Dear Companions in Christ,

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut has been on a journey to imagine how the Church must be transformed to participate more fully in God's mission in these changing times. We have embraced changes to our common life and structures, including the establishment of Regions, the introduction of Region Missionaries, and the empowering of Ministry Networks. We have actively engaged in five spiritual practices (listening, discerning, trying on, reflecting, and deciding), and through this God is blessing us with new life and new possibility. We conducted a Region needs assessment, which allowed us to reflect deeply on what God is up to in our neighborhoods and where we might go next. And we still ask faithfully: How do we follow Jesus in this new missional age? I believe what we are considering is nothing less than a fundamental spiritual transformation of individuals and communities.

Supporting parishes and Regions eager to experience this spiritual transformation and join Jesus in a new missional age is a critical next step. We are continuing our partnerships with the consulting groups CCS and The Missional Network, to help us engage more deeply in the spiritual practices and raise new resources to more faithfully participate in God's mission.

On the following pages, you will find further information about participating in a pilot program, Joining Jesus in a New Missional Age, including ways to engage more deeply in the spiritual practices and details about conducting a fundraising initiative in your parish. As an extension of my invitation at the 2018 Annual Convention and to further assess interest in participation in these programs, I invite you to have a conversation with our friends at CCS and ECCT staff about how your parish might flourish with additional resources and the use of the spiritual practices, and to imagine what might be possible as a result. I pray that we will decide to continue to follow Jesus in this new missional age; and together, with courage and joy, proclaim the kingdom of God.

Faithfully,
Ian
The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Ph.D.
Bishop Diocesan

WHAT’S POSSIBLE?

FOR PARISHES & WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

- Enhance worship, Christian formation, faith-in-action
- Address capital projects
- Ensure financial sustainability
- Expand community engagement and development
- Advance a new culture of philanthropy

FOR THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

- Fund full-time Region Missionaries
- Support Regions & Ministry Networks with a newly launched entrepreneurial fund
- Establish new intentional Christian communities in each Region
- Expand Camp Washington as a center of Christian formation
- Enhance Christ Church Cathedral as a site for engaging the world

NEXT STEPS

Staff from The Commons will be scheduling time for clergy and lay leaders to speak with a member of CCS’s team to learn more about how parishes might be involved and share their thoughts. If you’d like to be in touch with CCS, please email Tiffany Reed at treed@ccsfundraising.com or call 215-531-0500.

JOINING JESUS IN A NEW MISSIONAL AGE | Luke 9: 57-60

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’ To another he said, ‘Follow me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’ Another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’ Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’
JOINING JESUS IN A NEW MISSIONAL AGE

HOW DO WE FOLLOW JESUS MORE FAITHFULLY? [SPIRITUAL PRACTICES]

Over the past two years, a core group of parishioners and clergy in several ECCT parishes have engaged in five spiritual practices (opposite). Their desire was to focus deeply and intentionally on answering the question, “How might we travel lightly together and follow Jesus into the neighborhood?” (Luke 10)

Together, these companions in Christ — with the assistance of members of The Missional Network (TMN) — were transformed by listening carefully and paying close attention to what the Spirit was inviting them to hear, see, and at times, join in, wherever they prayed, lived, worked, and played.

In 2019, TMN has developed a flexible process of engaging these spiritual practices in three ways, by:
- Introducing the practices more deeply in the parishes already engaged
- Launching the new streamlined process with additional parishes (or groups of collaborating parishes) across ECCT
- Assisting parishes that are also raising resources (as outlined below), inviting clergy and a core group of parishioners to practice together and pay attention to the Spirit’s guidance, thereby putting a finer point on the “why” behind these efforts, with the potential of transforming hearts and lives as resources are raised for God’s work in the parish

HOW DO WE PARTICIPATE IN WHAT JESUS IS DOING MORE FULLY? [RAISING RESOURCES]

CCS MEETS WITH PARISHES TO DETERMINE INTEREST IN AND POTENTIAL FOR A FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE:
- Gauge interest in and answer questions regarding a possible fundraising initiative
- Discuss possibilities that an initiative might fund, including new ministries, capital projects, and/or funding endowment
- Assess capacity for raising funds across ECCT

CCS HELPS PARISHES EXECUTE THEIR FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE WITH NO UPFRONT COSTS TO THE PARISH:
- A rapid study involving parish leaders informs parishioners about the effort and helps to determine volunteer capacity, goal setting, and fundraising plans
- CCS provides weekly expertise and coaching through all phases of the initiative

AS THE INITIATIVE IS COMPLETED, PARISHES SHARE A PORTION OF NEW RESOURCES WITH ECCT:
- ECCT creates new ministry opportunities and invests funds into the endowment, generating revenue to fund on-going ministries

THREE PATHWAYS

Explore the spiritual practices to discern how we might join more faithfully in what Jesus is up to in our neighborhoods

Raise new resources and join in God’s mission with greater creativity, confidence, breadth, and depth

Integrate the spiritual practices and raising new resources to more ably join Jesus in a new missional age

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES IN A NEW MISSIONAL AGE

LISTENING
We listen to God by dwelling in God’s Word, and in stories of God in our lives and in our neighborhoods.

DISCERNING
As we hear from God and one another, we ponder how God might be calling us to take action in the world.

TRYING ON
We experiment with new ways of joining in God’s mission, trusting that God uses our failures as well as our successes.

REFLECTING
We wonder about what God is up to in our lives and in the world.

DECIDING
We adopt new ways of being the Body of Christ as we listen, discern, try on, and reflect.

Things to reflect on as we consider raising new resources:
- What’s God calling us to do?
- Are we equipped for our current and future ministries?
- What do we need to join Jesus more deeply in our neighborhood?

