

Session Three – Moving Forward Together
REGIONAL MEETINGS
Diocesan Gathering 2010

What is our Vision for the Region?

Region:	WESTERN NEWCASTLE	
Facilitator & Participants	Facilitator: Participants: See attached registration sheet	
PAST		PRESENT
Where have we Been?		Where are we Now?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Single income families; ▪ Church was community – social event; ▪ There was nothing else, people wanted to be part of the Church as an outlet for socialising. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two incomes required to provide adequate standard of living – struggle to survive; ▪ People busy earning money on Sundays – shift work; ▪ Cultural/economic changes over time have changed the landscape; ▪ Does Mass need to be at different times? ▪ Too much to do now/so many options and choices; ▪ Info overload; ▪ Well educated and questioning generations – what answers is the Church providing? ▪ Time poor – people do not commit to things; ▪ Hard to be a welcoming community if you can't be involved without being through an indoctrination. People don't feel welcome; ▪ People know that things have changed and feel that if they came back, they will feel a misfit, so don't return; ▪ Cultural context – instant communication – youth are ahead of everyone else in this respect, so how do we approach this? ▪ Region has been pastoral planning for 20 years, foundations

	<p>are the nuts and bolts that will help the region move forward;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Should we be looking at Hillsong etc. to see what it is that they are doing right? ▪ Wallsend Baptist community are very involved in community events. They are doing things to reach out to the community. We need to set up a process to welcome/encourage people to church; ▪ Cornerstones help, but we need to develop our own processes around them; ▪ Need a strategy for what we should do when people come to our parishes – need processes in place at a diocesan level; ▪ Beauty of our church is the communio aspect/relationship.
FUTURE	
What are our Hopes for the Future? Where Would we Like to Be?	How Are We Going to Get There?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To see some of the wonderful faces that are missing from the pews in our parishes; ▪ How can we facilitate the magical music (like WYD) with the Mass? ▪ We need parishes to have funding to gain the musicianship within the churches. Kids need to understand liturgical music so that they have a joyful experience ; ▪ Network of youth involvement; ▪ We are facing a future without parishes, or at least centres. We will need liturgies/trained people. Planning and formation needs to happen; ▪ We need to form people to want the communion experience but need to do it in an inspiring way. We have the best news, we need a way of allowing the Holy Spirit to really move people. Encouraging the community to join in with the Eucharist; ▪ Evangelisation – need to develop something for the kids (pre-Mass), e.g. Mark Spencer explaining things in the church to kinder orientation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make every person welcome and connected; ▪ Follow up and communicate with people willing to be involved; ▪ In-reach – do we need to make the Church more attractive to someone who is thinking about their faith? ▪ Identify what we have that no one else has – relationship with Christ and a community that comes together to celebrate that (although we do not have a mortgage on this); ▪ Better links between churches and schools (already fantastic community within schools). How do we improve the communication? ▪ In rural areas where there is already a shortage – what are those communities doing/what are the lay people doing? ▪ To re-engage, to welcome, to reach out, to plan for the short-term future, to communicate.