

Open Space Explanation

What we are asking of everyone:

- Go to the conversation that you feel most passionate about
- Let the spirit move you and your feet whenever and to wherever you feel led:
 - When the conversation you in are is finished, or
 - you've learned or contributed everything you want to, or
 - you feel ready for a new conversation

What we are asking of discussion leaders:

- Write a clear succinct title and short description for your passion
- As much as possible in the space provided, gather people in a circle
- Share your passion, and then invite folks to also give shape to the conversation (see: "Guidelines for Open Space Conversation Leaders")
- Fill out and return the "Open Space Report Form"

Main Question:

Where is the church being "unbound and free" for God's mission?

Explanatory questions:

- What are the promising developments that could point to a positive future for the church?
- What are you passionate about that you think could positively shape the future of the church?
- What is God doing in the world that you want to be part of?

5 Guiding principles...

1. *Whoever comes is the right people* ...we just need a few people with a passion for Jesus not the Bishop and 100 people to get something done. If something is to happen, who better than you to do it?
2. *Whenever it starts is the right time* ... "spirit and creativity do not run on the clock."
3. *Wherever it happens is the right place* ... space for conversation and new possibilities is opening everywhere all the time. Please be conscious and aware.
4. *Whatever happens is the only thing that could have* ... once something has happened, it's done—and no amount of fretting or rehashing can change that. Move on.
5. *When it's over, it's over* ... we never know how long it will take to resolve an issue, once raised, but whenever the issue or work or conversation is finished, move on to the next thing. Do the work, not the time.

...and one law...

The Law of Two Feet

"Law of two feet:" If at any time during you find yourself led in a new direction or you are no longer learning or contributing, use your two feet to go someplace else.

Open Space Topic Submission Form

Main Question:

Where is the church being “unbound and free” for God’s mission?

Explanatory questions:

- What are the promising developments that could point to a positive future for the church?
- What are you passionate about that you think could positively shape the future of the church?
- What is God doing the world that you want to be part of?

Write a title and clear one-sentence description of your topic here: (Please write legibly)

Title: _____

Description: _____

Your Name: _____

How can contact you while you are at the assembly? _____

Assembly Office Use Only:

South Dakota Synod Assembly

Convener Guide for Open Space Session Topics

Serving as a convener for an Open Space topic is an important role. Enough form needs to be given to help start the conversation, but not so much that it interferes with the creative workings of the group. If needed, remind participants of the Two Laws.

1. Open Space is a group process, with the primary function of the convener to help facilitate the conversation of the whole group. The convener should:
 - Identify a scribe (you may do it yourself or ask for a volunteer);
 - Start the discussion by framing the session topic;
 - Ensure that the report is filed with Session Title, Convener, participants, summary of discussion, and any Next Step items identified.

2. In leading discussion the Convener should make sure that all wishing to participate. In Open Space it is our passion that makes us uniquely qualified to address the topic. Some starting questions to get the conversation started?

Where is the church being “unbound and free” for God’s mission?

Given the topic of this session:

- What are the promising developments that could point to a positive future for the church?
 - What are you passionate about that you think could positively shape the future of the church?
 - What is God doing in the world that you want to be part of?
 - What is the problem we are trying to address?
3. Allow the first few minutes to frame the conversation. There may be multiple topics that arise and may discover that new groups form based on where the Spirit is leading.

 4. Continuing the Conversation
 - What gifts/resources do we already bring?
 - What gifts/resources do we still need?
 - What are the next steps?

 5. Group the group to a close at the end of the session.

 6. File the session report.

Open Space Session Report Form

Session Title:

Convenor:

Participants:

Summary of discussions:

What will we do now? What needs to happen next?