

# 164<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Indaba Session 2

- ▶ The Presiding Bishop gives us a challenge for this present time because we, like Jesus, are on a journey to Galilee. Knowing that the Word is very near to you, how is Jesus asking you and your congregation to join him in ministry (loving service) in your Galilee every day?

Churches of all sizes in the Diocese of Iowa are joining Jesus in ministry in their Galilee (neighborhood). There is some tension between excitement and encouragement about the ministries churches are involved with and fears about dwindling numbers and increasing age of our members.

Across the diocese, we are joining Jesus in loving service by:

## Feeding the hungry

Hosting Connections Café at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's

Food gardens: raising food for pantry and inviting in community partners to participate

Food pantries

Back pack feeding programs

Food pantry at alternative high school

Hosting Hot Dog Friday – community meals

Baking cakes for college students for birthdays and special occasions

Free community meal: social time and community building in addition to feeding

## Giving water to the thirsty

Giving out water and popcorn on 4th of July at St. Peter's in Bettendorf

Giving out water during Old Threshers at St. Michael's in Mount Pleasant

## Welcoming the stranger

Using social media

Engaging community partners

Letting other organizations use the church – opening the buildings as safe places: scouting troops

Using creative welcoming practices – ashes to go, banners, signs

Creating an ecumenical youth center

Hosting ESL classes

Offering childcare for high school mothers

Outreach to the military

Warmly welcoming people who find their way in to church

Interfaith engagement

Remodeling our spaces

Getting to know who is in our neighborhood

## Clothing the naked

Children to Children – shop for clothing for families in Shelter House

Laundry love

Giving blankets to homeless people

## Healing

Hosting addiction groups

Members involved in racial justice work (Showing Up for Racial Justice), racial reconciliation worship service

Helping domestic violence victims begin new life

Reconciliation within church communities

Providing care for one another

Medical lending closet

Own a building that rents to low-income tenants and people who need a chance to start over

Hospital chaplaincy

Standing with interfaith partners that have experienced discrimination or vandalism

## Serving those in prison

involved with programs that help people re-enter society after prison: RISE program (Reintegration Initiative for Safety and Empowerment)

Prison Bible Study

Hope Camp that serves young people whose parents are incarcerated

*Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.' - Matthew 25:34-36*