Reclaiming Our Calling for the Care of Souls

REVS. RACHEL & MATTHEW RHODES

Questions of Ordination

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with
energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Elders: Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Deacons: Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Congregational Care MYTHS

Congregational care should be the responsibility of the pastor

I can only care for people of my own generation

If I don't know what someone needs, I can't care for them.

If "they" want to feel a sense of belonging, "they" should get more involved

Congregational care should be the job of one committee

Younger people don't return my phone calls so they must not be interested in hearing from me

TRUTHS of Congregational Care

It's IMPORTANT—especially today!

The church will only go as far as its leaders are willing to go

It's about connectivity more than crisis!

Care looks different for different people

It should extend from first time visitors to long time members

Belonging in a church has more to do with who is in the pews than who is in the pulpit

Congregational Care SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS

Where in the church are we caring for people well? What kind of care are we best at (meals, cards, phone calls, etc)?

WEAKNESSES

How are we failing/struggling to provide care? Dependence on pastor? Care only focused on one generation?

OPPORTUNITTIES

Who could we reach that we're not already reaching with our care? What new shape could our care take?

THREATS

What will be difficult to overcome as we seek to expand our care? Are we limited in volunteers? Aging congregation/leadership?