

Criterion Convergence IX:



Church as an Economic Being

Full Conversation Listing: Times, Topics, Location, Questions and Participants

Tuesday, May 17th 2011

Language and Imagination

10:45 – 12:00 pm

Conversations – Set A

Conversation Topic	Questions	Participants
<p><i>Theology of Risk</i></p> <p>LAUREL A</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What traditions, practices and scriptures inform how we think about risk? 2. What is our relationship to the prevailing financial market's approach to risk? 3. What are all of the factors that could be included in risk assessment and how does one's theology fit in this? 4. Do different theological frames or emphasis impact one's approach to risk? 5. How does risk play out beyond capital – into other assets like buildings, brand, relationships? 6. What is the language we can draw on to talk about this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ross Baird • Woody Bedell • Dave Blanchard • Rosa Lee Harden • Eric Hillegas • Karen Montagno • Steven Godeke, facilitator
<p><i>The Possibilities of the Market for the Mission of the Church</i></p> <p>LAUREL B</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where do we find an imagination around the markets as a part of the mission of the church? 2. What are the tools and vehicles of the market that provide leverage? 3. What in our history or current practices supports and hinders seeing the role of the church in shaping our economy? 4. What supports seeing things whole – the church in the economy, the economy in the world? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan Foss • Kevin Gremse • Diane Keefe • Andrew McCarroll • Robyn Morrison • Scott Mullins • Brooke Randall • Dan Senter • Ron William Walden • Jackie Vanderbrug, facilitator • Kelley Shepherd, Intern

<p>What is the Purpose of Capital?</p> <p><i>LAUREL C</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin the conversation with the question. 2. How do we personally answer the question? 3. How can this question change the imagination around finance and investments? 4. What resources do we draw on to explore this question? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Andersen • Suzanne Biegel • James Coats • Steve Monti • Terry Provance • Susan Lee Vick • Joy Anderson, facilitator
<p>Parishes as Local Living Economies</p> <p><i>PENWOOD</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do we translate the language of local living economies for the church? 2. What is created when the church intentionally focuses on its relevance in a local geography and economy? 3. How can the church serve as an economic vehicle for community transformation? 4. How can other institutions which develop community capacity and assets shape our understanding of this question? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Baumhefner • James Bennett • Ruy Costa • Thomas Daniel • Mark Finser • Gary Gunderson • Nicholas Hayes • Cynthia Rasmussen • Tim Soerens • Kirsten Bunch, facilitator • James deBoer, Intern
<p>Seeing Our Power</p> <p><i>TALCOTT</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do we imagine our economic power? What language do we use to describe it? 2. What processes, structures, or examples assist us in seeing the possibilities of being an economic being? 3. What gets in the way of seeing our power? 4. How do we reframe the deficit and scarcity language? 5. As we imagine and language our power, how do we avoid pitfalls related to power and remain faithful to our gospel call? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phyllis Anderson • Linda Baumhefner • Geoffrey Black • Jennifer Kramm • Mary Beth Mills-Curran • Donald Stiger • Debra Veth • Ben Whaley • Patrick Duggan, facilitator • Rowena Kemp, intern

Leadership

1:15 – 2:30 pm

Conversations – Set B

Conversation Topic	Questions	Participants
<p>A Formation Process for Investors</p> <p><i>LAUREL A</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do people of faith become leaders in investing from their faith values? 2. What are the structures that might support that – e.g. curriculums, models, groups, conferences, books etc? 3. Where is there existing thought and practice leadership? 4. How does this connect to existing theory and practice around stewardship? 5. Possible exercise: what would be the five core elements of a formation process for investors in a local congregation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ross Baird • James Bennett • Suzanne Biegel • Dave Blanchard • Steven Godeke • Andrew McCarroll • Brooke Randall • Susan Lee Vick • Jackie Vanderbrug, facilitator
<p>Leading as an Economic Being</p> <p><i>LAUREL B</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does it mean to lead as an economic being? How does one learn this? 2. What does this leadership look like? Who are the examples we can draw on? 3. What are the end goals or transformation of leading in this way? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda Baumhefner • Ruy Costa • Thomas Daniel • Kevin Gremse • Nicholas Hayes • Steve Monti • Robyn Morrison

