

Playing With Fire

I have hope
that the Disciples are poised
to be a church *of* and *for*
the 21st century.

This room was full of people
who care about the Church!

I found hope and challenge
in the idea of increasing faithfulness
in particularity.

My hope came from
young seminary students in our midst ...
continual grounding in spiritual practice and listening ...
being deeply challenged to do ministry in a way
that all are truly welcome and at home ...
the need to move from a church that has a mission
to a mission acknowledging that it needs a church ...
increasing interest in interfaith conversation.

How do we become a mission with a church
rather than a church with a mission?

Fernando Jara! really living by faith
and trusting God's vision
and giving up comfort in order to do so.

I was challenged to rethink and go back to
taking significant time for spiritual practices.

I was reminded again that it's God's invitation
for me to join what God is doing.

So how do we challenge settled pastors
to see the landscape and be open
for God's invitation to *them*?

Hope and challenge
in that we can move
from mission *to* to mission *with*
and back again.

Inspired by the willingness to explore and wrestle

I have *received* hope
in spite of the bad news we hear about church
and what is not happening, churches dying and closing

God is at work in the midst of us and in our communities!

If we're open to the movement of God,
we can see the new church formed before us!

I have hope
that God's spiritual transformation can change *anything*.

As long as there are sincere forward-thinking Christians,
there is hope.

How can we, as a group, attain an effective unity
in the midst of our vast differences?

Passionate dialogue of core fundamentals
of who we are as church
and who we might become

Stop making assumptions
about the place that we've been placed!

Conversations and the ways we've explored being faithful even *without* concrete answers.

The 21st century church
must look more like the 1st century church
than the 20th century church!

There are lots of motivated younger leaders
and lots of older leaders willing to change.

There are passionate people
who are passionate about what the future holds.

So let's continue to step out in faith
even when it's uncomfortable.