

Workshops Session 1: Tues. 10:15am

Sent Out Two by Two: The Transformational Power of Collaborative Ministry

In Luke 10, Jesus sends his disciples out two by two to begin their ministry. Solitary ministry was never the goal, yet our church models can't seem to break out of this or hierarchical models of leadership and ministry. Based on their experience at their parish in Brooklyn, NY Mothers Sarah and Kimberlee will talk about the transformational power of collaborative leadership and how it serves as a model for discipleship and leading a God centered life.

Kimberlee Auletta & Sarah Kooperkamp, Co-Priests-In-Charge at Holy Apostles, Brooklyn, NY

Location: Room M207

Case study of a congregation focused on discipleship

The Christian religion is in flux There is division and disagreement. There is anxiety and apprehension. Some argue the church has lost its way. Some just say church doesn't matter... which seems to be a core mantra in Seattle, the city of my ministry. And yet, in this self-proclaimed none city, Epiphany Parish has nearly quadrupled its ASA in the last ten years. There are many reasons for this, but key among them is our ability to create a culture built upon the ancient practices of spiritual formation, where the unity of action overshadows the debates of doctrine. These exercises are applied against time and matter. The actions that engage time are daily prayer, weekly worship, Sabbath, observance of liturgical patterns, and pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The actions that engage matter are fasting and tithing. These are important practices to understand as they are core to the ethos of Epiphany Parish. This workshop is for those who would like to hear how this, "spiritual practices culture" has developed at Epiphany and who wish to have a conversation about how this culture might be planted and grown in his/her own parish.

Doyt Conn, Rector of Epiphany Parish, Seattle

Location: St. Francis A

Empowering Lay Leaders

As a church that confesses a priesthood of believers, cultivating leaders, is a core to our mission. In this workshop, you will learn about a model that invites members who are not in formal leadership in the church into an experience that teaches gives them a foundation understanding of the various ministries of church, provides deeper connection with other parishioners and gives them confident to step into leadership rolls.

Mary Davis Smart, educator and long-time lay leader at Christ Church, Charlotte

Location: St. Francis B

Justice-Making in a Disciple's Rule of Life

Mindful that justice is what God's love looks like in the public square, Miguel Escobar will look at justice-making in two contemporary examples of Rules of Life, including the Rule for a Jesus-Centered Life presented by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry at the 79th General Convention. He will offer practical suggestions for incorporating this work into our own.

Miguel Escobar, Director of Anglican Studies at Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary

Location: Green Room

Workshop Session 2: Tues, 1:30pm

Discipleship: Tending Your Flock of Young People

Navigating through the thickets and the briars in the pastures known as “Youth Ministries” can be challenging & yet it is one of the most exciting and joyful ministries within our Church! Join the flock while we share spiritual practices that invite our youth and the adults who accompany them into greener pastures where they can hear the voice of The Shepherd in the midst of busy schedules, travel, sports, etc.

Cookie Cantwell, Province IV Youth Ministries Coordinator & Youth Ministries Coordinator, St James Parish, Wilmington, NC
Location: Room M207

Deep speaks to deep: Going from church worker to spiritual leader without losing half the church

Most lay people come to church to connect with God. Too often, however, they find themselves handed a busy church job. Most clergy want to share their “first love”—the intimate call of God—but find themselves distracted by property, finance and institutional demands. How do we make space in this time post-Christendom moment to re-orient? How do we learn to find words for and speak about the spiritual experiences that transform our lives? How do we keep the church community together as we shift the culture to the first principles: the Way of Love? This practical workshop will offer ways to activate lay spiritual leadership by: establishing a culture of spiritual growth, building lay confidence with spiritual practices, and helping leaders find words for their spiritual encounter. We will look at the Revive program as one possible resource for activating and equipping lay spiritual leadership that changes the church organically.

Dawn Davis, Faith Formation Coordinator for the Diocese of Niagara in Canada & creator of Revive, a new offering from Forward Movement, to help parishes facilitate growth in spiritual vitality.
Location: Green Room

Communication for Connection

True discipleship requires connection. Connection with God, with ourselves, and with others. We are wired for connection and how we communicate is critical to developing lasting connections. In this workshop, we will look at our innate need for connection, the biggest obstacles to effective communication, and what you can do to move past those obstacles. Plus, simple tools you can use to strengthen your discipleship efforts.

Makeda Pennycooke, Lay member of the Adult Formation Team at Christ Church, Charlotte
Location: St. Francis B

Discipleship and Public Policy

Discipleship includes using our voices to speak out against injustice. But what does this look like at the intersection of the church and our government, particularly given our current political climate? Learn how the ministry of faith-based policy advocacy can enrich our relationships with each other and compliment the tangible outreach ministries of our church. Also learn how the Office of Government Relations represents church policies from General Convention and Executive Council, and how you can get involved through the Episcopal Public Policy Network.

