

CMU Meeting May 11th 2010

Rev. Adam Hamilton

Why united Methodism is poised for growth

2008 stats declined by 55,000 per weekend in the united Methodist church
2007 decline was 73,000 per weekend.

we can last only 60 years avg age 57 to 60. no growth is not possible with this trend.

methodist women have less than twenty years before umw is gone
our congregation is dying at a rate of 20% *faster than our population.*

Buick spent 100 million to reach an younger age moving from 63 avg to 61%

one an 5 is atheist or agnostic.

the reason people are turned off by the way faith leaders live their life.

David Kinneman.... we are to judgmental. They have some problem with theology.
mainline christianity has possibly because united Methodist church has some things
right. Jesus gave himself to the outcast and the disadvantaged.

we as methodist. john wesley tried to integrate your head and your heart.
we don't want to check our brain at the door. john wesley believed in the intellect. He
also brought in the heart. we need to feel and think!

Help people experience something in worship and prepare them to feel and think.
Science and Faith are part of understanding truth. *Science brings a sense of awe.*
Science and Faith go hand in hand
Grace and Holiness.

We need to help people experience God!

Christians have caused many problems to turn off other potential believers.

We bring together Grace and Holiness. personal and social.
We need to hold together both of these things.
we are conservative liberals and liberal conservatives.
We must be open to new ideas.

Young adults Get that. they want something to stand on. Conserving some tradition is
good for them. We are a faith that looks at the bible as theological and historical. we
take the bible seriously. *Humanity is written in.*

evangelical and social gospel.

evangelical gospels says we are fundamentally broken...christ is the answer.

prevenient grace

Social Gospel. (not just our souls but his creation - the world) He cares about our enemies and downtrodden. Jesus said the kingdom of God is here repent and believe.

The Kingdom of God is at hand!

Story of the Samaritan.

The Social Gospel is neglected by many christians. Justice and righteousness.

Biblical faith calls us to social faith. This is a key thing. This is compelling to young adults.

If we are going to reach an new generation we must do three things.

1. preach sermons that preach to the head and the heart and call to action. three things here to teach something they didn't know before (people love to learn things.) to touch hearts to inspire people. (people need to laugh) Hearts strangely warmed.
Always call people to action. people want to know what to do.
every sunday go for the conviction. Persuade - not manipulate.
start with the bible exegete the text apply to daily life then you illustrated.
God tells people to kill people.
Start with the human condition and exegete that. apply it and illustrate it.
(check on how christ to do this)
2. make sense of God in light of experience of the world.
reasons not to be a christian ...he rejected christianity for what he heard about it.
preach about evil and suffering. on a reg basis.
Human condition-everyone has one. How does the bible speak to the human condition, apply and illustrate. Kids want us to take them seriously.
3. help churches move from the inward focus to out word focus.
young adults wanting to change the world. They want to help the earth, the poor.
and social issues. Evangelism starts with mission.

Discipleship. The rick warren baseball method. we invite the young to to serve the community then invite them to meet the christian community.

invite non religious people to give money to a great cause.

Billy Kyle's.

robert lewis Stephenson.

lighting lamp story watching the man know hole in the darkness.

Second session Bob Farr. *Renovate or Die*

Tying Jesus to the church creates problems.

best selling section of the *bookstore* "self help and or spirituality" Under religious section does not sell as well
Spirituality want yes.
Church sinks things with the public.

people mostly like god, jesus, and spirituality.
Methodist only do well under adversity. *We don't need to remake, just* Repackage who we are. We have a failing delivery system. we are in a great transition God is rebuilding us. *God is reinventing how He reaches people.* We are building an airplane as we fly!.

Cultural Change is a reality. Does not matter what field we are in.

A new movement of the spirit. The entire church is having to change itself.

Strategy#1 "It all starts with the Pastor"

We want to redecorate not renovate.. we need to renovate. There is always unintended consequences....this is renovation. *It starts with the pastor, renovate-move something-open up walls not knowing what's behind them.*

This is more important than ones job. *It's about the Kingdom! Jesus is salvation and we are the bridge. The Good church is the one you make. We get transformed our church is transformed.*

Everyone wants God to go first. God does not do this. He wants you to go first. Is it about the kingdom or your career. Hang out with pagans, heathens.unbelievers.

Farrism

"if you lead you are going to bleed."

If it is of God there is always resistance. *We are not in a time of consensus.*

Strategy#2

Understand your present Realities. we think our communities look like our churches. God needs our place to be our place. What is our mission field. (learn the language, find out who is in charge etc.)

Farrism

"Connecting to context is everything."

Strategy #3

Getting the Basics Right

Create three wow's *every Sunday*. great *worship & music*, children stuff, great hospitality.

Five expectations and Five Practices. (schnasse)

Our life is made up of practices....things we do everyday.

Strategy # 4

"Creating Momentum"

Change something. conflict. (our value for peace in the valley is the most important thing).

We must push thru the conflict(then you get more decline.) Then you get some growth. The "j" curve.

(what sustains momentum is excellence.) doing it very very well.

Create momentum, change produces momentum. Push through conflict, when we don't we get more decline. Pushing through we'll get growth. Sustaining momentum is excellence.

Farrism

successful churches do what other (*unsuccessful*) churches (*refuse to*) don't do.

Strategy #5

"Simplify the Structure"

don't have to have three committees. but have to do the three activities.

Hands on Ministry ~ hospital, sick, poor. the joy of the church is mission work.

Farrism

"new forms of communication are key in a simplified structure." *Multi-dimensional communication.*

so what does it all mean? video

Strategy #6

"Think Strategies, Not Programs" (*the attraction model has died*)

How do we interpret stuff. TMI too much information. *We need to think in steps - we need to know what the steps are.*

How to apply. The attraction method is dead.

Stephen....We have to put into our existing facility all things will put into the new one....Now.

How do we get a person out of the pew to become a follower of Jesus Christ. *How do we get from the pew to become an authentic follower of Christ?!*

“America does not attend church”.

First step to membership is belonging...more participants. BELONG, BELONG, BELONG. AND BELONG.

What's Next?

Don't be afraid to raise expectations.

We are afraid that people will leave.....they are leaving anyway. *We need to know our discipleship steps.*

Strategy #7

“Application Preaching.”

Start with either you or me plus what does the bible say how might we go forward together? *You want change you have to preach it - talk it before you walk it- talk for a long time before you go through with it.*

Answer the “HOW” to pray etc. We are in application world....for a reason apps on I phone.

Farrism

“You have to preach change to get change.”

book “Crucial conversations”

Strategy #8

Leadership Development-staff

getting the right people on the bus people out of the right seat and getting the bus heading in the right directions.

The church only grows as fast as you have leaders. *Only as big as the number of leaders you develop. You must spend 1/3 of time raising up leaders, 1/3 out in community and 1/3 preparing for Sunday.*

Strategy #9

“Network, Network, Network and Marketing.”

Strategy #10

Have clear steps *for discipleship.*

we all need a coach

have to engage in laity

40 churches are growing.

most on their downside of life cycle.

Every Church can be turned around.