

Mixed Ecology Church Scenario: The Coffee Shop Conversation

This scenario will be used during the breakout group session that explores the mixed ecology model of ministry.

Please review it in advance of Synod.

A parishioner from your Anglican church often chats with a local couple at a neighbourhood coffee shop. The couple help run a small book reading group for people who describe themselves as interested in the link between the brain, wellbeing and spirituality.

Recently, one of them mentioned reading Lisa Miller's book, "The Awakened Brain," and said it had stirred something in them—a longing for exploring things more spiritual. They asked whether the church ever offers anything for people interested in discussing books or exploring spirituality.

They made it clear they're not interested in attending Sunday worship or meeting the rector one-to-one—but they are deeply curious about the more spiritual side of the Christian faith. This is not the first time that members of the parish council have heard this need coming from people living or working in the local neighbourhood.

The parishioner asks: "What should I say? Is there anything we could offer them?"

Discussion Question

How could your church respond to this spiritual curiosity without expecting participation in Sunday worship?