Alan Yarborough, Communications Coordinator and Office Manager for the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations
Location: St. Francis A

Workshop Session 3: Tues, 2:45pm

Equipping Disciples for Ministry

Following Jesus example of calling disciples for ministry, we are entrusted with teaching and mentoring people of the spiritual journey. In a spirit of growing, learning and humility, we will explore how offer experiences that invite, empower and equip disciples.

Jenny Beaumont, Director of Adult Spiritual Formation at Christ Church, Charlotte
Location: Green Room

Knowing Our Story, So We Can Tell Our Story: Scripture Engagement in Your Congregation

Scott and Miriam will share their own stories of transformation from engagement with scripture, and they'll offer plenty of tips, tricks, and tools to get your congregation drawn into the wonder and awe of the Bible. There will also be plenty of time for you to share what has worked and to ask about what has not worked.

Miriam McKenney, Director of Development for Forward Movement &
Scott Gunn, Executive Director of Forward Movement
Location: St. Francis B

Missional Church: A Case Study of an Urban Congregation's Transformation

In 1992 All Saints, Chicago had 35 people on a Sunday, a collection of buildings in serious disrepair and a neighborhood belief that the church had closed. Twenty five years later All Saints, has the largest outreach ministry in the diocese, the largest church school attendance and the youngest average age attender. Four capital campaigns later the church is routinely noted as an architectural gem and the congregation's campus has expanded. On an average Tuesday evening, more than 300 neighbors gather to stem the tide of hunger, while creating community, on Sunday mornings a similar number gather to break bread and feed their souls. All Saints' transformation has come through 25 years of steadfastly embracing missional ministry as the most critical aspect of congregational life. In this workshop, we'll use this story and the principles this congregation has used to construct a framework for other congregations' renewal and resurrection.

Bonnie Perry, Rector of All Saints' Chicago
Location: Room M207

It's Not Just a Clergy Job: Lay Leadership for Discipleship (Panel Discussion)

In this workshop, lay leaders from several parishes will talk about their roles in helping to build a culture of discipleship in their own congregation. We will discuss what has worked and what has been challenging. Join this discussion with leaders from St. James', NYC, St. James', Wilmington, NC, Christ Church, Charlotte, among others.

Moderated by: Jay Sidebotham, Director of RenewalWorks
Location: St. Francis A

Workshop Session 4: Wed, 10:00 am

Christian Essentials: Ministry to Foster Spiritual Growth

Does your parish need a holistic approach to helping people live a Christ-centered life to deepen their faith and life with God? Come learn about The Christian Essentials and the customizable fifteen essentials to help participants explore, grow, and deepen their faith. Each session invites participants to learn relevant information, apply what they have learned to their faith journey, and build practices to deepen their relationship with God, neighbor, world, and self.

Amanda Anders, long-time member of Christ Church, Charlotte &
Matt Holcombe, Associate Rector for Spiritual Growth & Adult Formation at Christ Church Charlotte
Location: Green Room

Cultivating Youth as Leaders

Young people are members of the church and guiding them to step into leadership roles, take ownership of their faith and grow spiritually is a honor and responsibility of the church community. In this workshop will discuss ways to coach, guide and mentor young people through building authentic relationships.

Alice deVries, Youth Ministry Coordinator at Christ Church, Charlotte
Location: Room M207

Intentional Home Group Discipleship—Forming Disciples and Eradicating Aloneness

According to a recent study by Cigna, loneliness and lack of meaningful connection is one of the fastest growing health concerns in our country, a concern that stretches across our congregations. For many of our church members, finding meaningful relational connections in the midst of a busy modern life can be overwhelming. This is true for families, young adults, and our oldest parishioners, and a passing hello during the peace does not suffice as a meaningful interaction. In addition to the problem of connection, we as a church are also facing a crisis of formation – a crisis that is impacting the sustainability of congregations across the board. What if there was a way to address both needs at once? What if there was a way to begin to eradicate loneliness, while forming disciples? Would you try it? If so, then come and learn about the Ministry of Intentional Home Groups.

Jerusalem Greer, Author, Blogger, Speaker, & Director of Formation and Connecting at St. Peter's in Conway, AR
Location: St. Francis A

“Update This Place”

The Episcopal Asset Map is a grassroots populated site that challenges Episcopalians to think anew their relationship to their worshipping communities and whose job it is to tell the story of the church. It stretches our ability and confidence in owning the ways Christ is moving throughout community. This workshop will give practical skills that you can use in your context to empower church folks to embrace and share their faith, even in digital space.

Tamara Plummer, Program Officer for Asset Recognition at Episcopal Relief & Development
Location: St. Francis B

Extended bios for speakers can be found at:
renewalworks.org/events/discipleship-matters-presenters-and-speakers/