

Welcome to the next conversation about our future



“Changing the culture of organizations, groups, and institutions—and even societies—is about changing the conversation...”

“For congregations that seek [authentic spiritual and institutional renewal], there are perhaps ten important conversations that they need to initiate, deepen, and sustain in their ongoing life.”

--Anthony B. Robinson

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The world has changed. How can we move forward into this new world?



Our task

To engage the congregation in a multi-year process to re-envision, re-focus, and restructure Orinda Community Church

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Possible outcomes: Our hopes



- A clear grasp of our calling as a congregation.
- An effective new outreach appealing to the wider community.
- A renewal and refocus of our core strengths, programs, and ministries.
- Spiritual, financial, and human resources that sustain our vision and our calling.
- A new organizational structure providing opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth.

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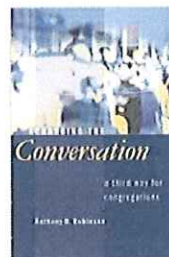
Our process



Changing the Conversation: A Third Way for Congregations, by Anthony B. Robinson

- Teacher of congregational leadership at Emmanuel College in Toronto
- Well-known expert in congregational transformation

Following Robinson's 10 "conversations" over the course of one year in a series of sessions, beginning on May 25



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The Ten Conversations (updated)



1. "It's Not About You" (May 25)
2. "And Yet, It *Is* About You" (July 25)
3. "A New Heart" (Sunday, September 19)
4. "Why Are We Here" and
5. "Write the Vision" (Friday-Saturday, October 15-16)
6. Discussion of Emerging OCC Purpose and Vision (December 12)
7. "Who Shall Lead Them?" and "Let's Get (Less) Organized" (Sunday, February 6)
8. "The Church and the Public Square" (Sunday, March 27)
9. "Death and Resurrection" (Sunday, April 17)
10. "Where Do We Go From Here?" (Sunday, May 22)

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Where Do We Go From Here?



The three big questions:

1. Who are we?
2. Who does God call us to be?
3. What are we prepared to do to follow that call?

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Where Do We Go From Here?



Robinson suggests 5 ways forward

1. Start with study and conversation
2. Start with prayer and discernment
3. Start with the sermon
4. Start with purpose
5. Start with the pastoral search process

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Where Do We Go From Here?



Discussion Question:

How do you respond to the distinction between a *statement of purpose* and a *sense of purpose*? How would you evaluate the sense of purpose in our congregation? Is it high or low, vibrant, dead, or faint-but-still-ticking?

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Where Do We Go From Here?



NEXT RE-ENVISIONING STEPS: **[This Summer]**

1) *Trusting in the Spirit that abides within our diverse but deep sense of purpose, craft a VISION STATEMENT that reflects, in our best shared discernment:*

- Who we are as the Orinda Community Church
- What God is calling us to be
- What we are prepared to do to follow this call

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Where Do We Go From Here?



NEXT RE-ENVISIONING STEPS, **[Next Fall]**

2) *Taking into account all we have learned thus far in our congregational conversations,*

and with the new Vision Statement as our guide,

gather many ideas and design together a range of inspired and creative ways in which OCC can change, thrive, meet the spiritual needs of people, and be an instrument of transformation in this constantly-evolving cultural and spiritual milieu where God has placed us.

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Where Do We Go From Here?



NEXT RE-ENVISIONING STEPS: [Next Winter]

3) *At the January 2012 Annual Meeting, adopt a PROVISIONAL PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION having the following characteristics:*

- *Faithful to our sense of purpose and vision of God's call*
- *Respectfully aware of cultural and religious shifts*
- *Focuses on real spiritual needs, concerns, issues*
- *Projects OCC's progressive, inclusive, relational spirit*
- *Creative, adventurous, aspirational, flexible, risk-taking*
- *Takes advantage of our true strengths and gifts*
- *Full of grace, gratitude, courage, joy and love*

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Where Do We Go From Here?



RE-ENVISIONING NEXT STEPS: [Next Year]

4) *Try new things, succeed or fail, try again*

- *Implementation*
- *Experimentation*
- *Testing*
- *Modification*
- *Keep listening, keep moving (the journey is our home)*

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