

## Diocesan Listening Team – Plenary Session – Relationship Theme Overview

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### Overarching Questions:

- Is there clear consensus on what **works**?
- What are the systemic **stresses**?
- Is there anything among clergy leadership that we are **missing/not affirming**?
- Is there anything among lay leadership that we are **missing/not affirming**?
- Are there any deep **a-ha's**?

Total All Comments: 1301

Relationship: 453 – 35%, and only theme to emerge across all questions

78% of Community responses were – relationship

65% of Joy responses were – relationship

<b>STRESSES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>[Loss]</b> Holding tight to an insular model of being church creates stagnation and decline.</li> <li>2. <b>[Call]</b> A lack of relational connection to people within church community, or others in the greater community creates stress.</li> <li>3. <b>[Support]</b> “Parochialism” seen as challenge.</li> <li>4. <b>[Support]</b> Disconnection between faith communities and the diocese.</li> <li>5. <b>[Support]</b> O’ahu-centric – concern reported that the Neighbor Islands give much but feel they receive little, lack of mutuality.</li> <li>6. <b>[Identity]</b> Lack of embodied presence during height of the pandemic – missing in-person experiences.</li> </ol>
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<b>MISSING/Not Affirming (Clergy)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>[Call]</b> Many clergy would like to build closer fellowships /partnerships /collaborative opportunities with one another.</li> <li>2. <b>[Support]</b> Desire for increased collegiality/consistent interaction with fellow clergy.</li> </ol>
<b>MISSING/Not Affirming (Lay)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>[Loss]</b> Connection really matters to laity. (38 responses to clergy 17)</li> <li>2. <b>[Support]</b> Laity report a desire to know Bishop Bob on a deeper level – more relationality.</li> </ol>

<p><b>A-Ha's</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>[Loss]</b> Embodied experiences matter. Standing, kneeling, passing the peace, engaging the senses, hugging, casually chatting, cooking, serving...</li> <li>2. <b>[Call]</b> This was the second highest response area within CALL – but little cohesion on how to go about forming deeper relationships – much consensus on the desire to do so.</li> <li>3. <b>[Call]</b> Relationship =21 Clergy comments vs. 33 lay. All felt each was important. Clergy comments focused on parish-centered work; laity comments leaned more toward outward efforts/desires.</li> <li>4. <b>[Food]</b> Covid highlighted the opportunity to redefine what it means to be in community and to worship.</li> <li>5. <b>[Identity]</b> Pre-recorded services geared toward the intentional strengths of the online format allow for greater intimacy and connection due to it being more participatory and less observational. (It does, however, take a tremendous amount of planning and production time).</li> <li>6. <b>[Identity]</b> Live-streaming and other forms of online engagement expanded the awareness of the church beyond the walls.</li> <li>7. <b>[Identity]</b> Lay Respondents from Neighbor Island missions had much to share around being in relationship with each other and the greater community.</li> <li>8. <b>[Identity]</b> One lay respondent shared: “We don’t have to be large in numbers, but we need to be strong in faith.”</li> <li>9. <b>[Identity]</b> “Because of COVID, people are looking for answers from people of faith, and are even willing to allow you to pray for them.” – This lay person reported the importance of moving past one’s comfort zone when talking to others about one’s faith.</li> </ol>
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<p><b>WORKS</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>[Support]</b> When Clergy and Lay feel responsiveness, guidance, and pastoral support from DSC.</li> <li>2. <b>[Food]</b> Creating opportunities for deep and meaningful relationships to root and flourish.</li> <li>3. <b>[Identity]</b> Hybrid approaches to formation. <b>[Community]</b> When reviewing responses from high community connection groups, what works most often are efforts to reach out to groups and individuals within one’s community – with a heart to hearing what they self-identify as need, and then doing best to walk alongside those needs in relationship – expanding networks as much as possible.</li> <li>4. <b>[Joy]</b> Connecting with family; with thy neighbor.</li> <li>5. <b>[Joy]</b> Making choices that increase access.</li> <li>6. <b>[Joy]</b> Zoom Bible studies and other online formation activities – connect those who would otherwise not be able to attend.</li> <li>7. <b>[Joy]</b> Coming together in collaboration. (and implicitly celebration)</li> </ol>
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## Replies from Listening Session Plenary – Post-it Activity (March 2023)

### What does a GOOD relationship mean to you?

1. Trust; regularity; proximity; laughter; love; sharing; interchange; honest; open
2. Communication
3. Safety; proximity; opportunity; respect; trust; honesty; acceptance; care; reliable
4. Support
5. Recovered relationship
6. One that allows you to pick up where you left off regardless of time away
7. Freely formed, not forced
8. Feeling loved
9. It's a 2-way street
10. Open; honest; trust; self-filter
11. Respect/trust; open-mindedness; think before you say words; honesty
12. Fun
13. Respect
14. Trust
15. Trust; sharing; food
16. Mutual respect; trust
17. Trust; genuine respect for each other; listening
18. Respect; honest; open-mindedness; think before you say something
19. Sharing food; respect; supportive; showing up
20. Authenticity; communication
21. Honest; Open communication; trust; respect/filter; think before you open your mouth
22. Good communication; love; respect
23. Awareness
24. Closeness; trust; listening; authenticity; loyalty; closeness; mutual respect; empathy; transparency
25. Respect; likes & dislikes; respect; care; authentic; love
26. Trust; respect; honesty
27. Proximity
28. Communication
29. Being spiritually fed
30. Be a good listener
31. Respect
32. Intentional connecting; accountable; playing together
33. Respect; listening; mutuality; breaking bread; sharing stories; trust; sharing laughter; humor/joy; grace & forgiveness
34. Trust; mutuality; listening; joy
35. Challenge; joy, trust
36. Fed spiritually; relationality

