

PARISH DEVELOPMENT SESSION ONE – Tuesday May 19, 2015

SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION, kjg

We first considered a DEFINITION

Parish development is the development of parishes into more faithful, healthy and effective communities of faith that focus on and are faithful to their **unique reason for being** as local manifestations of the body of Christ

We next probed a question, WHAT IS UNIQUE about the Church of the Advent. The responses are listed below:

1. No one else does it – What do we do, that stands out?

Unique presence and tradition

Parish campout (3)	Conscious of outreach
Men's breakfast (2)	High level of community engagement
Home groups	Building available to community
Friendly atmosphere (less stuffy) (2)	Varied worship formats
Welcoming	Tangible presence in community
Attractive website	Our building is visible
Election Forum (2)	Good teamwork
Police Chorus (2)	Outreach
Less traditional Anglican worship (2)	Book sale
Strong parish community – turn to each other and the Rector for support (2)	Guild supports many charities
Jazz Vespers (4)	Provide space for guides/scouts etc.
Great worship music (4)	Monthly lunch
Accepting “as you are” an open fellowship	Events (strawberry Tea, Garage Sale) bring people together
Excellent sanctuary space (2)	

2. How do we respond to challenges and opportunities?

Self-renewing and responsive

Poorly, reluctant to change	Slowly – generally Anglicans don't like change – often resist
Not Well	Newcomers don't stay
Depression group (2)	Not well enough (2)
Sponsored a family service years ago	Problematic, but some individual response
Slow to respond to opportunities (i.e. Skateboard park; food outreach)	No response (2)
Need more leadership	Refugee support family
Parishioners bond together to face adversity	We address issues we address them long-term

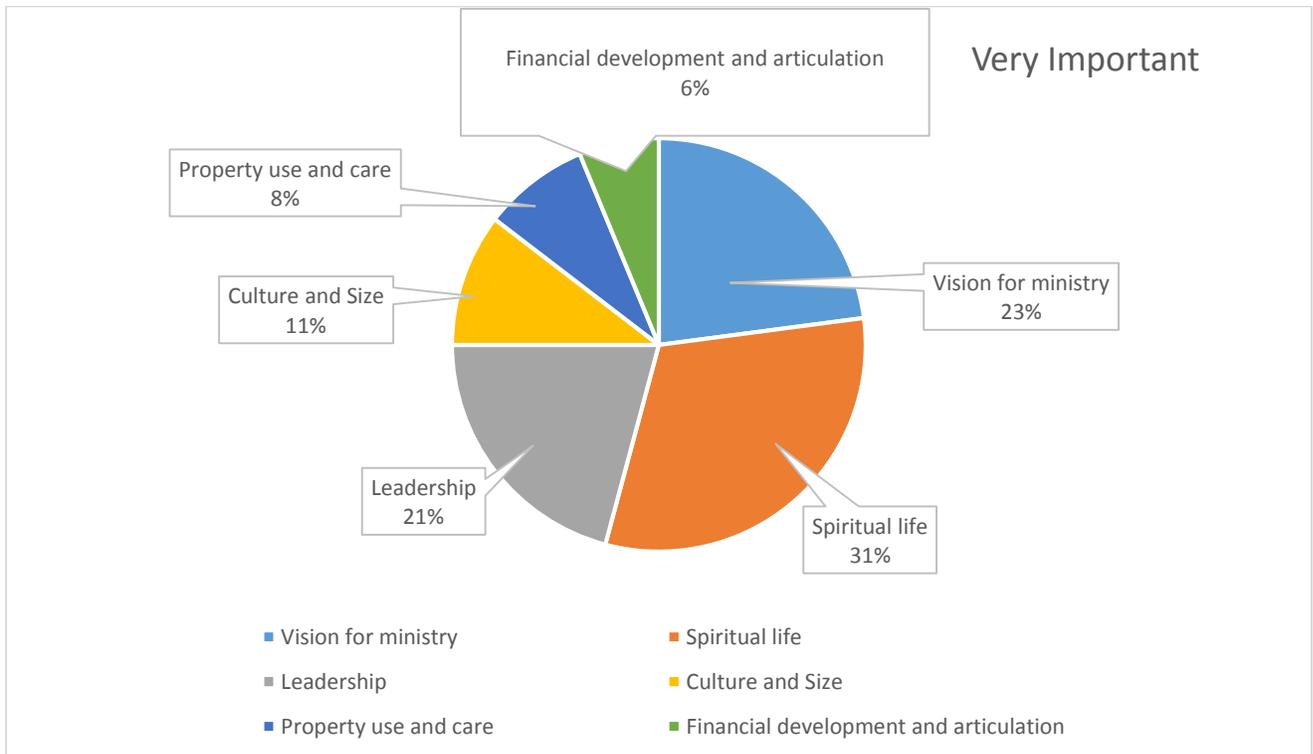
Not here long enough yet (some like change, some don't)
 We respond as a group very well due to the people we have in place, knowing the needs of others

