

Naming tomorrow's church

Carol Penner

What will we call next year's church? Every name is taken. Church of God, Church of Christ, Church of the Holy Spirit, Grace Church, Church of the Sermon on the Mount, Church of the Saved, Church of the Redeemer, the Apostolic Church, the Disciples Church, the First Church, the Best Church, the One True Church, my Church.

We have named them all.

But the world is pregnant with next month's church, and it doesn't have a name yet.

We have hopes and dreams formed from our best practices and deepest disappointments. A church where God is present, mysterious and creative.

A church where Jesus is worshiped.

A church where the Holy Spirit enlivens and moves.

Praises are sung, prayers are breathed, the word is preached, service is rendered, confessions are made, offerings are accepted, brothers and sisters are embraced, the poor are comforted, the Lord's table is crowded.

The church of next week grows and stirs, wanting to be born.

A church confident yet humble, centred but diverse, conservative and radical, tactful and unapologetic, faithful, playful, joyful, devout.

The birth pangs begin.

Who will name tomorrow's church?

About the author

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