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Leading with Hope in a Season of Change

October 2023



1

Session Topics

- “What are you discussing with each other?”
- “We had hoped . . .”
- “Were not our hearts burning within us?”
- “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.”



2



Session One

3



Dwelling – Session One

Luke 24:13-35 (New International Version)

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

If you were on a long journey (hike, drive, etc), what would you talk about right now? What do you need to process?

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4

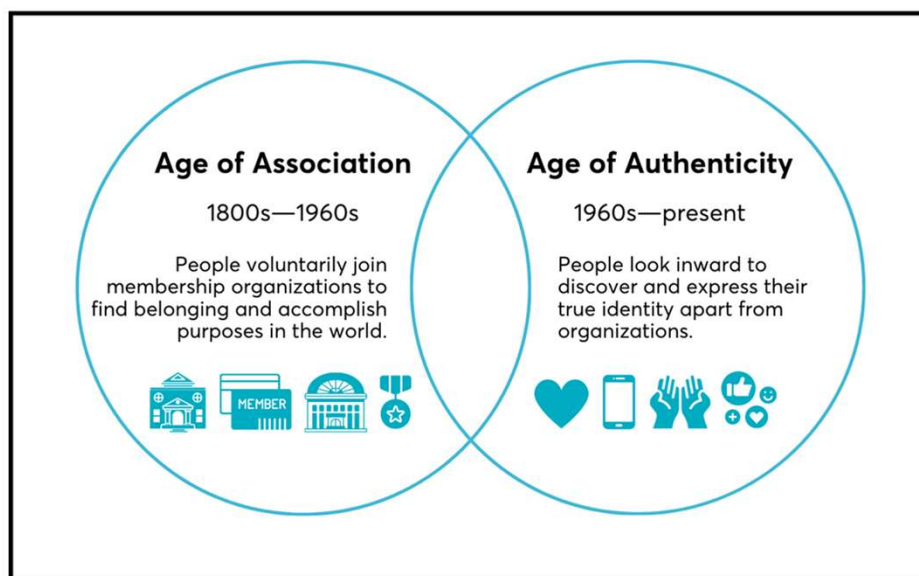
A Time of Disorientation

- Post-pandemic reality
- Unraveling of inherited ministry models
- Isolation, disconnection, distraction, depletion
- Challenges with no easy answers
- Old maps less helpful



5

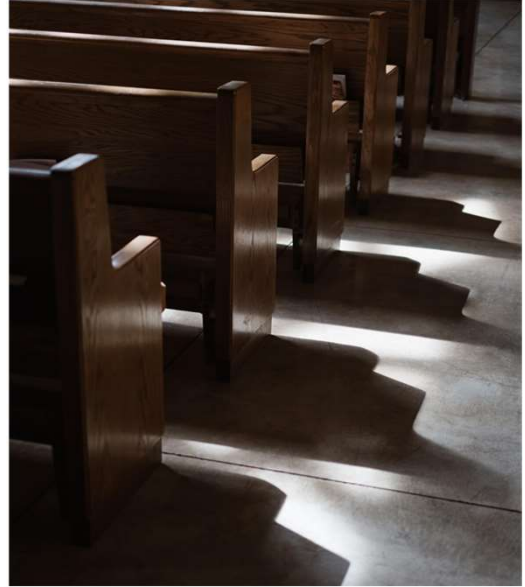
The Two Ages



6

Age of Association

- Primary model for congregational life since late 1700s
- Voluntary affiliation, membership
- Business model based on member donations, volunteer service
- Assumes culture of institutional trust
- Professionalized ministry



7

Age of Authenticity

- Since late 1960s
- Focus on discovering, expressing true self
- Dis-embedding from institutions (without re-embedding)
- Identities constructed/performed rather than ascribed
- Deep skepticism of institutions
- Loose connections

"Everything must be decided."

