WHERE I GREW UP...
Santa Cruz County, California

WHAT PEOPLE DO ON SUNDAYS...

INHABITING A PREDOMINANT STORY
You are what you earn/achieve
It's all up to us
We're on our own to create meaning, identity, purpose
Community must be constructed but is fluid, unreliable
Forgiveness?

THE GOSPEL CAME TO ME

"I am the resurrection and the life... Do you believe this?"
An alternative story
Discovering Christian community

MEETING JESUS
Grace!
Identity, belonging as gift
Freedom from guilt, shame
Discovering myself in bigger story
Redescribing world: reign of God
Reconciliation and community
THE GREAT DISRUPTION

Broader society: established structures, institutions, patterns of belonging, participation
Religious organizations, particularly Eurotribal denominations

THE GREAT ACCELERATION

Rate of technological and cultural change
Capacity for humans/institutions to adapt
Rate of church adaptation

Where we are now
See Thomas Friedman, Thank You for Being Late (2016)

AN ANXIOUS, DIVIDED & INSECURE U.S.

Economic displacements
Cultural micro-tribalism
Impact of social media
Connections & disconnections
Loss of common narratives
Tolerance only remaining virtue

EROSION OF COMMON SPACES

Changes to built environment
“Big Sort” (Bill Bishop)—segregation by socioeconomic status, cultural tribe
“Vanishing neighbors” (Mark Dunkelman)
Collapse of middle/mediating institutions

INDIVIDUAL SELF AS ULTIMATE AUTHORITY

From Age of Mobilization to Age of Authenticity
Turn inward from external authorities toward immanent and intimate
Primacy of emotions
Disembedding from established structures

AGE OF AUTHENTICITY

Depths shift from outside to inside
Originality required
Self-expression through individual choice
Supernova of options! (all equal and relative)
### U.S. Religious Affiliation by Age, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>White Christian</th>
<th>Christian of Color</th>
<th>Other Religion</th>
<th>Unaffiliated</th>
<th>Don't Know/Refused</th>
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Source: Robert Jones, The End of White Christian America

### Primary Responses

**Fixing the Church**

- Primary focus: Institutional affiliation and participation
- What about faith formation?

### Need to Go Deeper

- No quick fix
- It's not your fault
- What does it mean to form Christian faith in contemporary culture?
- Rediscovering roots

### What is the Church?

![The Social Club](image)

### Clarifying, Translating the Story

- Vernacular principle
- Connecting story to everyday longings & losses
- Something to try: parable translation

![Surly Brewing, Minneapolis](image)
**FORMING DISCIPLES OF THE WAY**

Exhaustion of program church paradigm
- Assumes free time, institutional commitment

Need to interpret vision of Christian life and practice

Shaping congregational life around practicing Way of Jesus in daily life

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**THE DEEPER CHALLENGE**

- 18%
- 55%
- 23%
- 4%

Source: Renewalworks

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**EPISCOPAL CHURCH ARCHETYPES**

- Extroverted: 23%
- Complacent: 31%
- Troubled: 55%
- Average: 1%

- Based on over 12,000 Episcopalians in nearly 200 congregations in Renewalworks survey.

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**ABIDING WITH GOD AND OUR NEIGHBORS**

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing…. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.”

–John 15:5,8-9

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**THE WAY OF LOVE**

- Turn
- Learn
- Rest
- Pray
- Worship
- Go
- Bless

Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

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**MODES OF MISSION**

**Working For**
- Meeting needs, charity
- Assumes church has abundance, neighbors have deficit

1% of Jesus’ ministry (in Jerusalem)

**Being For**
- Taking correct public positions
- Having right attitudes and ideas

0% of Jesus’ ministry

**Working With**
- Community organizing
- Joining networks and movements

9% of Jesus’ ministry (in Galilee)

**Being With**
- Presence, participation, relationships, listening, story sharing, wonder

90% of Jesus’ ministry (in Nazareth)

From Samuel Wells, Incarnational Mission, Eerdmans 2018
KEY PRACTICE: LISTENING

To scripture
To one another within the church
To neighbors outside

KEY PRACTICE: BEING HOSTED

What Jesus did
Luke 10—Sending of 70
("Eat what is set before you")
Not being in control
Getting into neighborhood
Relying upon others
Investing presence and relationship

DWELLING IN THE WORD
Luke 10:1-12

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK