



Comparison of Appreciative Inquiry and Problem Solving

Appreciative Inquiry Approach – Comparison

A mindset for listening and planning, building on our strengths

Problem Solving (medical diagnosis approach)

- Identify the problem (symptoms)
- Determine the cause (diagnosis)
- Propose a solution (prescription)
- Implement it (treatment)

“Parish is a problem to be solved.”

Appreciative Inquiry (life-centered approach)

- Identify what gives life
Discover “what is”
- Imagine ways to enhance life
Dream “what could be”
- Co-construct the ideal
Design “what should be”
- Empower innovation
Do “what will be”

“Parish is a mystery of life to be embraced.”

Apply Appreciative Inquiry Principles to any of these tools:

- Historicizing
- Surveys
- Interviews
- Community Meeting (Town Hall)
- Focus Groups

See instructions and samples following, along with article:
[An Introduction to Appreciative Inquiry](#) by Rick Krivanka

