

FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION:
LAY AND CLERGY WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD **GOD'S** CHURCH

EIGHTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION
2014 LAY LEADERSHIP & TRAINING CONVENTION

HILTON BATON ROUGE CAPITAL CENTER
BATON ROUGE, LA

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WHAT DO THE LAITY SAY ABOUT THEIR ROLE IN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION?

- SOME SAY THAT THE PREACHER IS “THE COMMISSIONED” SINCE JESUS WAS TALKING TO THE DISCIPLES.
- SOME SAY THAT THE LAY IS “THE COMMISSIONED” BECAUSE SHEEP MAKE SHEEP.
- RONALD D. ROTH MADE THIS STATEMENT AT A PRESENTATION IN 1998 WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE ROLE OF LAITY IN THE GREAT COMMISSION:
 - “THE REFORMATION EMPHASIZED THE DOCTRINE OF THE “PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS” AND BROUGHT TO LIFE THE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE AS A CHRISTIAN IN THIS WORLD OR TO BE A LAY PERSON(SIC). STILL.... THE TERM CARRIES A NEGATIVE CONNOTATION FOR MANY. A LAYPERSON (SIC) IS ONE WHO CAN'T. CAN'T PREACH, MARRY AND BURY. WHILE THE CLERGY DOES THE “REAL WORK” OF THE CHURCH, THE LAITY HAS, AS SOMEONE HAS SAID, BUT TO PRAY, PAY AND OBEY.”

QUESTION:

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE LAITY IN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION?

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WHAT IS THE GREAT COMMISSION?

MATTHEW 28: 16-20

“NOW THE ELEVEN DISCIPLES WENT TO GALILEE, TO THE MOUNTAIN TO WHICH JESUS HAD DIRECTED THEM. WHEN THEY SAW HIM, THEY WORSHIPED HIM; BUT SOME DOUBTED. AND JESUS CAME AND SAID TO THEM, “ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME. GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND REMEMBER, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE END OF THE AGE.”

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THE GREAT COMMISSION IS FILLED WITH ACTION VERBS:

- GO
- MAKE
- BAPTIZE
- TEACH

QUESTION:

WHICH WOULD YOU IDENTIFY AS ROLES FOR LAY; WHICH FOR CLERGY; WHICH FOR BOTH?

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IN A NUT SHELL THE GREAT COMMISSION IS OUR ORDERS FROM OUR
COMMANDER IN CHIEF TO THE MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER STATED:

“CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE LIVING CHRIST IS INEVITABLY CHRISTIANITY
WITHOUT DISCIPLESHIP, AND CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT DISCIPLESHIP IS
ALWAYS CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT CHRIST.”

ERIC GEIGER, MICHAEL KELLY AND PHILIP NATION IN THEIR BOOK
“TRANSFORMATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP; HOW PEOPLE REALLY GROW, MADE THIS
STATEMENT:

”THE FUNDAMENTAL REASON YOUR CHURCH EXISTS IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES
OF JESUS.”

QUESTION:

DOES THE CHURCH YOU ATTEND PUT EMPHASIS ON DISCIPLESHIP?

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IN HIS BOOK AUTOPSY OF A DECEASED CHURCH: 12 WAYS TO KEEP YOURS
ALIVE, THOM RAINER WRITES:

WHEN IT COMES TO THE GREAT COMMISSION THERE IS COMMISSION
OMISSION AND COMMISSION AMNESIA.

OMISSION – NOT TALKED ABOUT, NOT EMPHASIZED, NOT FOCUSED UPON
AMNESIA – FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT

QUESTION:

**IF YOU WERE TO BE HONEST, DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE THE GREAT
COMMISSION OMISSION OR AMNESIA?**

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HOW CAN LAY AND CLERGY WORK TOGETHER?

- #1 WE MUST WANT THE SAME THING (THE CHURCH TO GROW)
 - THERE SHOULD BE A CANDID CONVERSATION ABOUT WHETHER THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IS DESIRED OR WHETHER IT IS BETTER TO LEAVE THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE.
- #2 WE MUST TAKE AN INVENTORY OF THE CONGREGATION ON SUNDAY AND LOOK AT THE COMMUNITY AND SEE IF THE CHURCH REFLECTS THE COMMUNITY.
 - WHO IS THE CHURCH SERVING AND COULD THERE BE OTHERS TO SERVE WHO LIVE IN THE CHURCH'S COMMUNITY?
- #3 WE MUST **ALL** BE TRAINED IN HOW TO EVANGELIZE.
 - EVANGELIZING IS MORE THAN TAKING A TRACT AND PUTTING IT IN PEOPLE'S HANDS. IT REQUIRES INTERACTION WITH PEOPLE.
- #4 WE MUST BE REAL AND ACCEPT THE FACT THAT EVERYBODY SHOULD NOT BE A PART OF THE EVANGELIZING TEAM. THEY MAY ALL BE TRAINED, BUT WHEN THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD... LET THEM PREPARE THE REFRESHMENTS FOR THE TEAM.
- #4 ALWAYS TAKE TIME TO RETREAT AND EVALUATE WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AND IF THE GOAL IS THE SAME OR HAS SHIFTED.

FULLFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION:
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IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE REMEMBER
THAT WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER
TO BUILD **GOD'S** CHURCH NOT OUR
CHURCH!

BUILD YOUR HOUSE THE WAY YOU
WANT; BUILD GOD'S THE WAY HE
SAYS!!!!!!

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QUESTIONS
COMMENTS
OBSERVATIONS
TESTIMONIALS

NOW!!!! LET'S GO DO SOME BUILDING
TOGETHER!!!!