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. What are the practices that support the complexity of this effort? 5. What are risks (in the church) in this kind of leadership? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Mullins • Cynthia Rasmussen • Debra Veth • Joy Anderson, facilitator • Rowena Kemp, intern
<p>The Next Generation of Leaders of the Church</p> <p><i>LAUREL C</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Imagine that the next generation of leadership understood themselves as economic beings and the church as implicated and actor in the economy. 2. What kind of leaders would the church need? 3. What are the emerging sources for leaders – and what opportunity do they present? 4. What is the changing role of seminaries and faith based schools? 5. What are the systems that support the ongoing development of leaders? 6. How do we invite current church leaders engage in economic conversations which will lead to real transformation in business or operating models? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Andersen • Phyllis Anderson • Geoffrey Black • Gary Gunderson • Eric Hillegas • Mary Beth Mills-Curran • Karen Montagnano • Dan Senter • Donald Stiger • Ben Whaley • Patrick Duggan, facilitator • James deBoer, intern
<p>Business as Ministry (and Ministry as Business)</p> <p><i>PENWOOD</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What allows business leaders to see themselves as doing ministry not simply enabling ministry? 2. What allows 3. Where does this conversation connect to socially responsible business? 4. Where are the communities of business leaders forming inside the church? What are the patterns and practices? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Baumhefner • Woody Bedell • James Coats • Ryan Foss • Rosa Lee Harden • Diane Keefe • Jennifer Kramm • Terry Provance • Tim Soerens • Ron William Walden • Kirsten Bunch, facilitator • Kelley Shepherd, intern

Patterns of Action

3:00 – 4:15 pm

Conversations – Set C

Conversation Topic	Questions	Participants
<p>Social Entrepreneurs and Their Worshipping Communities</p> <p><i>LAUREL A</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What enables early stages enterprises and entrepreneurs to start well? What of that can churches provide? 2. How do we develop community – around and among entrepreneurs? 3. How do we support entrepreneurs in worshipping communities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ross Baird • Linda Baumhefner • Dave Blanchard • Nicholas Hayes • Eric Hillegas • Jennifer Kramm • Karen Montagnano • Cynthia Rasmussen • Tim Soerens • Jackie Vanderbrug, facilitator • Rowena Kemp, intern

<p>The Church as a Global Economic Being</p> <p><i>LAUREL B</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Starting with a global perspective, where is the church implicated and actor in the economy? 2. What are the patterns of action that are worth noting? If you were going to map activity, where would you begin? Who would you involve? 3. What models and activities are you excited or intrigued by? What give you pause? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Daniel • Ryan Foss • Rosa Lee Harden • Mary Beth Mills-Curran • Terry Provance • Brooke Randall • Kirsten Bunch, facilitator
<p>Church Property</p> <p><i>LAUREL C</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How is our relationship to the physical church shifting? 2. What compels or enables a congregation to “activate” their property? 3. What are useful ways to think about the overall foot print of the church? A regional foot print? One denomination’s footprint? 4. What examples exist of denominations engaging the challenges/opportunities of church land and properties (church closures, foreclosures, etc.) in ways that advance new opportunities for ministry? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Baumhefner • James Bennett • Geoffrey Black • James Coats • Ruy Costa • Kevin Gremse • Robyn Morrison • Patrick Duggan, facilitator
<p>Endowments and Social Investing</p> <p><i>PENWOOD</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the readiness for church endowments to engage in social investing? What are the indicators of readiness? 2. What are the stages of thinking through a shift in asset allocations? 3. Who helps? What are the known resources? What is needed? 4. How does the form of endowments help or hinder church organizations thinking about themselves as economic beings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Andersen • Phyllis Anderson • Steven Godeke, facilitator • Diane Keefe • Susan Lee Vick • Kelley Shepherd, intern
<p>Financing Faith and Health</p> <p><i>TALCOTT</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin with the case study in Memphis. What is the opportunity and how does finance matter? 2. How do we start to measure, acknowledge and resource the various aspects which create health (or life) within a given community? 3. How does the church plan an economic role in health delivery models (from community health centers to models for aging in homes to hospitals)? 4. How can the church bring its definition of health – and any way in which it differs from or challenges the prevailing definition of society – into the world of health care finance? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woody Bedell • Gary Gunderson • Andrew McCarroll • Steve Monti • Donald Stiger • Joy Anderson, facilitator
<p>Civil Society: Where Social Justice Meets Church</p> <p><i>STRATTON</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the connection between justice, ministry and the Church as an Economic Being? 2. Where have the models of faith-based organizing led to social equity and economic justice? 3. What assets, capacities and opportunities are accessible to the various settings of church that, if deployed in innovative ways, could increase the effectiveness of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzanne Biegel • Daniel Fireside • Scott Mullins • Dan Senter • Ron William Walden • Ben Whaley • James deBoer, intern

