

★ The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

Vestry & Mission

2023 EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF TEXAS NEW VESTRY TRAINING
PART 3

Introductions

Beth Fain

Missioner for
Congregational Vitality:
Innovations

Estela López

Missioner for
Congregational Vitality:
Connections

Alex Montes-Vela

Missioner for
Congregational Vitality:
New Initiatives

Thomas Morris

Missioner for
Congregational Vitality:
Missional Reimagining

Stephanie Townes

Missioner for
Congregational Vitality:
Youth & Young Adults

Opening Prayer

What would you miss
most about your church if
it closed tomorrow?

“ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” ”

MATTHEW 28:18-20 NRSV



Nalini Jayasuriya (Sri Lankan, ?–2014), *The Great Commission*, 2002. Mixed media on canvas, 28 x 53 in.



Go and make
disciples of all
nations

But you aren't alone!
Christ is with you!

MISSION is about DISCERNMENT

VESTRY & MISSION

Part 1:

Discerning the mission of the
church

What does your church do?

- ★ We have services at 8:30am and 10:00am and Sunday school in between services
- ★ Yes, but

What the mission is NOT

- ★ “The “nonprofit” institution neither supplies good or services nor controls. Its “product” is neither a pair of shoes nor an effective regulation. *Its product is a changed human being.* The nonprofit institutions are human-change agents.”

– Peter Drucker

BCP

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Book of Common Prayer, p855

EDOT

We are one Church reconciled by Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called by God through worship, witness and ministry, building the Kingdom of God together.

Your Congregation

What is God calling your congregation to do?

How will you be the Kingdom of Heaven in your neighborhood?

Write your congregation's mission (if you know it) in the chat



Show me where you spend your
time, money and energy and I'll
tell you what you worship...

John Wimber

quote fancy

- ★ “Your buildings
have a mission”
(Vestry Resource Guide p42)
- ★ Your budget points
to your mission

What is your “bottom line” for your congregation? (since it isn’t profit)

How do we discern the mission while on vestry?

- ★ Reminder – different from other non-profits
- ★ Not just a business board with a chaplain either!

“ You might think serving on a vestry is like serving on a board of a nonprofit. They do share similarities: both are entrusted with the well-being of the organization each serves; both have officers; and both must abide by bylaws. A church vestry and a nonprofit board differ in one central way. The vestry is charged with the sacred task of the mission of the Church--“to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ”.

– EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

“The primary tasks for a vestry are ***discerning what God is calling your faith community to do***”
and articulating a hopeful vision
of the church and the world as
God’s mission.

–VESTRY RESOURCE GUIDE, P4

VESTRY & MISSION

Part 2:

Mission & WHO our church is

- ★ Who are you as a church?
- ★ How are you different from the church down the street?
- ★ What makes you distinctive? Can you articulate that?
- ★ What is your church known for in the community? *Is your church known in your community?* (Note: this is shifting with every church online)
- ★ Would your community miss your church if it closed?

- ★ What do you want to be known for in your community?
- ★ Why are you here (in this church)?
- ★ What brought you here to this particular church?
- ★ Why do you stay? What keeps you here?
- ★ Why is this church important to you?

- ★ Who is missing?
- ★ Who would be a good fit for your community?
- ★ Who is your neighbor? (Mission Insight)
- ★ Are young people missing?

Who is already
active in your
neighborhood?

GOD



Photo by [Yunming Wang](#) on [Unsplash](#)

God was:

saying healing rescuing delighting in
 holding reorienting creating listening
 helping supporting forgiving loving
 demanding hoping crying laughing
 challenging changing ignoring bringing together
 renewing approaching inviting withdrawing
 embracing loving gathering enlightening

