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Poster Presentation Outline

What do these Stones Mean? Developing a Curriculum for Teaching Peace in East Belfast

I. The Issue: Creating a religious education curriculum for the East Belfast Mission

A. Context: The opening of new building and launching of new project, the Skainos Project, a £21 million urban regeneration project, in one of the one of the poorest counties in the United Kingdom, and in the center of ongoing community violence.

B. The design for the building was intentionally theological and shaped by a commitment to peacebuilding and conflict transformation. However, it is not clear that the architectural vision is understood by many users of the builder or members of the congregation.

C. This is a missed opportunity for community formation and religious education of the East Belfast Mission congregation.

D. Therefore, I propose the creation of a religious education curriculum, for primary school aged children, youth and adults, that makes explicit what is currently an implicit curriculum.

II. Main Concepts

A. Influence of architectural design and space on users

B. Community development and urban regeneration

C. Theology of peacebuilding and conflict transformation

D. Education as a form of peacebuilding

III. Methodology and Methods Used

A. To understand context of EBM and significance of Skainos Project:

1. Ethnographic Research (participant observation, personal interviews)

2. Archival and secondary source research (history of The Troubles, history of EBM, etc.)

B. To create religious education curriculum

1. Analysis of architectural design (photographs, sketches)
2. Theological reflection (by EBM leaders and congregants, by author)
3. Curriculum design (drawing on Understanding by Design and other resources)
4. Pedagogical theory (liberatory pedagogy, experiential education, peace education, embodied learning, etc.)

III. Sources

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Orr, Philip. *New Loyalties: Christian Faith and the Protestant Working Class*. Belfast: Centre for Contemporary Christianity, 2008.

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IV. Media Requests and Set-Up

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