☒Ulrich Beck



8

Inhabiting the Between Times

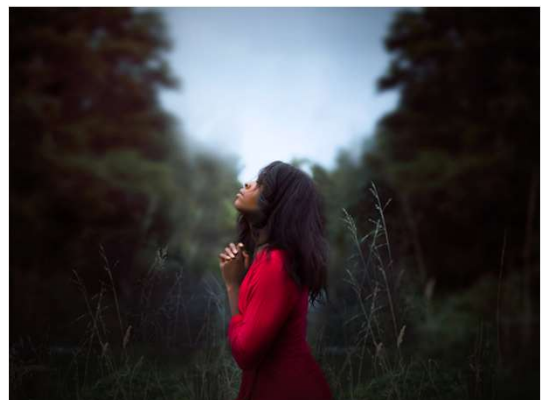
- Voluntary association model works for some
- Legacy generations:
 - Discipleship expressed through institutional service
 - Performative rather than participatory spirituality
 - Functionally social, cultural, service organization



9

Inhabiting the Between Times

- Emerging generations:
 - “Authentic” spiritual community, practice
 - Seeking trustworthy communities in which to ask life’s big questions
 - Connections to everyday longings and losses



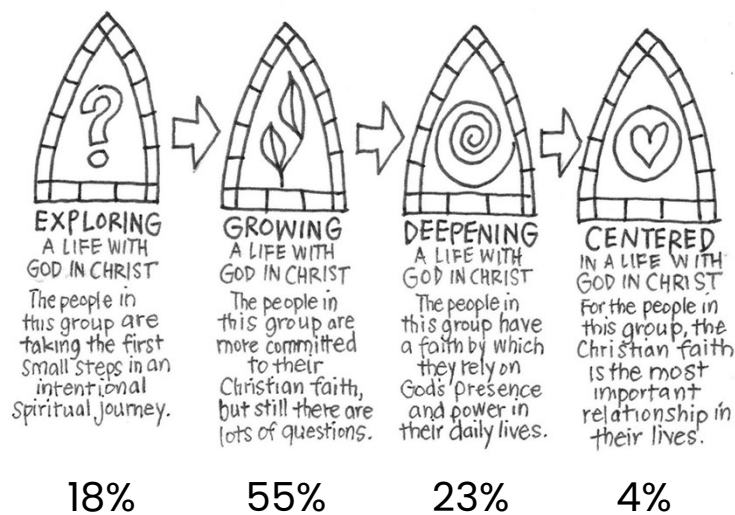
10

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11

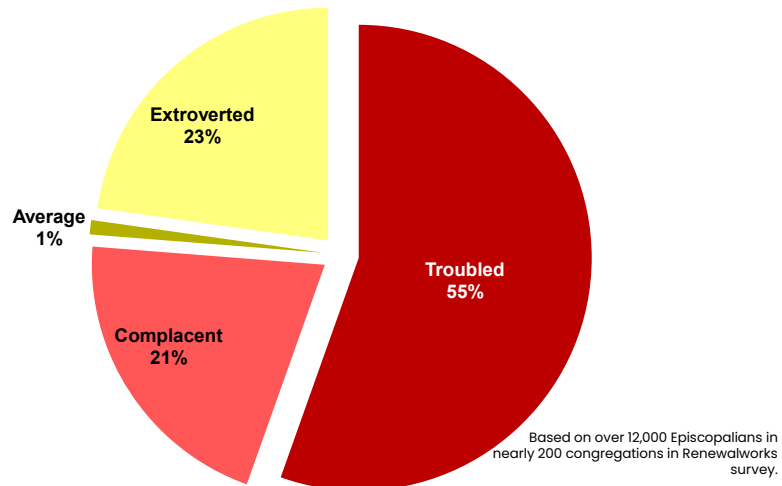
The Discipleship Challenge



Source: Renewalworks

12

Episcopal Church Archetypes



13

Reframing Expectations

Models of Ministry		
	Performative	Formative
Leaders	Primarily perform faith for the people in the congregation	Primarily cultivate discipleship among the whole people of God
People	Focus on supporting the institutional church	Actively own their spiritual growth