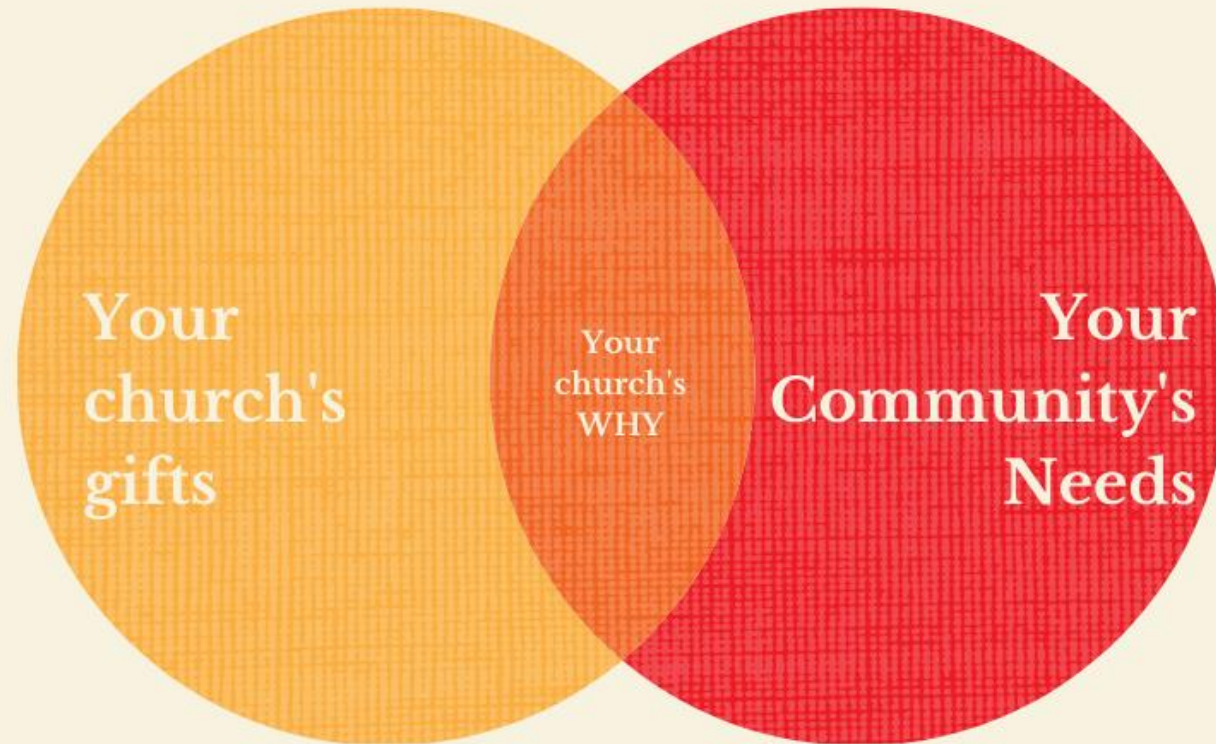
asking defending guiding bringing good news
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 opening naming freeing upholding
 raising revealing releasing innovating
 redeeming saving affirming denying
 closing offering remembering reminding
 providing smiting preserving ending
 prevailing insisting persisting connecting
 celebrating nudging tweaking restoring

Discerning God exercise upholding waiting

Adapted from <https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/noticing-naming-new-noticing/>

WHO → WHY?

Your Church's WHY





WHO + WHY =
MISSION

The challenges we face today call for a new kind of leadership from our vestries, one that begins with asking questions:

Why?

What does that have to do with Jesus?

How do our efforts help us grow as followers of Christ?

Vestry Resource Guide, p. 4

VESTRY & MISSION

Part 3: Communicating your mission

“The primary tasks for a vestry are discerning what God is calling your faith community to do and ***articulating a hopeful vision of the church and the world as God’s mission.***”

–VESTRY RESOURCE GUIDE, P4

Step 1: Listen

Mission Amp can help!

Step 2: Create goals

Mission Amp can help!

Step 3: Communicate

Mission Amp can help!

Communicating with a clear WHO and WHY

Volunteer Example

- ★ “At St. Martha’s, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world around them. When you sign up to staff our nursery, you are joining with God to love and nurture these children, expressing God’s grace to them. And thanks to your service in the nursery, the parent of that child will be able to be fully present in weekly worship, helping them to grow and mature in their faith. Thank you for your part in our disciple making.” (From *See All the People*)



Photo by [Erika Giraud](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Which conversations are you having?



Photo by [James Lewis](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Maintenance



Photo by [Toa Heftiba](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Preferential



Photo by [Ben White](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Missional

Summary

Discernment of
the MISSION

Mission &
WHO you are
as a church

COMMUNICATING
the mission

Reflection

- ★ One thing to apply in your context
- ★ One thing you'd still like to know about

Next steps

- ★ Follow up email & evaluation
- ★ Wardens Chats
- ★ Stewardship Cohorts
- ★ Watch Diocesan Social Media/Emails for other opportunities
- ★ How else can we partner with you?

Sending Blessing

Beth Fain



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