

Following his final lesson in the series on Re-imagining the Church, Patrick Mead had lunch with several visiting couples who were new to Highland View and to the churches of Christ in general. Here is what Patrick had to say about his discussion with these visitors:

From: Patrick Mead
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2009 11:29 AM
To: Ray Smith
Subject: Sermon today and a bit more

Ray,

Thank you for your kind email! I was so glad to get to see you again. I pray that Curtis is well and back on his feet again. I regretted not being able to see him.

I had a two hour lunch with the ladies from the Vineyard Church. In fact, they called their husbands (who'd been on a retreat that weekend) and had them meet us. They were fascinated by some of the history of the Church of Christ and had tons of questions about the worship service. One of the goals you might want to work on is to make your worship times more seeker friendly. They were puzzled by the singing -- of course -- but that is normal; most aren't aware of our choice to sing acapella. There may be several ways to make the singing more up to date, but I hesitate to offer suggestions since I am not really acquainted with the dominant culture in the area. The Lords Supper confused them. I heard their whispers and consternation as soon as the men stood up and launched into prayer. There was no explanation on the what, why, or -- very important -- the how. We go through it almost every service: "We take a piece of bread to remember Jesus and the church" and we also let visitors know that they are welcome to join us. That would have saved the ladies quite a bit of angst.

I think they would welcome an approach by you (your spirit would be a good match for theirs), Loretta, or Miss Evelyn.

Please use me as a resource via phone or email whenever the vision team or elders have a question or want an idea. God bless you and all the believers at Highland View. You are a blessing to my life.

Patrick