



Future Conversations: Navigating the Path Forward

Future Conversations is a process of workshops and/or retreats which enables church leaders and members to engage with and learn from each other about their congregation's challenges and opportunities. The program is facilitated and presented by Phil McCredden who has worked with congregations from a wide range of denominations as they grapple with their future. This may be invaluable for congregations which are:

- wanting to explore a new direction or strategy;
- facing challenges due to lack of members, resources or leadership;
- looking for guidance in connecting with their communities in a new missional context;
- wanting to reflect on and improve their own effectiveness as faith and missional communities;
- seeking to learn more about the place and role of the church in a post-modern, multi-cultural society

Flexible options for engagement:

Recognising that every congregation is unique, Future Conversations offers flexibility to suit your needs. This may include a focused leadership retreat or engagement over multiple sessions, and may be directed at church leaders and/or congregational members. It provides the space for in-depth discussions, ensuring a comprehensive exploration of your challenges and possible ways forward.

Understanding post-Christendom challenges:

As the people of God, it's crucial to recognise and grapple with the challenges of the post-Christendom context. Future Conversations provides a space to delve into these challenges, exploring opportunities to adapt and experiment in this new environment. This is a process which avoids the temptation to find easy answers, recognising the complex environment the church now faces.



Forming signposts:

Forming strategic plans is challenging because our boards and leaders are often not experienced or trained in this new missional context. Strategic planning assumes that we know the environment and can predict what will occur over the foreseeable future. This is not the case in this time of discontinuous change, and in systems where a new context fundamentally changes the “rules” and expectations of how society will operate. Yet, as the people of God, we are called to move forward and listen to God’s prompting. Taking this task seriously, you will be guided in a process to form several signposts for your congregation’s future.

Drawing inspiration from the early church:

The rich experience of the early church can be a wellspring of inspiration. By exploring and understanding this historical context, congregations can gain important insights into responding to the challenges of the new missional context. Future Conversations encourages a reconnection with the heritage of our faith, providing a foundation for grappling with our future.

Identifying leadership styles for these changing times:

The program helps congregations recognise the differences between corporate and non-profit leadership, and the kind of leadership needed to nurture the people of God. Being able to distinguish these leadership styles helps congregations to identify, appoint and empower the right people. Future Conversations reminds us that we lead faith communities, not just non-profit organisations.

Reflecting on history and heritage:

Reflecting on your congregation’s rich history and heritage is essential. Future Conversations encourages honest exploration of your congregation’s history and heritage, drawing valuable insights from its journey. Understanding where you’ve come from can better enable you to envision where you want to go.

Contact

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