opposite attitude be?
- What kind of things might Paul say if he thought the opposite?
- We don't generally classify people as "under the law" or "outside the law" these days.
- What kind of things would the equivalents be in our world?
- You might think of this question as: "To the who did I become a who/what?"!

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Reimagining Church is based on these questions:

- How can the local Christian community in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island today identify with our wider culture, where there is presently no church or even connection with the church?
- How can we share the blessings of the Gospel with our neighbours in a way they can understand and receive and express in their culture?

→ These are the call of the first two Marks of Mission.

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So...

- Which of your current parish activities would you say reach out to non-members?
- How does your parish
  - proclaim the Good News, and
  - create disciples?

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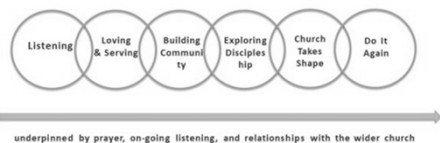
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#### a definition

**"A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church."**



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the mixed economy church  
- a both/and church

establish fresh expressions

help inherited churches engage their communities

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Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

May 22 · 🌐

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A message from Bishop-elect Deon Johnson:

The work of the church is essential.

The work of caring for the lonely, the marginalized, and the oppressed is essential.

The work of speaking truth to power and seeking justice is essential.

The work of being a loving, liberating, and life giving presence in the world is essential.


The work of welcoming the stranger, the refugee and the undocumented is essential.

The work of reconciliation and healing and caring is essential.

The church does not need to "open" because the church never "closed."

We who make up the Body of Christ, the church, love God and our neighbors and ourselves so much that we will stay away from our buildings until it is safe.

We are the church.



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FAITH  
FRIENDS  
FROTH

CHURCH ON TAP

LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH - 2:00 PM  
CANALSIDE PUB - WEST STREET - PORT COLEBORNE  
ST. JAMES & ST. JEREMIAH ANGLICAN CHURCH - 905-634-3184

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## Time for Reflection – The Examen



When was I encouraged, or touched, or joyful?  
What might God be saying?  
How might I respond?

When was I troubled, or sad, or angry?  
What might God be saying?  
How might I respond?





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## In the next week....

- Write down what you have learned and your personal reflections.
- As you live your life, try to notice:
  - how do ordinary Nova Scotians and Islanders relate to church?
  - What are some cultural changes you didn't notice or think about before?
  - What might they mean for the church, either good or bad?
- You'll have an opportunity at the start of the next session to share anything that has occurred to you.

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## Other Videos & Reading

- Go to <https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/cmc-vsst>
- Click on Re-Imagining Church at the bottom of the left side menu
- Some web sites and additional "fresh expressions of church" videos are provided

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**closing prayer**

Jesus, you invite us to follow you.  
Help us, Lord, to follow where you lead us, to  
join in with what you are already doing in our  
world, and to become more like you.  
God of understanding, thank you for your love  
for us. Thank you that you are at work in our  
discouragement and in our hope, to teach us and  
to lead us. Help us hear your voice in our times  
together, and to know what you are asking of us.  
Amen.



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Next week ...

*Z kd#h#Z rug#v#rg#s#rB*

See you then!

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