14

A Moment of Opportunity

- Widespread spiritual seeking
- Cultural spiritual crisis
 - Despair, injustice, estrangement, isolation, meaninglessness
 - Secularized religious impulses (purity, righteousness, transcendence, etc.)
- Helping people make spiritual sense of longings and losses
- Deepening connections with God, each other, neighbors

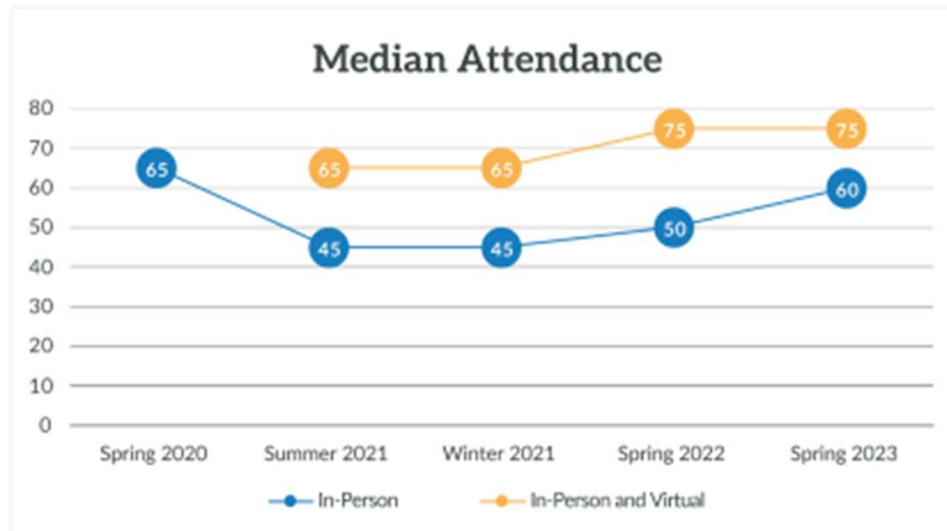


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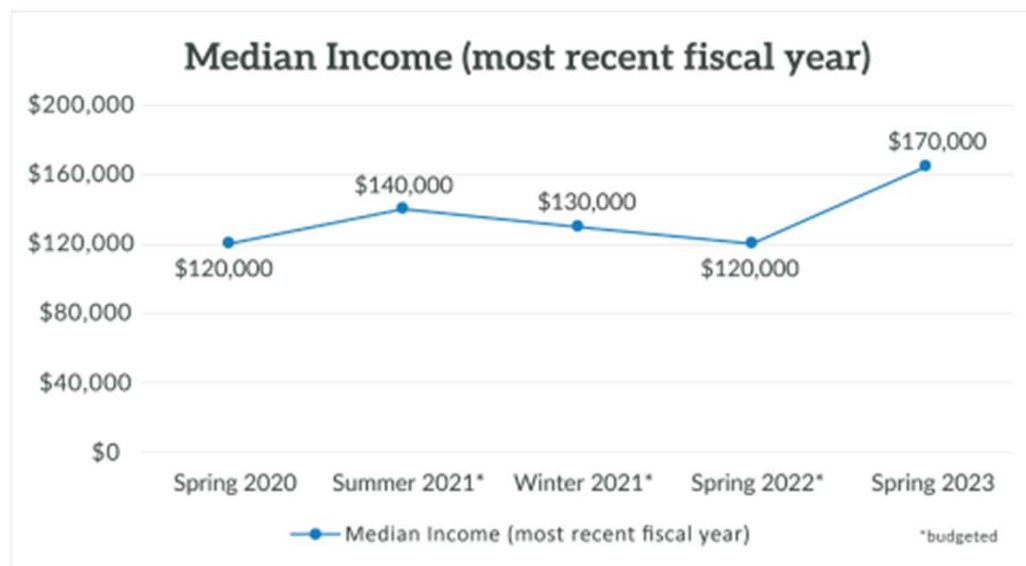
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Source: Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations study, Hartford Institute for Religion Research

