

## **Task Force on Church Planting and Congregational Redevelopment**

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Zoom Meeting

Present: The Rt. Rev. Gretchen Rehberg, The Rev. Mike Michie, The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne, Ms. Natalie Finstad, The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner, The Rev. Canon Betsy Ivey, the Rev. Ken Howard, The Rev. Eric Metoyer, Ms. Caroline McCall, The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe, The Rev. Daniel Velez-Rivera, The Rev. Tom Brackett, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson

Absent: The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, The Rev. Michael Sells, Dr. Gandhi Lopez, The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, The Very Rev. Amy McCreath, Mr. Jason Evans, The Rt. Rev. Allen Shin, The Rev. Canon Ada Wong Nagata, The Rev. Canon Dan Morrow, Ms. Katie Forsyth

Noted: Ms. Natalie Finstad left the meeting after the Rev. Tom Brackett's report.

### Task Force Business

#### **Opening of Meeting**

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner opened the meeting with prayer.

#### **Update on Church Planting from The Rev. Mike Michie**

The grant application is finished! We are going to be using formstack to receive applications, this wasn't our first choice for the software but it will work. We are going to wait until it's translated into Spanish to officially open applications. Once open, people will be able to apply and the initial deadline for applications will be June 15.

We had our initial Discernment Retreat. There were eight people who attended, each of the attendees was at a different place in their ministry. The attendees received immediate feedback on their ministry that went into one of these three categories: "fit, potential fit, or not a fit." We ended the retreat with people in each category.

The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe asked two questions: "What happens when someone isn't a good fit at the retreat but is considered to be a great after spending more time in their dioceses;" "Do people have to go through the assessment process to apply for a grant?"

The Rev. Mike Michie explained that it does not disqualify them from a grant entirely but it does give the discerner the feedback that there is more discernment and/or work needed before applying. And, they do not need to go through the assessment process if they have been previously assessed.

The Rev. Mike Michie continued with the report, explaining that the May 20-23 retreat would feature Anne Stekerwold as a consultant and a new group of people working on the assessment team. He also shared the news that the retreat is full!

Ms. Caroline McCall asked for clarification about the term, "full." The Rev. Mike Michie explained that full means 8 people plus their spouses/partners.

The Rt. Rev. Gretchen Rehberg asked for more information about how to support people who have been to the discernment retreats. She explained that someone sent by her dioceses has returned and shared the assessment with her but wasn't sure if sharing the report was common practice.

The Rev. Mike Mitchie respond by saying that we, "strongly encourage" that people share their assessment forms with their diocese but we do not make it mandatory. The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner suggested that supporting Bishops could request that people attending the discernment retreats share the feedback. The group agreed this would be a good way of setting up support for discerners.

The Rev. Canon Betsy Ivey wanted to know if we could see the general criteria used on the assessment. The Rev. Mike Mitchie shared that the thirteen qualities on the assessment were created by a team of consultants and, yes, he will share those thirteen qualities on extranet.

#### **Thanksgiving for the ministry of the Rev. Mike Mitchie**

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner invited the Task Force to share thanksgivings and celebrations for the ministry of the Rev. Mike Mitchie given his upcoming departure from his current position. The Task Force responded by lifting up his open heart, Biblical groundedness, adaptive style, encouraging spirit, and many other gifts.

#### **Update from The Rev. Tom Brackett on the Work of Congregational Redevelopment with the Intention of Starting New Ministries**

The Rev. Tom Brackett began with thanksgiving for the work of the Task Force - especially the Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne and the Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner. for their support with communications.

The Rev. Tom Brackett then shared about the progress of *Mission Engage*: he continues to receive the feedback that people are hungry for communities of practice, he will be sending a list out shortly about who has committed to participating, he has confirmed the participation of some congregational consultants that will participate in our work as co-learners, and he requested the Task Force register their availability in a Doodle Poll to set-up a call with Bishops from participating dioceses in *Missio Engage*.

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner closed this part of the meeting by underscoring the desire for people to participate in calls with the Bishops as they are available.

#### Special Presentation

**The Rev. Ken Howard from FaithX offered a video presentation walking the group through MapDash software.**

The Rev. Ken Howard shared how dioceses and other church entities use MapDash to be grounded in data for their work, to get a birds' eye view of emerging missional opportunities and street-level practicalities, to assess area vitality for existing and new congregations, to facilitate honest and transparent data-grounded discussions that get past assumptions and understand the drivers of missional opportunities to propel adaptive ministry strategies.

He then explained the MapDash tool that works through these four pillars of location intelligence: visualize, contextualize, analyze and socialize. In addition, he shared that we have the ability to take multiple data questions and analyze them concurrently (e.g. childcare spending per household vs. availability of childcare centers), which can inform congregational outreach. The whole process helps us to see our blind spots and to open our eyes to possibility in our neighborhoods.

The members of the Task Force then engaged in open dialogue with the Rev. Ken Howard about MapDash.

#### Subcommittee Reports

##### **Communications**

The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne briefly updated the group on communications work, noting that the updated Church Planting/MEZ website is live. He shared that the communications sub team will be focusing on the Congregational Redevelopment/Mission work led by the Rev. Tom Brackett.

#### Closing of Meeting

**The Meeting Concluded with a Holy Week Reflection Led by the Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe**

#### Next Steps from Meeting

- A. Mike - Put the qualities on the map dash
- B. Everyone
  - a. Fill out the doodle poll
  - b. Reminder: Next meeting – Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month) (3:00 pm EST / 2:00 pm CST / 1:00 pm MTN / 12:00 noon PST)