

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Gathering at God's Table
The Meaning of Mission in the Feast of Faith
Katharine Jefferts Schori

PART I : The First Mark of Mission
To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

Fear Not

What are you most afraid of right now? a loved one's illness, your job or lack of one, what the country or your parish church is going to look like next year or ten years from now?

Proclaiming the Good News Relentlessly

Where and how is your faith challenged? What ways of faithful living have brought amazing possibilities to your life? How have these possibilities allowed you to proclaim the gospel to others?

Seeing the Face of Jesus

Do you have as urgent a hunger as those Greek tourists that fateful Passover week in Jerusalem? Think about your own desires. Where have you gone looking for—or discovered—Jesus recently?

From the Upper Room to the Ends of the Earth

Where is your upper room? How does it nourish you for the mission of proclaiming the gospel?

Archaeology of Hope

In what ways have you engaged in the creative art of sharing the hope planted in the gospel of Jesus?

Blessing and Hope

What are you most grateful for? What unwelcome surprises have become blessings?

Leaving Home

Where and how are you answering that call to “go, leave your family, home, and nation”?

Tweeting the Gospel

Who's tweeting the gospel in your life, in your parish, in your community? Who's rapping the good news of Jesus? What new form or language will you use to tell the good news of a God who loves us enough to enter the world in human flesh?

One Spirit, Many Gifts

What is your part in preparing the banquet?

The Meaning of Martyrdom

What sort of martyrdom are you being invited into?

Looking for Life

Where have you seen newness in your life recently? Did you reconnect with an old friend? hear from your children? meet a new friend? learn something new?

Living Abundantly

What do you find when you go out that door at the end of worship? Has your vision and understanding shifted enough that you can see rich and spreading pasture? Does your heart sense abundance rather than scarcity?

Nourished by the Word

How do you find nourishment in the company of others? How does this feed you for the work of proclaiming the good news of the reign of God?

PART II: The Second Mark of Mission
To Teach, Baptize, and Nurture New Believers

Jesus: Our GPS

What does your road look like? What does the Jesus road look like in the life of your community? Who is your companion on the Jesus road? How will you help to nurture others on that road?

Nurturing New Believers

Where have you helped mentor or nurture new leaders? How are you developing as a leader?

Learning to Be Light

Where are you becoming light to those around you? How might you help others be light?

Teaching and Learning the Presence of God

In what unexpected ways have you discovered God's presence in your life? Have you ever gathered with others to share some of those stories?

On the Road

Where do you find companions who can offer confidence and courage? Correction or critique?

The Freedom to Serve

What are the prisons we see around us? in our own lives? Which of them are self-imposed?

Leading into New Waters

What creative ways of forming new leaders have you found in your faith community?

PART III: The Third Mark of Mission
To Respond to Human Need with Loving Service

Salt of the Earth

How have salt and light played a part in your response to human need?

Face to Face

Think about the ways you've come face to face with God in your own community. How has that experience influenced your response to serve others?

Healing and Wholeness

How is the community you live in affected by connections between health, systemic injustice, and violence? How might your faith community respond?

City on a Hill

What do we do in our own faith communities to live out this healing mission? How are we giving glory to God?

Many Gifts, One Mission

What unexpected gifts have you discovered in others—and in yourself? How have you seen these gifts used for the good of others?

The Meaning of Mercy

Loving our neighbors means recognizing the body by the side of the road as a dignified human being, in need of mercy. What sorts of bodies are especially hard to recognize? Instead of just praying, "Lord have mercy," let your prayer be, "Lord let me be mercy; let us be mercy."

Spring Training

Where and how is self-concern getting in the way of serving neighbors?

PART IV: The Fourth Mark of Mission

To Seek to Transform Unjust Structures of Society

The Quest for Justice

Where is compassion moving in your life? What injustice is challenging you to act?

Turning the Tables

What are you doing to transform injustice in your neighborhood? your city, state, and nation? What connection do you make with the reign of God?

Building Justice

Where has creativity fostered healing in your life?

Border Crossings

What borders have you crossed in seeking justice in your community? How has gratitude motivated you?

Minding the Gap

What gaps are apparent in your community? Where do you need courage to reach across?

Living the Dream

What part of God's dream for a healed world most needs to be heard in your own context?
Where do your own gifts connect?

Enough for Everyone

How will you help fill the hunger for justice and peace?

Created for Life

For what special purpose have we been set apart? What gifts do we bring to this journey toward abundant life?

Tending the Vine

What branches can you see that have been lopped off? How might you and those around you help grafts to grow and heal?

Casting out Demons

What demons of injustice need to be cast out in your community? What demons of injustice threaten our larger communities—our nation and our world?

Traveling Light

What baggage needs to be unloaded by our communities—and society at large—in order to break down the prejudice that underlies injustice? How can you personally travel more lightly to come closer to God and others?

Sharing the Wealth

What are you doing at the very local level to feed the hungry? What can you do at larger scales, through your work as a citizen—in advocacy with legislators, organizing with others, and with your vote?

Living in Joyful Hope

What signs of hope for a transformed world—both large and small—have you encountered?

PART V: The Fifth Mark of Mission

To Strive to Safeguard the Integrity of Creation and Sustain and Renew the Life of the Earth

One Body

What bodies are you a member of? Which ones need healing? Where do you see allergic reactions to other members of those bodies?

In the Garden

Where have you seen the glory of God passing by? What garden are you being called to work in?

Healing the Body of God

Where do you see the body of God in need of healing? Where might you look for partners in that work?

Transforming the Planet

What sorts of organizing are needed to address the differential vulnerabilities in our cities?
What can you be doing in your own city?

Networks for the Future

Where are you discovering connections you were unaware of last year, or five years ago?
How is that growing interdependence a gift for the transformation of God's world toward shalom? Who needs to be part of your ongoing discovery?