



When I have done this all across the country, I have people name their coordinates (like “my location is C-8”), and I simply place an X at that spot. As the group, one by one, places themselves and see the locations, the graph always becomes a loose scattering of Xs, and the group sees visually how diverse they really are—even though EVERY possible position on the graph is well within what some people see as an “orthodox” position. A lot becomes clear as we realize that we in the church really are a rich collection of folks, and not at all defined by specific rational or theological positions.

Look at the graph. It’s shape, overall, is that of a cross. The crucial dynamic of every congregation is that those Xs, representing each one of us, are not stationary, but moving, moving as if in orbit around the center of the cross. Every week, we, the dispersed Xs, are drawn back to the center of the cross, where we are renewed in the activity of worship. For me, that is the Eucharist, where we take into our lives and bodies the bread and wine of the sacrament. I have no doubt that many on the graph have other ingredients of worship that are more