	<p>church as an agent of social justice?</p> <p>4. What are the possibilities for scalable social change efforts through collaborations between and among the church and the social capital markets? What would success look like?</p>	
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Wednesday, May 18th 2011

Patterns of Action

9:45 – 11:00 am

Conversations – Set D

Conversation Topic	Questions	Participants
<p>Parish-Based Enterprise</p> <p><i>LAUREL A</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What assets do Churches have that are relevant to enterprise development? 2. How does a church come to know the needs of their “Parish” - meaning geographic parish- the local community? 3. How does parish-based economic development relate to economic justice? 4. What examples – successes and failures – are important to keep in mind? 5. What are the processes and supporting organizations critical for successful parish based enterprise development? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Bennett • Ruy Costa • Jennifer Kramm • Andrew McCarroll • Steve Monti • Robyn Morrison • Ben Whaley • Patrick Duggan, facilitator • Kelley Shephard, intern
<p>Seminaries as Implicated and Actor in the Economy</p> <p><i>LAUREL B</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary as an example. What are the possibilities and the challenges around the business model of seminaries? 2. What is the role of seminaries – and how is this changing? 3. What are the assets of seminaries which make them relevant to the church and the economy? 4. How would seminaries re-form to be more relevant? 5. What role could seminaries play in educating businesses, social enterprises and their leaders? 6. What would surprise and delight you to hear about a seminary? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Anderson • Phyllis Anderson • Peter Baumhefner • Linda Baumhefner • Dave Blanchard • Gary Gunderson • Ron William Walden • Jackie Vanderbrug, facilitator
<p>Church Money Meets Public, Private Funding</p> <p><i>Penwood</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where do the church’s interests intersect with those of other sectors – government, philanthropy, business? 2. What examples are there where we put church money together with other sources? 3. Name the barriers. Okay. What barriers should we try to move past? How? 4. What are the advantages and challenges of such examples or aspirations? 5. How might the church play a role in the emerging social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoffrey Black • Ryan Foss • Steven Godeke, facilitator • Mary Beth Mills-Curran • Scott Mullins • Brooke Randall • Cynthia Rasmussen

	finance tools?	
The Church and the Green Economy LAUREL C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the business models where church engages in the green economy? 2. How can the church support the development of a green economy at scale? 3. What examples provide inspiration – from sourcing products to use of land to building renovations? 4. How do the actions a church takes ripple through the pews? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzanne Biegel • Nicholas Hayes • Diane Keefe • Karen Montagno • James Coats • Kirsten Bunch, facilitator
Education Processes for People in the Pews STRATTON	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do we talk about money in the church? 2. What makes it so hard (Why is it easier to talk about sex than money?) 3. What education / engagement processes have worked for people in the pews? 4. How does this build on or differ from formation for generosity, stewardship language, learnings and process? 5. Where are the most “ripe” places to start? 6. What is the potential – in our wildest dreams what do we imagine? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woody Bedell • Thomas Daniel • Rosa Lee Harden • Terry Provance • Dan Senter • Joy Anderson, facilitator
Hubs in Churches TALCOTT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This conversation can focus on the particular model of the Hub or social enterprise hubs in general. 2. How is a Hub akin to a church plant? (Hubs as churches) 3. What makes this exciting now? 4. What challenges do we anticipate? 5. What support systems and resources provide the greatest chance of success? 6. What is our vision of success? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ross Baird • Eric Hillegas • Christopher Kopka • Tim Soeren • Debra Veth • James deBoer, facilitator

