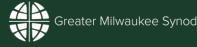




Adventures in Renewal

Listen. Learn. Be Transformed.



Action-Learning Experiments

A worksheet for designing experiments

What is an experiment?

An experiment in this process is a planned action-learning experience that is designed to help us “behave our way into new thinking.”

What is the point of experiments?

Experiments are the best way to learn when we are faced with challenges that require us to adapt and do something differently than we have done it before. Experiments create space for us to discover new ways to be the church in our context.

What makes an experiment successful?

The success of an experiment is determined by how much we learn and how much we are transformed by the experience rather than by how much impact our actions have on others.

1. Name what you want to learn.



- Finish the sentence, “we don’t know...” or “we want to learn...”
- Why do you want to learn this? Where did this curiosity come from? (i.e. name the specific Listening that led you to this...)

2. Describe (in detail) the steps you will take in the experiment.



- Important note: The more detailed you can be, the lower the anxiety will be for those who participate! Answer detailed questions like "where will we go?" "how will we show up?" "what will we do and say there?" and "how will we describe to those we interact with why we are here?"
- Remember this is the "Try" part of the learning cycle! Experiments are meant to be simple, repeatable, and affordable.

Key Questions:
What might God be up to?
How can we join in?

3. Reflect on the experience.



- This is the all-important (and too often skipped) "Reflect" part of the learning cycle!
- Make specific plans for a protected time (at least 30 minutes) during which those who participated can answer these three questions (and make sure to add the learnings to your "learnings log").
 - What did you notice? (in the experiment, in others, in yourself?)
 - What questions are coming to your mind? What are you curious about now?
 - What might God be teaching us through this experience?