Small group work

Models related to the work: Shape of the Parish, I-C-O group development.

1. We'd like you to jump into a task in which you explore several issues and dynamics of parish life. To do that you will need to make a leap beyond what are the most obvious discussions, e.g., "What does your shape of the parish (the circles) look like" or "I don't understand or agree with this part of the model. Let's talk about that." We hope those matters were covered in an earlier session.

2. Begin with some form of connecting – the group can decide how to do that. Take into account how much time you want to give to it.

3. Then explore the Shape of the Parish model

First, Explore the relationship between the I-C-O group development model and Shape of the Parish. What does inclusion look like for the Stable Sacramental, for the tentative, for the C&E, for the Apostolic? What does having an Apostolic climate mean in regard to the control aspect of I-C-O

Then, by engaging one or both of these issues.

- What does that mean to tilt the parish's climate toward the apostolic? What would need to change in your parish?
- How can your parish maintain an overall Apostolic climate that offers people an invitation to move forward in their spiritual life, while also not becoming so heavy, or artificially pious in a way that discourages and puts-off most parishioners (who are not apostolic or progressing)? How does your parish manage that polarity now? What may need to change?

Extra – if you have completed what you want to do with the above material. Apply thjeI-C-O model to your group. How has inclusion, control and openness unfolded in your group?