

Who Owns Religious Education?

Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Rev. March 2012

Note: This session has two focuses: congregational and individual (indented). It can be used as written, or taken as congregational focus and individual focus separately. It may be used in a retreat setting in which a longer time may be available.

Opening words:

The minister “owns” the worship service.

The music director “owns” the choir.

The sexton “owns” the building.

The administrator “owns” the office.

Who “owns” religious education?

Check in: How are you today?

Topic/Activity:

When religious education is a vital part of the church community, who gets the credit?

When there are concerns, challenges – and even problems – who gets the blame?

Who is expected to “carry” the program?

What vision do you have for religious education?

How have you shared your vision? With whom? What happens when you share your vision?

How does this vision relate to your spiritual practice or spiritual journey?

What vision of religious education does the congregation hold?

How can you move together on areas of common vision?

What happens when there are different visions?

How do you see your role and the work you do within the context of the total congregation?

How do you interact within the congregation? With whom? When? How?

Talk about the impact that you have or have had in your setting.

Chec-out/Likes and wishes: How was the session for you?

Closing words:

“Owning” is claiming possession of that which is due or owed.

“Owning” is receiving recognition that your work has merit.

“Owning” is commitment to sustaining something of worth.

“Owning” is a spiritual practice.

“Owning” with others is a spiritual endeavor.

“Owning” as we move through time together is engagement for the future.

Helen Zidowecki