

How the Faith, Work, and Economics Initiative is impacting Trinity EFC

Having just returned from the Faith & Work Dialogue 2.0 Pastor's Summit at Camp Spofford, let me share briefly how last year's and this year's Summit have impacted Trinity EFC in Windsor, VT.

As a recipient of a generous grant enabling us to grow in our understanding of faith & work, our church leadership (13 people) read and discussed Every Good Endeavor, by Tim Keller, and Work Matters, by Thomas Nelson. We, then, crafted a 10-question survey for the church family and everyone who completed it was invited to attend small-group meal discussions hosted by the elders at a 4-Star local restaurant. We had over 80 people complete the surveys, and over 70 people attend the meals. After all the discussions, the ministry leaders and I took an overnight retreat to consider all the information we had gathered and ask God what our next steps should be.

We didn't sense God was leading us to some huge undertaking, but we have made some significant changes to our life as a body. These changes include:

- A 5-minute "Workplace Interview" on the third Sunday of the month, with an individual answering 3 questions: What do you do? How do you see God at work? How do you glorify God at work?
- A four-part sermon series on God@Work, looking at God's Work, Hard Work, Just Work, and Good Work. A Sunday School class is also "digging deeper" into the implications of this teaching on our lives.
- A "Vocational Map" of our region in the church lobby, with pushpins indicating where people work. The pins are color-coded according to vocational areas (tradespeople, education, healthcare, etc). We also highlight a "Vocation of the Month," listing the names of people in a particular vocation, so we can pray specifically for those people.
- Praying for a local "Business of the Month," asking the business owner for things we could pray for, and highlighting the business on the first Sunday of the month, as well as in the weekly prayer email to the church body.

This year's Pastor's Summit challenged leaders to consider ways to minister in the community as a "hand up" rather than a "hand out." With Trinity leading the operation of the Windsor Food Shelf, this was a very relevant topic. I'm thankful that our Food Shelf Coordinator, Brad Willey, attended the Summit with me, and am excited to see what ideas are implemented as a result of the Summit teaching and discussions.

The Pastor's Summits have been a huge boost for us at Trinity EFC. I am so thankful for Peter Fiorello and the staff at Camp Spofford for their forward thinking and generous hospitality in making this possible. These events have been critical catalysts for our Kingdom calling as a church.