

Building an MDG Ministry in your Congregation

Overview

Building an MDG Ministry in your Congregation is for clergy and lay leaders who want support, materials and coaching to connect the MDGs to their Christian faith and develop MDG ministries in their congregations. We will meet on Saturdays January 12, 2008, February 2, 2008 and April 5, 2008; coffee and registration begin at 8:30, program meets from 9am – 12 noon. The location will be in the Durham-Greensboro area.

Sessions will combine practical information and reflection. Participants will receive: information about teaching resources on the MDGs and on connecting the MDGs to our Christian faith; strategies for developing an MDG leadership team in their congregation and ideas for linking local MDG ministries to ministries in other congregations, the Diocese and overseas.

Participants will form a learning group, sharing their experiences, reflecting on Biblical texts and themes and connecting the MDGs to their faith. Through journaling and guided reflection, participants will gain insight into their own passion for this work, to equip them to lead with power.

Participants will receive encouragement, support and resources to develop ministries at the congregational level that include, but are not limited to, budget, program and worship. Progress toward the MDGs will come as lay people act in the world on their passion and commitment for ending global poverty. Lay people need to be equipped to discern and act on opportunities to further the MDGs as they arise in secular contexts - professional, volunteer, civic and community-based. The church's role is to lift up the Gospel vision of reconciliation to God, others and self; to catalyze, sustain and nourish the laity's commitment to that vision and to make connections between that vision and the opportunity provided by the contemporary global movement for the MDGs.

Sessions

I. Introduction to the MDGs and planning for your congregation

Opening: Overview of program

Introduction to the MDGs: what they are and are not, where they came from and why they are important.

Context of global poverty, Anglican Communion, Episcopal Church, Diocese of NC.

Naming where we are starting from: Using an emerging typology participants will self-identify where they are and their next step.

Building coalitions of support: strategies for identifying and building support in the congregation: study groups, books groups, early adopters and usual suspects

Naming tasks before next session

Handouts:

- The Rev. Jay Lawlor's story of how he developed and MDG ministry in his congregation

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- Replicable handouts on MDGs, Millennium Campaign, ONE/Episcopal.
- Suggested reading list for study groups
- Web links to related groups and resources

II. Going Deep and Meeting Challenges

Opening: What happened at home since last meeting? Graces and challenges.

Identity and charism for an MDG ministry: Who are we as a congregation? What is our history and how have we been formed for this ministry? What gifts can we use that we already have?

How do the MDGs connect to my faith and express my longing?

Finding stories, images and language that express my faith, passion and energy.

Christian resources we can draw on: Scripture, Episcopal tradition, reason and experience.

Local experiences my community can draw on to connect us to the MDGs

Resistances and tough questions we can anticipate.

Handouts:

- Prompts for journaling and reflection
- Characteristics of stories that persuade
- Links for worship materials, bulletin inserts, information about MDGs and other Christian groups, The Episcopal Church, The Anglican Communion, Interfaith groups.

III. Planning Ahead for the Next Phase

Opening: Where are we in our program, what's working and not?

Widening the circle of support within the congregation: going deeper and broader

Linking to structures: Worship, Education, Youth, Buildings and Grounds, Leadership

Following the money: connecting to your budget cycle

Where do we give?

Handouts:

- Liturgical resources (prayers of the people, stations of the cross, seasonal liturgies)
- Optional form for calculating 0.7%
- Principles for responsible gifting.

Cost: Cost is \$150 per person for three sessions. Because of the experiential nature of the program, participants are expected to attend all sessions. No discount or refund for missing a session. Enrollment limited to 15.

Date and Time: Saturdays January 12, 2008; February 2, 2008 and April 5, 2008. Coffee and registration 8:30am - 9:00am; Program 9:00am – 12:00.

Location: Durham or Greensboro

Registration deadline: December 15. Registration and payment will be handled by the School for Ministry.