Second Called to Transformation
ABCD facilitator formation workshop announced

[September 3, 2015] Samuel McDonald, Deputy Chief Operating Officer and Director of Mission for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, announced the second of two Called to Transformation Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) facilitator formation workshops will be held November 5 – November 8 at St. John’s Cathedral, Denver CO and the nearby Warwick Denver Hotel.

Applications and registrations are now accepted for the Denver workshop here: https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/abcddenver

Registration is $175 which includes room, all meals, handouts, etc. Transportation is not included. Seating is limited.

Deadline for the Denver event is October 5.

Note: Registration is now closed for the first workshop on September 14 to September 17, at the Toddhall Retreat Center, Columbia, IL (across from St Louis, MO).

Facilitator Formation Workshops
Called to Transformation Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) facilitator formation workshop is designed to train leaders in methods and tools to enhance local ministry and mission.

Called to Transformation is a partnership between the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and Episcopal Relief & Development. The Asset-Based Community Development online toolkit www.calledtotransformation.org and workshops were developed to train facilitators in leading a faith community in understanding the ABCD process, explained the Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson, Domestic Poverty Missioner for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

“Training people to use the Asset-Based Community Development to approach ministry switches the discernment to an asset view – what we have – from one focused on what we don’t have,” he said. “Asset-Based Community Development allows for a vital step in strategic planning in their communities.”

Asset-Based Community Development engages communities at a grassroots level to recognize local assets – such as people, buildings, relationships and even faith – and creatively envision how to use that abundance to achieve goals and imagine new forms of ministry. “This is why ABCD is so important,” said Sean McConnell, Episcopal Relief & Development’s Director of Engagement. “It builds on the gifts of individuals, congregations and organizations, and brings people together to transform their
communities. When people engage their own gifts in this way, they become more deeply invested in achieving the shared goals of the community."

Through the trainings, participants will learn about the theory and the practice of ABCD work, and then begin the process of creating a working plan to implement an Asset-Based Community Development project in their own ministry community.

“Those who complete the program also will be equipped to serve as facilitators for other communities that would benefit from this proven and theologically-based development methodology,” Stevenson added.

The Called to Transformation Asset-Based Community Development online toolkit and facilitator formation process were developed by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and Episcopal Relief & Development with assistance from the Beecken Center of the School of Theology at the University of the South. [http://beeckencenter.sewanee.edu/](http://beeckencenter.sewanee.edu/)

Workshop trainers include Stevenson; the Rev. Shannon Kelly, Acting Missioner for Campus and Young Adult Ministries for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society; McConnell; and Jenny Korwan, consultant.

"In this time of Church renewal, Called to Transformation's asset-based approach places the impetus for change and growth within the community itself, rather than solely with church leadership," said McConnell. "Focusing on relationships rather than finances as their most important resource, these communities grow stronger and more deeply engaged over time."

For more information contact Stevenson, mstevenson@episcopalchurch.org, or McConnell, smcconnell@episcopalrelief.org

**Episcopal Asset Map**

One of the tools related to Called to Transformation is the wildly popular Episcopal Asset Map [www.episcopalassetmap.org](http://www.episcopalassetmap.org). This innovative partnership between the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and Episcopal Relief & Development has resulted in an online tool to learn more about and to share resources for ministries in local, diocesan and churchwide networks.

The Episcopal Asset Map is an online service showing the location and the array of ministries offered by Episcopal congregations, schools and institutions. The Episcopal Asset Map is available at no fee.

As of August 31, 86 dioceses are participating in the Episcopal Asset Map.

A short video is available here [http://youtu.be/6ioMck-83go](http://youtu.be/6ioMck-83go)

For more information contact Stevenson mstevenson@episcopalchurch.org or Katie Mears, USA Disaster Preparedness and Response Director for Episcopal Relief & Development, kmears@episcopalrelief.org.

*The Episcopal Church: [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)*
On the web:
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http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/second-called-transformation-abcd-facilitator-formation-workshop-announced

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