Systems and Structures

11:15 – 12:30 pm

Conversations – Set E

Conversation Topic	Questions	Participants
Structures and Systems Emerging from an Awakening (About the Economy) LAUREL A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lots of big thinking in this section. The challenge may be to define the right questions, in this place of unknowing. 2. What signs can we name that the church world and the world of social capital markets (defined broadly) are awakening to new possibilities in the space where the two connect? 3. What products or systems will be re-birthed? What indications are there of entirely new systems and structures emerging? 4. What kinds of adjustments/changes/initiatives should seminaries, business schools, schools of philanthropy, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Baumhefner • Woody Bedell • Thomas Daniel • Eric Hillegas • Jennifer Kramm • Mary Beth Mills-Curran • Dan Senter • Ron William Walden • Joy Anderson, facilitator • James deBoer, intern

	<p>other higher education institutions think about to lean into this awakening? What examples, models are out there that demonstrate responsiveness to this awakening?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. How is the world of business/finance/capital responding to this phenomenon? Ahead of or behind the curve? What models, steps demonstrate either? 6. How should denominations, congregations, Christian social entrepreneurs, other church organizations and individuals engage this awakening? What models are out there? 7. How would cross-sector collaborations impact the ability of institutions, organizations, businesses, intermediaries to take full advantage of this awakening? 8. In your reading of the signs, who is/which organizations and/or entities are best positioned to benefit from this awakening? Most likely to be casualties? 	
<p>Denominations as Intermediaries</p> <p><i>LAUREL B</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What successful models, best practices are out there? 2. In what ways do denominations function as financial intermediaries already? What works well in these models? What can they do better? 3. Who are the denominational leaders/entities are thinking about re-purposing/re-structuring mission funding? What models of innovation are out there? (Oikocredit, others?) 4. Are there ripe opportunities for denominations to make a difference as financial intermediaries? Where? Would it require major change or minor adjustment to engage these opportunities? 5. What are the capacities congregations must have to take full advantage of financial resources denominations may offer? How can congregations acquire these capacities? 6. Are the investment decision makers serving denominations aware of the opportunities, risks, needs, challenges of doing business the same way? Of re-orienting the financial role of denominations in relation to their member congregations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoffrey Black • Ryan Foss • Karen Montagno • Robyn Morrison • Terry Provance • Ben Whaley • Kirsten Bunch, facilitator
<p>Where/How Do We Start From the “Seed” of a Concept?</p> <p><i>LAUREL C</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where fertile ground is evident, how do you start? 2. How do you evaluate fertile ground? 3. What is the “right” set of aspirations for growth? 4. Where is the workforce – what kind of “new orders” 5. Where have you seen concepts take root or stall – and what lessons to you draw from them? 6. What cities, regions present the greatest potential for new starts for enterprises and initiatives at the nexus of the church world and the world of social capital markets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Bennett • Dave Blanchard • James Coats • Gary Gunderson • Diane Keefe • Debra Veth • Nicholas Hayes • Patrick Duggan, facilitator

<p>Investment Vehicles</p> <p><i>PENWOOD</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At a practical level, what investment vehicles are needed? 2. What are examples of best practices out there in terms of money advancing the mission of the Church? 3. How do they compare to non-religious vehicles in performance, socially responsible investment policies/performance, and innovative investment strategies? 4. Where are the examples of leaders in the field of church investments who are engaging the opportunities/challenges of this time of transition in the church and the economy in ways that exemplify Christian ideals, values, principles? 5. How do vehicles reach beyond the church institutions to the people in the pew? 6. What church leaders/enterprises/organizations have played a role in social capital gatherings, such as SOCAP, etc., where the design work is happening? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Andersen • Suzanne Biegel • Steven Godeke, facilitator • Steve Monti • Scott Mullins • Brooke Randall • Ross Baird • Rosa Lee Harden • Kelley Shepherd, intern
<p>Legal Structures to Support “This”</p> <p><i>TALCOTT</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does it take for organizations to work together and how do legal structure support or inhibit this?? 2. Many large businesses partner with parishes in a very transactional way – what other ways might present themselves? 3. If churches “collaborate” with each other and with other organizations when do they need legal structures for this? What about when they merge? 4. What is the role of structures such as cooperatives, holding companies, joint ventures, hybrid? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phyllis Anderson • Linda Baumhefner • Ruy Costa • Christopher Kopka • Andrew McCarroll • Cynthia Rasmussen • Tim Soerens • Jackie VanderBrug, facilitator

