

May 7, 2019

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Last Thursday, we hosted a meeting of all the Episcopal churches in Southern Montgomery County, and specifically, those six located inside the Beltway.

The gathering was part of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's strategic planning process, an opportunity for clergy and parishioners to talk about their churches – what's healthy and working well, what's not clear, what's "stuck."

As the meeting got underway, the consultant facilitating the meeting introduced himself, and then asked, "Why do we exist?"

He was talking about our individual churches.

"Why do we exist?"

The room was filled with silence for a bit, one of those awkward pauses that comes when people don't know what to say, or are reluctant to speak up.

Finally, a few hands went up, and there were some great answers:

To be Christ's hand and feet in the world.

To celebrate and mourn together in community.

After the meeting was over, I thought more about the consultant's question, and it occurred to me that the question was simple and straightforward, one we all should be able to answer easily, and yet, a good answer might be hard to articulate on the spot.

Maybe that is why the room was silent for a while.

How would you answer the consultant's question?

Why does Grace Church exist?

See you in church,
Andrew