



6. Imagining a Future

Barbara Rossing

What might Christianity look like 100 years from now?

Will it survive its buffeting in the contentions between science and religion?

Will future generations see Christianity as quaint or irrelevant?

Can we learn to accommodate doubt, and greater diversity of thought that now fragments us?

Can we find ways to free people from childhood faith to a more robust, adult faith that embraces justice issues, race, immigration, economic disparity, the challenge of the environmental crisis...?!

Young people bring much hope!

Can we free our pastors to share, to speak of the broader landscapes of Christianity and speak freely of their own perspectives?

BB Scott

The importance of safe space

Churches need to be safe spaces of discovery, and allow people to explore anything

RH Evans

Need to make church safe space... sacred space!

"Doubt groups" where people meet to talk honestly about their doubts

Jan Philips

Complications that accompany belief systems - makes it frightening for some to let such beliefs go

Spong

People need to be able to lay down their fears; one can not push a person to let go of their fears

Evans & Dowd

Can a person hold on to literal beliefs and still accept science?

Yes

BB Scott

We've spun an anti-imperial figure - Christ - into the Empire!

Constantine bequeathed to us an imperial vision - to be the only true religion

M Fox

We need a deeper celebrative dimension to our worship (even using new technology and styles of celebration), as we also need the contemplative side

Worship can be fun, and it should be!

Should incorporate new art forms

Clayton

Worship - taking the world around us and seeing it in the light of God

We allow each other to be in process

Spong

Thinking of God in different categories

-Ground of Being

-Source of Love

-Source of Life

...worship by living fully

Being fully human and understanding God go hand in hand

Clayton

Bridging

Through history, we've put a lot of energy into wall-building

Dowd

"Religion 2.0" where faith traditions embrace science and evolution

In this time, we're asking questions about the institution

Clayton

Finding the face of Christ in the other (in the face of the other, in the mind of the other, in the poetry of the other...)

Sanguin

Awakened into this creative process - what it is to be created in God's image
Process of becoming

Clayton

Allow our belief to be emerging
Open-ended exploration
Evolving church

Philips

Extension of the Big Bang

Vosper

Story from Bible [Jesus] can inspire us to pour our lives out for the sake of others, and to change our little parts of the world

Fox

Christianity has to simplify
Backpacks instead of basilicas!
Blending with other traditions
"A spiritually evolutionary global village"

Closing

"Season of Creation" (Sanguin poem)

Pastor Tyler's notes on the session
www.GloriaDeiWinnipeg.org