The Holy Spirit Works in the Congregational Revitalization of Southwest Florida


The Office of the Bishop is looking to document and share how the Holy Spirit is moving our congregations to revitalize and energize new ministries, worship and community in the Diocese of Southwest Florida. This ongoing community process will direct a targeted flow of resources and support to congregations at the right time to improve growth and effectiveness in local ministry, worship and community.

Consider these four questions for conversations about revitalization and fresh expressions of ministry, worship and community at your congregation:

1. “What in God’s name is going on” in your world that you can be a part of?
2. What fresh expressions of Christian community, ministry and worship do you feel called toward?
3. What do you need to meet this call? (funds, expertise, connections, training, support, …)
4. How does it work? (Logistically and spiritually – how can we support and learn from you?)

In the words from Timothy Rees in Abbot’s Leigh (Hymn 511), the Holy Spirit is “working through the Church’s ministry: quickening, strengthening and absolving.”

- Local church leaders discern the direction that is relevant to their congregation and community
- Diocesan leaders and resources support and link these goals to the life and offerings of the larger church
- The diocesan community encourages and celebrates the life of the Holy Spirit among us

Whether you are well underway or just starting to discern, engage in our diocesan continuing conversation this fall:

**The Diocesan Convention October 19-20, 2012 in Punta Gorda, FL**

Workshop: What in God’s Name is Going on Here? Engaging New Audiences.

- Come join Tom Brackett and Bob Honeychurch as they explore:
  - new roles for leaders as they bless the new life that God is offering in our times
  - emerging metrics for missional ministries
  - training classes for those called to bless new expressions of God’s love for the world

“Resource Connection 2012”

Up to $150,000 to be distributed in December 2012 (similar distributions will continue in future years)

Beyond funds, expertise and connections to resources are ready to be mobilized (youth and family ministry, Hispanic ministry, congregation health, endowments and planned giving, campus ministry, communications and technology)

- Share your congregation’s answers to the four questions above and let us strengthen your efforts. Format the responses however it works best for your leadership and scenario. Submit communication by November 1, 2012 for consideration by Diocesan Council. Send to avickers@episcopalswfl.org with the subject line “Resource Connection 2012.”