

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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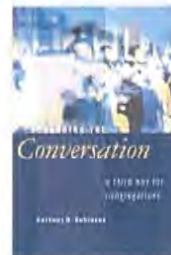
Our process



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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Review, continued



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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Death and Resurrection



Churches may be ready for renewal
or for death and resurrection.

How have others handled the
transition?

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Death and Resurrection, continued



Robinson presents three case studies:

1. Beacon Avenue UCC, Seattle

- Aging congregation and declining membership, but in a vibrant area of the city
- Decided to close the church and then re-open with a new name, new purpose and new leadership
- A larger UCC church in Seattle served as the “mother church” and offered support through the transition
- “Resurrected” church is now larger, more racially diverse, and growing

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Death and Resurrection, continued



Case studies, continued

2. University District in Seattle

- Six to eight mainline Protestant churches in the University of Washington neighborhood with declining resources and members, but with over \$100 million in combined real estate assets
 - Formed a new entity, University District Ecumenical Parish, rebuilding one site and selling the others
 - Would have one large worship space and smaller chapels for each tradition

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Death and Resurrection, continued



Case studies, continued

3. The "Moveable Feast"

- Hypothetical case of a church without a building
- Services are held in different locations throughout the area
- Congregation can take its ministry anywhere it is needed

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