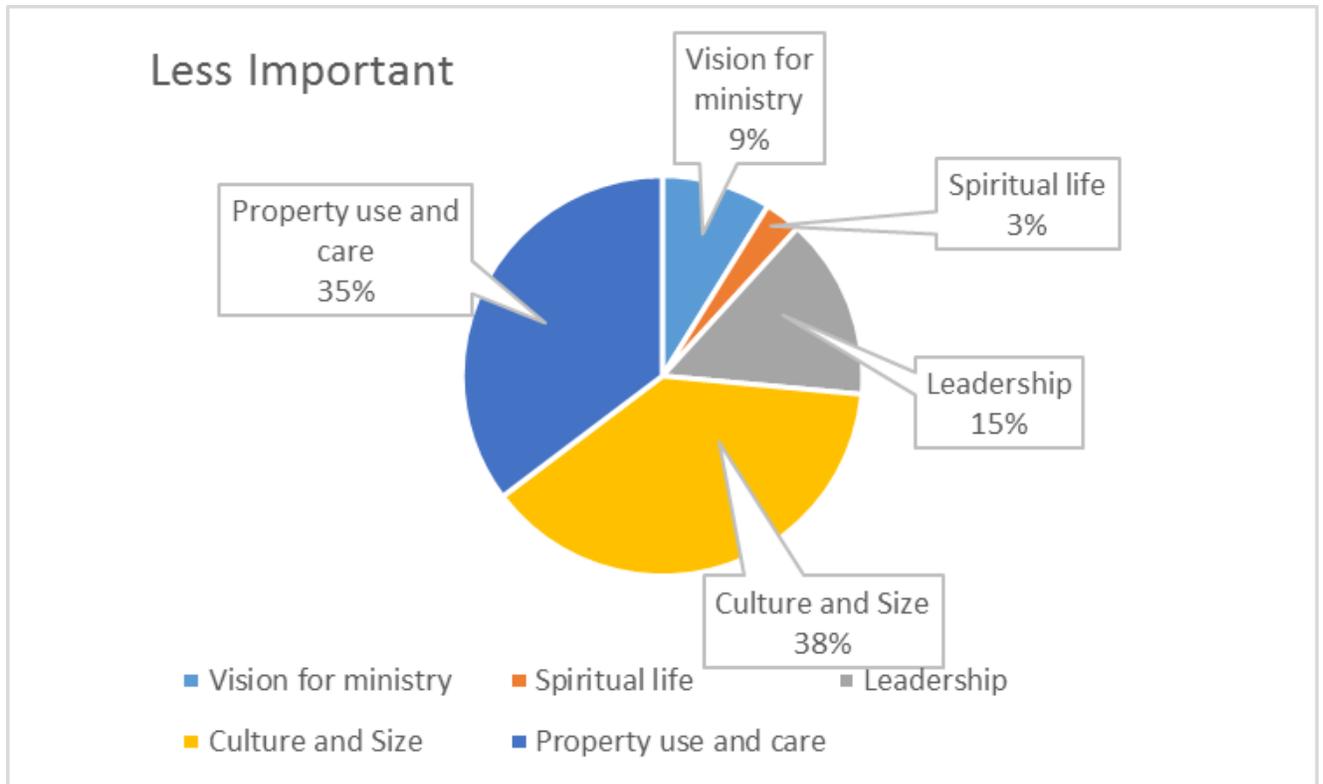
Difference in response between group and individual engagement
 Try to resolve challenges for everyone'

3. How does everything fit together? *Sustainability and congruence*

Participants chose THREE AREAS we thought were *very important* in contributing to our unique reason for being, and three areas *less important*. Results are expressed in both a linear and graphic format. It was fun!

	Very Important	Less Important
Vision for ministry	11	3
Spiritual life	15	1
Leadership	10	5
Culture and Size	5	13
Property use and care	4	12
Financial development and articulation	3	12





REFLECTION:

Desire to grow in the spiritual life is most important though this is primarily through Sunday worship as numbers attending centering prayer, studies on Thursday evenings are small. "Religion" could still be considered a private affair which may indicate an introverted parish personality type. *Spiritual growth methodology* is an area for further investigation. The combination of runners-up of *vision for ministry* and *leadership* are notable. We want to know both *where* we are going and *where we want to go*.

Low scores for both *property use* and *culture and size* could reflect the fact that our buildings and property is in great condition, this despite the fact that we struggle with how to best use the land between the church and Sooke Road. Also despite the fact that many people tell the rector that they value intimate relationships made possible by our smaller numbers, this values not reflected in this particular sample.

Ken's thoughts. What are yours?