

A Personal Invitation... Ray Jones, our Key note preacher/speaker, from the Office of Evangelism & Church Growth in Louisville, during our Convocation Nov. 10-12 to eat, consult with him

WHEN: @ Sunrise Presbyterian Church Friday during lunch time or

@ Sunrise Presbyterian Church Saturday, immediately following the end of the Presbytery meeting

*Wondering, want to explore how your church can be more vibrant? How the Holy Spirit might re-ignite our PASSION and love for Jesus?*

*How might we shift from a 'membership mindset' to being and growing disciples of Jesus Christ, sharing the Good News, becoming the church God is calling us to be in our context and community?*

A personal note from Ray,

"I AM EXCITED ABOUT BEING BACK IN MONTANA! I COUNT IT A PRIVILEGE TO COME ALONGSIDE YOU IN MINISTRY AND LOOK FORWARD TO OUR TIME TOGETHER IN WORSHIP, WORKSHOPS, FELLOWSHIP.

ENGAGING THE CULTURE: We will explore the implications of doing ministry in a radically changing culture. How does the church engage mission in a very different cultural context? For many people in our culture, the church is no longer on their radar, especially in Montana. The church is irrelevant. One of the toughest issues before people inside the church is the notion that people outside the church are not entertaining the idea of trying out church. Therefore, we must be with people outside the church on their own turf. We must be trained as 'missionaries' for our surrounding culture.

ENGAGING THE GOSPEL: We will remember and examine our own stories of transformation in Christ and the story of God's mission in scripture. We will learn to share our faith stories and the story we find ourselves in through scripture. We will learn how each of us is authentically wired to share our stories.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY: We will look at how we can discern what God is *already doing* in our communities and how we can join God in God's mission. Also, we will look at our own spheres of influence.

ENGAGING DISCIPLESHIP: We will explore what it means to be a disciple making community. It is through discipleship that justice and evangelism are understood as being part of the same ministry and mission.

I will be in Montana before, during and after the Convocation, and would love to meet with you to talk about how the ENGAGE resource we are producing can be tailored for *your congregation and* context. As I think about such a gathering, I am excited to share with you some of the ways we are experiencing other churches use the resource to grow and to make a difference in their communities. One of the important things is that this resource is *not a program*; it is designed as a *process*. And this process simply begins with our own renewal. So, part of what we could do together is pray and go a little deeper into our own lives of faith. I continue to believe that sharing our own stories of faith together brings us closer to God's purpose and mission for our lives."

*For those of you in Yellowstone, our partners in piloting this resource and process, if you could you bring your copy of the ENGAGE booklet it will help as we have run out of our third printing.*