QUESTION:
“How can the church best respond to the growing trend for young adults to seek some other spiritual alternatives?”

DESCRIPTION OF WORK DONE & FINDINGS:
The room was overflowing with energy from millennials, Gen X, and boomers. Many young adults were present from our college chaplaincy programs (Episcopal Church at Yale, UCONN at Storrs, Trinity College in Hartford). Note: There are 31 colleges in Connecticut. Table conversations named a number of particular areas where parishes could engage young adults – including:

Ideas:
1. A worshipping community for/by for young adults
2. YAE – Young Adult Episcopalians – gathering as a community (coming from their own parish community) – gives critical mass and nurtures a sense of community and connection that they don’t find in their church; leaders are young adults; there IS a ministry network (New Haven area – SC Region)
3. Offer experiences / programs that you would want to invite your friends to
4. Small group / home based around a meal
5. Welcome/Invite local college students to church for a meal after church

Insights:
• Listening is so important
• As ECCT (which is us in our worshipping congregations) we need to be authentic – to go deep spirituality, experiencing the transcendence of God
• Food is important – offering meals in small groups
• Young adults are interested in community, God, and social justice – the three go together
• Invite young adults into leadership – vestry, delegates, etc.
• Don’t “import the outside” that other denominations/non-denominations offer – keep our focus on our Episcopal ethos (despite the tendency to want to copy what “seems” to work elsewhere)
EXPERIMENT:

1. Action: LISTEN to the young adults in your midst. If we have no young adults in our midst – why do we think this is? How is each of our worshipping communities talking about this? What if each person at this convention started this conversation in their worshipping community. If you have no young adults – why do you think this is? (and it has nothing to do with children or church school)

2. Action: Approve resolution “Young Adults: Evangelism and God’s Mission”

3. Action: names were gathered for a group will convene (no point person established – consideration for task force).