These practices are adapted from Joining God, Reimagining Church, Changing the World by Alan J. Roxburgh

EPISCOPALCT.ORG
JOINING JESUS IN A NEW MISSIONAL AGE

HOW DO WE FOLLOW JESUS MORE FAITHFULLY? [SPIRITUAL PRACTICES]

Over the past two years, a core group of parishioners and clergy in several ECCT parishes have engaged in five spiritual practices (opposite). Their desire was to focus deeply and intentionally on answering the question, “How might we travel lightly together and follow Jesus into the neighborhood?” (Luke 10)

Together, these companions in Christ — with the assistance of members of The Missional Network (TMN) — were transformed by listening carefully and paying close attention to what the Spirit was inviting them to hear, see, and at times, join in, wherever they prayed, lived, worked, and played.

In 2019, TMN has developed a flexible process of engaging these spiritual practices in three ways, by:

- Introducing the practices more deeply in the parishes already engaged
- Launching the new streamlined process with additional parishes (or groups of collaborating parishes) across ECCT
- Assisting parishes that are also raising resources (as outlined below), inviting clergy and a core group of parishioners to practice together and pay attention to the Spirit’s guidance, thereby putting a finer point on the “why” behind these efforts, with the potential of transforming hearts and lives as resources are raised for God’s work in the parish

HOW DO WE PARTICIPATE IN WHAT JESUS IS DOING MORE FULLY? [RAISING RESOURCES]

CCS MEETS WITH PARISHES TO DETERMINE INTEREST IN AND POTENTIAL FOR A FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE:

- Gauge interest in and answer questions regarding a possible fundraising initiative
- Discuss possibilities that an initiative might fund, including new ministries, capital projects, and/or funding endowment
- Assess capacity for raising funds across ECCT

CCS HELPS PARISHES EXECUTE THEIR FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE WITH NO UPFRONT COSTS TO THE PARISH:

- A rapid study involving parish leaders informs parishioners about the effort and helps to determine volunteer capacity, goal setting, and fundraising plans
- CCS provides weekly expertise and coaching through all phases of the initiative

AS THE INITIATIVE IS COMPLETED, PARISHES SHARE A PORTION OF NEW RESOURCES WITH ECCT:

- ECCT creates new ministry opportunities and invests funds into the endowment, generating revenue to fund on-going ministries

Things to reflect on as we consider raising new resources:

- What’s God calling us to do?
- Are we equipped for our current and future ministries?
- What do we need to join Jesus more deeply in our neighborhood?

THREE PATHWAYS

SPiritual Practices in a New Missional Age

LISTENING

We listen to God by dwelling in God’s Word, and in stories of God in our lives and in our neighborhoods.

DISCERNING

As we hear from God and one another, we ponder how God might be calling us to take action in the world.

TRYING ON

We experiment with new ways of joining in God’s mission, trusting that God uses our failures as well as our successes.

REFLECTING

We wonder about what God is up to in our lives and in the world.

DECIDING

We adopt new ways of being the Body of Christ as we listen, discern, try on, and reflect.

These practices are adapted from Joining God, Reimagining Church, Changing the World by Alan J. Roxburgh

EPISCOPALCT.ORG
Dear Companions in Christ,

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut has been on a journey to imagine how the Church must be transformed to participate more fully in God's mission in these changing times. We have embraced changes to our common life and structures, including the establishment of Regions, the introduction of Region Missionaries, and the empowering of Ministry Networks. We have actively engaged in five spiritual practices (listening, discerning, trying on, reflecting, and deciding), and through this God is blessing us with new life and new possibility. We conducted a Region needs assessment, which allowed us to reflect deeply on what God is up to in our neighborhoods and where we might go next. And we still ask faithfully: How do we follow Jesus in this new missional age? I believe what we are considering is nothing less than a fundamental spiritual transformation of individuals and communities.

Supporting parishes and Regions eager to experience this spiritual transformation and join Jesus in a new missional age is a critical next step. We are continuing our partnerships with the consulting groups CCS and The Missional Network, to help us engage more deeply in the spiritual practices and raise new resources to more faithfully participate in God's mission.

On the following pages, you will find further information about participating in a pilot program, Joining Jesus in a New Missional Age, including ways to engage more deeply in the spiritual practices and details about conducting a fundraising initiative in your parish. As an extension of my invitation at the 2018 Annual Convention and to further assess interest in participation in these programs, I invite you to have a conversation with our friends at CCS and ECCT staff about how your parish might flourish with additional resources and the use of the spiritual practices, and to imagine what might be possible as a result. I pray that we will decide to continue to follow Jesus in this new missional age; and together, with courage and joy, proclaim the kingdom of God.

Faithfully,

Ian

The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Ph.D.
Bishop Diocesan

---

**WHAT’S POSSIBLE?**

**FOR PARISHES & WORshipping COMMUNITIES**

- Enhance worship, Christian formation, faith-in-action
- Address capital projects
- Ensure financial sustainability
- Expand community engagement and development
- Advance a new culture of philanthropy

**FOR THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT**

- Fund full-time Region Missionaries
- Support Regions & Ministry Networks with a newly launched entrepreneurial fund
- Establish new intentional Christian communities in each Region
- Expand Camp Washington as a center of Christian formation
- Enhance Christ Church Cathedral as a site for engaging the world

**NEXT STEPS**

Staff from The Commons will be scheduling time for clergy and lay leaders to speak with a member of CCS’s team to learn more about how parishes might be involved and share their thoughts. If you’d like to be in touch with CCS, please email Tiffany Reed at treed@ccsfundraising.com or call 215-531-0500.

---

**JOINING JESUS IN A NEW MISSIONAL AGE | Luke 9: 57-60**

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’ To another he said, ‘Follow me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’ Another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’ Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’