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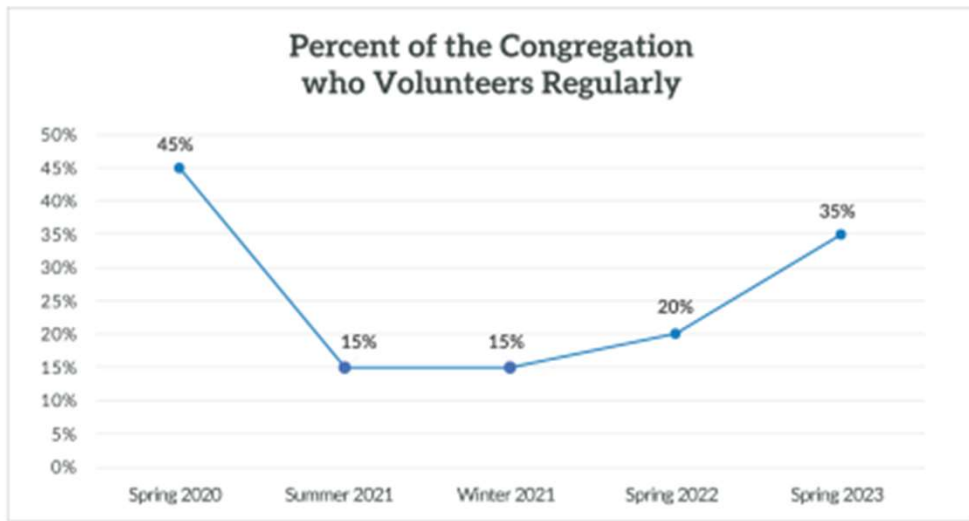
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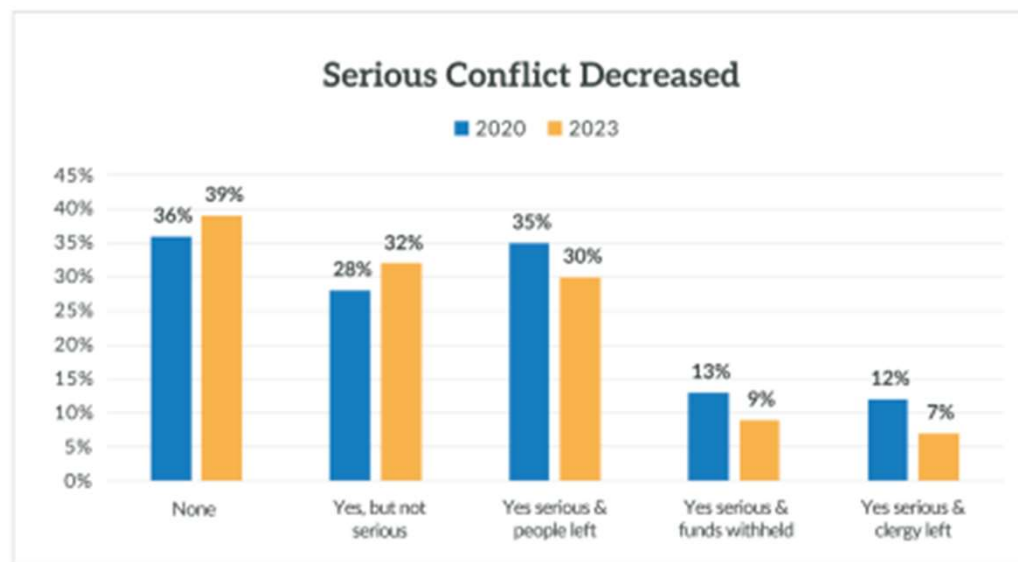
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Source: Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations study, Hartford Institute for Religion Research

