



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

Saturday was a full day with two sessions after breakfast and two sessions following lunch. The day was marked by worship and the daily offices according to the Book of Common Prayer.

In the first morning session, Dean Kate Moorehead-Carroll addressed stewardship and financial planning in the life of the parish and the fundamentals of asking people to pledge starting with the theology of giving. She had a very interesting segment on technologies supporting how people give and make their offerings. Expressing gratitude to donors was a significant theme interwoven throughout her presentation.

Keith Daw, Chief Operating Officer of the Diocese, led the second morning session on the Diocesan resources available to vestries and introduced members of the Diocesan staff. He emphasized that the Diocesan Office exists to serve the members of the Diocese and encouraged vestries and groups within the Diocese to avail themselves of using the Diocesan Office as a meeting place.

After lunch the third session consisted of two one-hour complimentary sessions on 1) building relationships and trust within a vestry and in the parish—led by Bishop Benhase and 2) Communicating well and conflict management—led by the Rev. Becky Rowell from the Diocese of Georgia.

Ms. Rowell spoke first and led the assembly through a possible scenario of how a major conflict might germinate from within a vestry working and develop from a seemingly benign task into a major parish-wide blowout. Communicating well was the message of both talks and the interplay between the two speakers.

Ms. Rowell began by quoting from the late Roman Empire historian Ammianus Marcellinus:

“No wild beasts are so deadly to humans as most Christians are to each other.”

She went on to help everyone see the conflict from a theological perspective as both a part of the nature of things and as possessing a destructive potential. In the final session, the panel of speakers for the day addressed questions that everyone had listed on a board as they occurred to them throughout the day.

The retreat ended at 4 p.m. and everyone left for home in a good and confident spirit and a sense of having been given a good amount of substantial information and wisdom well



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worth further reflection and use. Everyone was grateful to the Camp Weed staff for their generous hospitality and support.