## What does a BAD relationship mean to you?

1. Imbalance of power; inflexible
2. If you are absent, impatient, judgmental
3. Makes me physically sick
4. Using people; miscommunication; selfish; racism
5. Dishonesty; judgmental; Tension
6. Power Imbalance; Lack of trust; lack of grace for mistakes; not communication
7. Closed mind; non-communication; blaming
8. One-sided
9. Discrimination; judgment; insulting others
10. We judge people; impatience; insulting others
11. Underestimate others; refusing to listen to opposing points of view; impatient; closed-minded
12. No trust; bad feelings; lack of joy; hurt feelings
13. Unnatural; Not good for you
14. Dissed; not heard; no connection; judgment
15. Not following through
16. Suspicion; power-under – rather than mutual; energy-taking/zapping; lack of intentionality; one-way relationship; no ho'oponopono
17. One way; energy taker; someone else's agenda takes over; power struggle; rigidity
18. Not valued; distrust; poor communication
19. Gossip
20. Closed mind; refusing to listen; impatient; judgmental
21. Not open/failure to communicate; judging/insulting; discriminate; refusing to listen to different points; close-minded; impatient
22. Unwillingness to compromise where appropriate; unwillingness for ho'oponopono
23. Having to conform to another's wishes and agenda; no concern for my own needs; power struggle
24. Tension; discomfort; judgment
25. Unequal commitment
26. Objectified; clash in values; lack of trust; betrayal; lying; one-sided; pressure
27. To love the other on your terms not as they want to be loved
28. Not caring
29. Lack of communication
30. Competition; critical; thin/brittle; suspicious; power imbalance
31. One-way; brittleness; superficiality; mis-trust; competition
32. Focusing on our personal wants not others; non-inviting
33. No or miscommunication
34. Triangulation; passive aggressive; static rules
35. Forced by someone with power; uneven; undecided

## How do you want to be in deeper relationship in your church/community?

1. Involve yourself – active participation; Encourage others through volunteerism
2. Love; Reading out joyfully; be open and vulnerable; Pa'ina Banquets
3. By making calls
4. That congregants can completely trust me and work with me for the betterment of the congregation
5. Involve yourself in church services; fundraisers; encourage
6. To “reach out’ – to “go out”
7. Open churches 24/7
8. Pray for each other; prayer partners; strong faith, respect into the church; diocese support
9. Support; responsive to each other; listen and...; learning from each other; awareness
10. Reach out; go where people are; dress down; embrace the other; understand and respond to community needs
11. 1:1 relationships; new ideas/energy; work together; communication
12. Prayer
13. Be present
14. Seek help; faith
15. More small groups; invite people to know each other
16. I need to understand what brings my friends to church – what joys do they find there?  
How can I help them feel welcome and happy?
17. More time for small group worship...among unaffiliated groups
18. Connection across divisions
19. By having more time to get to know people
20. Talk about scripture or sermons
21. Tell the truth
22. Know each other better – talk freely about Christ in your life
23. Prayer groups
24. Lead an interest group regularly
25. Participation
26. Active involvement in all activities: fundraising; church decoration; assisting church members
27. I'd like to know more about the neighboring community
28. Welcome; presence; open/vulnerable
29. To be integral
30. Involvement – everything; Outreach programs
31. Reach out to people who are no longer able to come to church; offer help when needed
32. Balance Openness

## What will be your next faithful STEPS?

1. Restart our ministry to our surrounding community
2. Listen more
3. Learning from mistakes; be positive; do what God wants
4. Community focus fellowship
5. Outreach to non-profits & young families
6. Create opportunities for involvement; Outreach programs; Family programs
7. Make time for myself so I can do a better job of serving
8. Godly play training
9. Listen
10. Encourage & invite others to attend in service again; sponsor egg hunting to reach out to younger generations
11. Outreach to young families
12. A labyrinth on our property
13. Honor feedback for seeing and saying
14. Talk about scripture or sermons
15. Retire troublemakers club
16. Ministry fair – to invite “new” participation
17. Encouragement from others; to pray together more; fellowship; food/worship/food
18. Intentional interaction/cultural competency
19. Sharing what we have learned with others
20. ?
21. Private music event; open mic event/ outdoor evenings
22. Exploring ways of creating spaces of refuge
23. Learn from mistakes; fostering partnerships with surrounding community; building relationships; erasing the separation with surrounding non-church neighbors
24. Access vulnerability