Systems and Structures

1:30 – 2:45 pm

Conversations – Set F

Conversation Topic	Questions	Participants
<p>Support for Investor Networks</p> <p><i>LAUREL A</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the existing models? Are they replicable? 2. What capacities must be present within a congregation and/or community to start? 3. How can local, regional networks connect with each other? Nationally? 4. How can seminaries, business schools, other educational institutions equip the church to launch, maintain, and grow investor networks? 5. How can the financial sector work with the church to launch, grow, maintain? 6. What are the risks? What are the guard rails? 7. How can investor networks in churches be transformative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ross Baird • Suzanne Biegel • Ruy Costa • Rosa Lee Harden • Steve Monti • Brooke Randall • Joy Anderson, facilitator

	in teaching and modeling stewardship beyond participants and outward to the broader church?	
<p>Church as Distribution System</p> <p><i>LAUREL B</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the risks and minefields in this arena? 2. How do we talk to pastors in this process? 3. What are the most obvious opportunities? How can these opportunities be brought to scale? 4. What secular models may be readily transferable to the church? Any existing, viable church models? 5. What role can denominations play in creating a church distribution system? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Andersen • Peter Baumhefner • Woody Bedell • Diane Keefe • Christopher Kopka • Terry Provance • Ben Whaley • Joy Anderson, facilitator • James deBoer, intern
<p>Stewardship as an Economic Structure</p> <p><i>LAUREL C</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are examples of effective models of stewardship? What denominational structures have generated noteworthy improvement? 2. Given the historic decline of mission funding, what are the challenges, opportunities for new stewardship structures? 3. What is the theological basis for new stewardship structures? 4. What denominational leaders are considering new approaches to stewardship structures? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoffrey Black • Dave Blanchard • Eric Hillegas • Jennifer Kramm • Andrew McCarroll • Cynthia Rasmussen • Jackie VanderBrug, facilitator
<p>What Role Can I Play?</p> <p><i>PENWOOD</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What gifts, talents, capacities, and perspectives do I bring to the space where the church and the world of finance/economy meet? What are the needs, opportunities? 2. What are the places to lead from? 3. How can I make a living doing this? 4. What models/examples of enterprises are out that seemed to have figured this out? How do I connect with like-minded Christian social entrepreneurs, clergy, business leaders, etc.? 5. What does success look like for me and the institutions/enterprises/organizations my work impacts? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda Baumhefner • James Bennett • Thomas Daniel • Karen Montagno • Robyn Morrison • Scott Mullins • Ron William Walden • Patrick Duggan, facilitator
<p>Gift Economy / Alternative Currencies</p> <p><i>TALCOTT</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What kinds of structures support the scaling up of the exchange of time, talent and treasure? 2. How does the spiritual path prepare you to live into an alternative economic model? 3. What examples out there seem to offer best possibilities for the church? 4. How does gift economy/alternative economies reflect good Christian stewardship? 5. How can the church use assets and gifts more effectively? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Coats • Ryan Foss • Gary Gunderson • Mary Beth Mills-Curran • Dan Senter • Tim Soerens • Kirsten Bunch, facilitator
<p>On-Ramps for Church Leaders to</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What training and support structures are needed to provide church leaders the basic knowledge of financial literacy? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phyllis Anderson • Steven Godeke, facilitator • Nicholas Hayes

<p>Understand Finance (Faking it in Financial Conversations)</p> <p>STRATTON</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. What are the on-ramps that allow neophytes to engage in financial conversations? 3. What biblical, theological and/or church resources are available to provide a faith-based foundation to talk about investment, risk, assets, liabilities, etc. 4. What examples are out there? What theological schools, business schools, institutes, etc. are doing this work now? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debra Veth • Jackie Vanderbrug, facilitator • Kelley Shepherd, intern
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