

EC05
Neomonasticism - Rachelle Mee-Chapman
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background of neomonastic - rochelle was planting a vineyard church, but it wasn't working, so it moved to the house church.. wanted to be together, worship together, etc. experimented to find the non-cloistered, life that was similar to the celtic traditions.

types of: new monasticism, new monasticism, alt monasticism

monkfishabbey : why? at the pikes fish market they have a big ugly monkfish, so seattle folks know the monkfish and embrace it within the art community. also called the poor man's lobster, so it has accessibility. and it has correlation's to monks, fishers of people, etc.

principles

- try to be intentional about community outreach
- a spiritual growth community
- try to adhere to a rhythm to life
- time is a precious commodity that we use with intention
- the rhythms followed are the church year, judaic year, and neopagen seasons
- pay attention to how the seasons affect, work, play, rest
- blended living, you don't want your religious life to be about sunday mornings, how to make that real.. "blur the lines between the holy and profane"
- value conversations of being before and in the presence of God
- "probably spend most of our mission money on beer"
- multiple levels of belonging, in many settings you only really belong if you spend most of your time in the work of the church and believe in the doctrinal belief, so we don't require a subscription to a set of doctrine beliefs. in monastic rule you have levels, so we have neighbors (people we see), partygoers (people who come to our parties, but not service), monks (with us all the time, some live in the home), intentional neighboring monks (other abbeys).
- super strong sense of place, the rule of stability. no covenant for life but people are able to move through, but if you are part of the community then you have to love and serve seattle
- welcome pilgrims, people who come and stay as they travel
- everything we do is connected to where we live
- questions on principles
 - role of kids in belonging? the kids are with through dinner, lead the dinnertime prayers (or drums). something that the kids can do is done most nights. examples of utilizing art. when we separate from the adults for adult quiet time we want to engage them in Godly play. "soul crafting" the intentionality to help families teach their children. in the summers we mooch off of every vbs in town. the last things our children need is to go to "disneyland" and try to learn about God
 - do you worry about safety? and boundaries? we get references from people who know the folks coming in. no one ever has said no to it. we talk to the kids about who they can climb on and not climb on. who in our community is okay, we call them auntie's and uncle's.
- our rule
 - it's not chastity, obedience, etc.
 - most can't handle the word rule, so we say we have a "trellis" (?) people we have are all over the spectrum, so we can't say that we are organized.

- we organize around practices:
 - practicing the practice of presence : being present is very important to us especially in a consumer society.. consuming experience is another level.. when you think about the next thing you can experience to be cool, etc.
 - sabbath keeping : it can look many ways, but some sort of rest weekly
 - Ignatian examen : asking how have you seen God today, weekly and seasonally, book “sleeping with bread”
 - contemplative prayer : basil pennington on “centering prayer, “ recognizing that God is active with us and coming to that
 - meditations : various forms of mediation, light meditation
 - lectio divina : sinking into the text, both scriptural and none scriptural that reveals Godly truths
 - art : usually when we do things we always do with art
 - ordinary attempts : from “off the map” evangelism for the rest of us.. honestly though it’s being nice to people, checking in with folks, paying attention to others. the struggle is, is that intentional or is that manipulative.. it doesn’t feel like that to me because it’s out of love, but others struggle with it as people are objects to gain for God
 - hospitality : openness, but with some parameters as to using the house. parties : people stay overnight. steeple : use the front yard as part of outreach.. garden in the front yard, meet in front lawn in spring, a swing for children.. those are our steeple things for hospitality
 - outreach : meals for new moms, etc.
 - comradry : work to be something that we are a “real” family, see the connections, practice presence, encircling prayer
- “i’m not fighting with people about religion, i’m dancing in the overlap and their dancing with me”
- as abbess, i try to help people in the community shine, whatever that means, i try
- i think that a way to lead postmodern people is to practice leadership by influence and experience, try to inspire who their supposed to be
- most folks see church as a place to get plugged in to get goods and service. people become like “appliances”

- q&a

- how do you get money, pay the bills? the practice of tithing to abbey and other places they are passionate about. want to give money to elsewhere, but i feel that many have fallen out of giving. they give enough to cover childcare and communal expenses. they are responsive to rally with money to cover hardships of community members
- do you use the bible? only use scripture in lectio divina. most of our members would gag with it. we do celebrate the stories. right now we are really bible light
- conversational practices? right now utilize the conversation. if people talked about an experience relate to what scripture says, etc. have yet to have a baptism, which i am waiting for but no one has expressed an interest
- communion ritual? communion each week with each meal and have written a liturgy, does change slightly with the season
- statement: sharing practices in life is much more than tools and gathering the language
- we check in a lot with our mentors and assess what is happening in the community so that we do not lead people astray
- i think people can be saved through sacrament, i’m a sacramentalist
- what are resources? “12 marks of new monasticism” “celtic way of evangelism” “prayers of seasons” by Phyllis Tickle “celtic book of daily and night prayer”
- social justice, interacting with anti-globalization? we talk a big talk, grump about it, not

so good at follow through. we work at more personal and small examples primarily that source families to create a footing.

- youth ministry? “soul shaper” book, teach to keep a sabbath
- how a person add more of a rhythmic life if i don’t have many opportunities?
sabbath keeping and examen are great starts “practicing our faith”
www.practicingourfaith.org “mudhouse sabbath”

- “they dig Jesus, they just cannot stomach the church!”