

Theological Worlds Application

Faith Formation

1. An encounter (retreat, Sunday School, etc) with youth or adults about the Worlds with the use of various media: music, film, true life stories
2. Composite learning groups that study a subject, scripture, or theme through the lens of a specific World. Note, we do not have to be primary in a World to use its lens.

Worship

1. Alternative liturgies, prayers, hymns/songs. You may approach the entire service through one World, or use the various pieces of liturgy to give voice to the service's theme from the perspective of the different Worlds.
2. You may play with the sacraments through the lens of the Worlds. The Eucharist can be about finding home, being renewed for the battle, taking into ourselves the Self, a sign of pardon, an acknowledgment of God's suffering with us. What are the prospects for baptism, a funeral, a wedding?

Stewardship

If it is true that congregations have "personalities," then it is also true that congregations will have primary Worlds from which they observe life as a community. Stewardship which takes on the language of the primary World will help articulate the purpose of church life, communicating the bigger picture beyond budgets and bottom lines.

With the Worlds in mind, we can raise our stewardship conversations to the level of "purpose," "meaning," and "struggle," which are the most pressing, yet least explored areas of stewardship understanding.

Pastoral Care

A crisis of faith – regardless of its origin – is a crisis of a particular obsessio to resolve itself within the accompanying epiphania. For example divorce for a W3 person will raise the question of “Who am I?” The same event for a W1 person will raise the issue of cosmic reality in the form of the question “What’s the purpose of falling in love?” Pastoral Care conducted with an understanding of the interplay of the Worlds can speak more directly to the primal obsessio raised by the crisis.

Administration

Different Worlds bring different gifts and attention to the administrating of our life together. The following chart is according to W. Paul Jones:

W1: WHOLENESS – organic sense of the relation of whole and parts

W2: VISION – drive toward what is worth accomplishing

W3: PROCESS – dynamic toward sensitive inclusiveness

W4: INHERITANCE – commitment to faithfulness

W5: CONTINUITY – determination to preserver together

Evangelism

Evangelism is our ability to tell our story, especially the story of the good news of our epiphanias as provided from the hand of God. Those sensitive to the Worlds can tell their good-news stories, and help others develop their own good news as we aid and point them to the gracious epiphania of God’s love.

Conflict

W. Paul Jones began insights about the Worlds while contemplating the growing conflict between “liberals” and “conservatives.” What he came to realize is that this simple dichotomous way of defining conflict was a misnomer. Other forces are at play – the clashing of Worlds. Understanding the Worlds will not eliminate conflict, but it might prove a bridge to understanding its source and aid in building appreciation for the other person’s point of view.