

Courageous Hospitality: Cultivating Belonging in Parish Life

With Rev. Amy, Workshop Handout

Core Ideas

- **Hospitality is fractal:** how you show up as an individual shapes how the whole community is experienced.
 - **Hospitality = Why, not What:** it's not coffee hour or bulletins. It is the persistent pursuit of relationship, revealing God in our midst.
 - **Courageous hospitality** means risking discomfort for connection, creating space where all are seen as beloved children of God and may be fearless in your presence.
 - Not-knowing mind & offering the gift of fearlessness.
-

Reflection Prompts (Pairs)

Choose **one** to discuss with your partner:

- Recall a time you felt *deeply welcomed*. What made the difference?
 - Recall a time you felt *unwelcome*. What created that barrier?
-

Parish Practices: Connection or Confusion?

Map out the experiences. Create a visual representation, physically walk through the process of coming to your parish. As you walk through your Sunday or ministry life, ask:

- Where are the **points of connection**?
- Where might there be **confusion or barriers**?

Integration:

How are people connecting more deeply with the community? Can you walk through their experience trying to join a small group or ministry, from first thought to being on the schedule. Integration also includes listening. How do people share their ideas and know that they can impact the community?

Beyond “Roles”:

Hospitality is a team sport. It is vital that everyone practices, and everyone contributes. Does everyone understand the theological call to hospitality?

Personal Takeaway

What's one small change you can make in your context to foster belonging?

Prayers for Courageous Hospitality

Bless me Lord, that I may be a blessing. May I connect with Christ's light in all. Open my heart, O God, that I may see and serve you in all.