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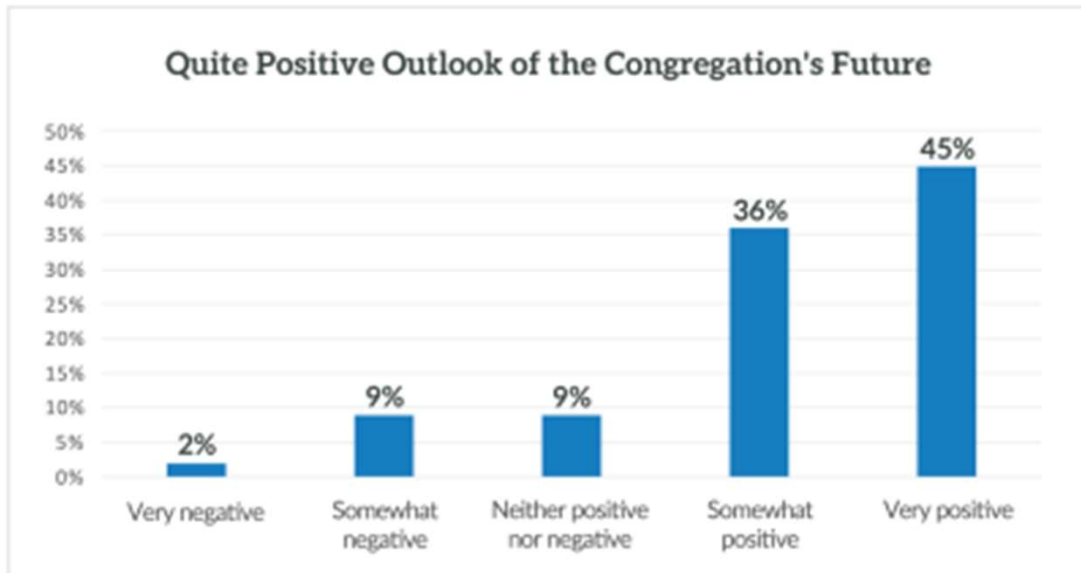
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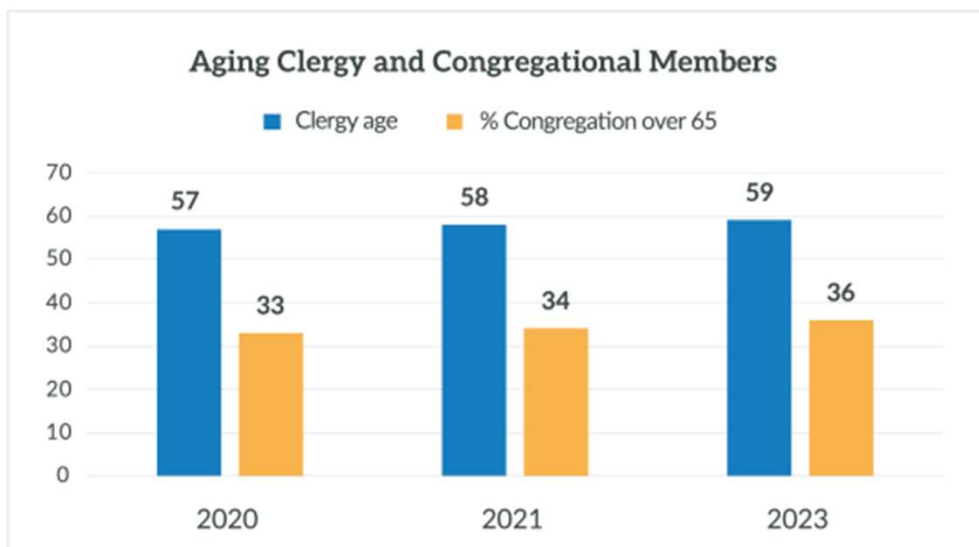
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20



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Time for Reflection and Conversation

