

## **Worship – Friday, August 18, 3:45-5:00 p.m.**

### **Worship03 – How to Begin a Recovery Ministry With a Wesleyan Spirit**

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**Description: The language of recovery resonates with the methodology of the Wesleyan Way. Workshop will focus on ways in which local churches can establish and sustain vital recovery ministries that will infuse the whole of the congregation with renewed focus on grace.**

- I. Genesis of Recovery Ministry at St. John's in Memphis.
  - a. Germ on an idea based on community/congregational needs.
  - b. A congregation with a mission centric/servant ministry focus.
  - c. Appointment of an associate pastor to plant a recovery ministry
    - i. Begins with a weekly 12 step group.
      1. Establishes the weekly life/presence of those in recovery in the Church.
      2. Bridges those in recovery from community with those in congregation who may at last seek to claim that need for themselves in their church.
    - ii. Simultaneously work to build infrastructure for a weekly service focused solely on recovery.
      1. Primary theological tenets:
        - a. Sanctuary as safe place, not merely name of worship space.
        - b. Radical hospitality from the time people come through the door until they walk out of it.
        - c. "We're gonna love ya, and there ain't nothing you can do bout it.
      2. Components of worship experience.
        - a. Food (meal) as sacramental.
        - b. Music that touches the heart.
        - c. Visitation with the 12 steps.
        - d. A talk about life in recovery.
        - e. Prayer – silence – serenity.
- II. The Way – A Service of Recovery (2:30 Video)
  - a. Why "The Way?"
  - b. Why Friday at 6:00 p.m.
  - c. Why the Sanctuary?
- III. The Wesleyan Ethos of a Recovery Experience

- a. The God-sized hole in our hearts, a matter of the spirit.
  - b. Richard Rohr's **Breathing Underwater** and the understanding of addiction as sin.
  - c. The role of the 12 Steps and Wesley's understanding of grace.
  - d. **The Big Book**, the **Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions**, and **The Upper Room**.
  - e. Use of sanctuary is vital. If your primary space where God is known and praised is too pretty to get a little messy, you must ask yourself if it's really a sanctuary.
  - f. A congregation must discern if it's willing to "submit to be more vile," to allow its space - the focal point of its common life, to be utilized in ways never imagined as tolerable. To do so is to engage gladly those seeking safe harbor, those who are persuaded it is impossible to find. It is more authentically evangelical and evangelistic than any program could ever be. If a congregation yields itself to the challenges and messes a ministry such as this is sure to bring, it transforms the spirit of the whole congregation with a deeper understanding of God's grace.
  - g. Not everyone in your church is going to love it, you therefore do it anyway.
- IV. Practical Considerations for a Recovery Service
- a. Recognize the strength of your own context and build from that.
  - b. The role of volunteers trained in total, radical hospitality is essential.
  - c. Music – must be good. Best done by area musicians. They must be paid.
  - d. The role of food as "sacrament" must be good, served meaningfully and gladly.
- V. Questions and Dialogue
- VI. Serenity Prayer – Reinhold Niebuhr

**God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.**

**Living one day at a time;  
enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will;  
that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
forever in the next. Amen.**