

Discipleship: I Do and I Will

Living Out Our Answers to the Ordination Questions

The retreat is over, but the living continues! This past Saturday (September 14th) saw 28 or so people gather to share insights and questions, recognize ourselves as brothers and sisters in Christ and see a little bit of what God is doing in and through us. We looked at our ordination questions, seeing in them a tool that can help us grow in following Jesus.

All of us, I'm practically certain, saw new things in those ordination questions, questions that we have all answered or heard. Earl Johnson, Jr, one of our own honorably retired pastors, shared some of his insights into the history and background of how our ordination questions have come to us. Beth, our Chaplain, led us in two short exercises that encouraged us to recognize a word or phrase in each of those questions that spoke to us, or had energy for us, or that just clicked into our lives. They both set the stage for our discussion. In groups of four, people shared their insights and their questions and we listened and were blessed.

This was one of the most renewing retreats I have ever attended. For me, it wasn't filled with busyness; it was filled by good conversations with my sisters and brothers, insights into our ministry together (as church members, deacons, ruling elders and teaching elders) and honest sharing. I went home invigorated (and very tired!).

Your Koinonia Team worked hard at making this retreat an example of how our common life together can be uncommonly good, and it succeeded (not to toot our own horn, but it just seems to be true). If you missed this retreat there will be more of them in the future, and we hope you'll plan on coming to them!

-- Michael Burkley
Vice-Moderator and Koinonia Team Facilitator

p.s.: Thanks to the 1st Presbyterian Church of Ballston Spa for opening their building to us—and to Jenn, their new pastor and our new colleague for being so welcoming!