

Currencies and Currents

Eric Law noted that a healthy congregation has six currencies or currents that run through them: *Relationship, Gracious Leadership, Time and Place, Truth, Wellness, and Money*. In **Holy Currencies: Six Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries**, he wrote that in a healthy church each of these currents swirl together in an endless cycle of pouring out and filling up. Much like a river or a creek join the rain from a storm and fill a lake, and heat in the summer or the breeze and the sun evaporate a pond, water is constantly in motion. Life in a church is much the same.

Fr. Law intentionally chose to overlay the concepts of energy and finance to capture a fullness of the economy of church. He puts forward it is only in the exchange and not the hoarding of these resources that can a congregation thrive.

As part of the interim process we will dive in and explore, uncover and interrogate the currents and currencies that flow through United in Faith on Irving Park Road. We will do this so we can together understand the depths of our gifts and strengths, as well as consider the shallow places that need to be filled up.

In the next weeks we will consider **Relationship**: “the internal and external networks of mutually respectful connections that leaders and members of a church have” (p. 11). We will consider how we are interconnected, how we influence our neighbors, and how our neighbors influence us. During Sunday worship we will begin with God in three persons as a relationship model for us and continue to explore the relationships among Jesus and the disciples. After church in late June we will gather around the lunch table to talk about our internal and external relationships. We will plumb our connections and note our disconnects. We will walk our neighborhood and meet our neighbors. We will reach out to the Alderman and check out city resources. We will consider the challenges to relationship that comes with living on Irving Park Road, as well as the rewards.

We have much to do! But over a meal or three and a cool glass of tea (or a moderate cup of wine) God’s work is easy, and the burden is light. (I’m certain that is what Jesus meant to say.) Nevertheless, we will feed (pour out) and be fed (fill up) as we share God’s bounty.

I am excited to enter this stage of reflection and imagination with you all!
Blessings and Peace to you!!

Pr. Jeanie