



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

Let's Get Missional: Reorganizing ECCT and Why it Matters

Week 5: Ministry Networks

Celebrating and Empowering Ministry Networks

In our previous sends we've explored how ECCT is being reorganized from the bottom up. As of July 1, 2016, by fiat of ECCT's Annual Convention in 2015, we'll be reorganized into six geographical Regions. We'll be meeting this spring with other parishes and groups in our Regions in order to explore how we might more effectively engage God's mission in our neighborhoods. These are the Region Convocations and lay and clergy volunteers from each Region are busy at work with Transition Team members, planning wonderful events to spur us on to deeper, more creative ministry with God and each other. You can find in-depth information about our reorganization at ECCT's website, <https://www.episcopalct.org/t3/>.

Now it's time to consider the last piece of the interesting jigsaw puzzle that is the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. This piece of the puzzle is our **Ministry Networks**.

What is a Ministry Network?

A Ministry Network is:

- (1) Two or more individuals or groups engaged in God's mission,
- (2) Who are collaborating,
- (3) And are from more than one parish or worshiping community within ECCT.

In fact, Ministry Networks often include people from *outside* ECCT—even outside Christianity. Imagine that!

Examples of Ministry Networks already in ECCT

Ministry Networks engage the work of God's mission, bringing reconciliation and restoration to many outside and inside the Church. These are intentionally collaborative efforts. Some may last for years and even decades; others form around a specific project and may disband afterwards.

Just think of our Episcopal Church Women, or the Brothers of St. Andrew: while they don't have "Ministry Network" in their names, these historic ministries certainly fit the criteria.

Think about our prayerful Faith Behind Bars and Beyond Prison Ministry Network, which meets monthly and hosts annual forums.



Consider the faithful grassroots Ministry Networks that continue to emerge, such as the Shoreline East Episcopal Youth group, a Racial Reconciliation/Racial Justice Ministry Network, and the Middletown Refugee Resettlement Coalition.

Another to emerge is the ECCT Christian Formation Ministry Network, which has started to meet regularly in person and through a Google group.

Your parish may already be working with other parishes and groups to feed the hungry or shelter the homeless, or you may have banded together with Episcopalians and other faith groups to advocate for the poor, and thus are in Ministry Networks in all but name.

These are just some of the Ministry Networks that we see in Connecticut. We expect some long-time ECCT committees to re-form as Ministry Networks, for more Ministry Networks to be identified, and for more Ministry Networks to emerge.

Empowering Ministry Networks is a central feature of ECCT's reorganization

Ministry Network Convocation June 1

Members of current and emerging Ministry Networks along with those who are thinking about forming one are all invited to a Ministry Network *Convocation, to be held at The Commons in Meriden on the evening of June 1, 2016 from 6:30 till 8:00 p.m.* Light refreshments (cheese, fruit, granola bars) will be provided for those who are rushing in from their day jobs, secular or ecclesial ...

What happens at the Ministry Network Convocation on June 1 in Meriden?

We'll meet as a group to talk about the joys and challenges of engaging God's mission through Ministry Networks. We'll break out into similarly themed Ministry Networks to talk about further inter-group collaboration and to discuss the process of selecting nine representatives to our new Mission Council that will be up and running after July 1, 2016.

Perhaps the best thing to come of this June 1 Ministry Network Convocation will be the encouragement, creative insight, prayer support, and promise of new links in the future that we can give each other.

Online registration, with any additional details, will be available later this spring.

A Prayer for Our Work

May God continue to bless our efforts to engage God's mission in groups and as individuals. May God continue to work through ECCT and shower us with joys and challenges, and the grace we need to meet them.



T3 (TREC-CT 3.0 Transition) team members: the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, the Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, the Rev. Sandra Cosman, the Rev. Adam Yates, Brad Babbitt, Esq., the Rev. Canon Tim Hodapp, Canon Karin Hamilton, the Rev. Marilyn Anderson, the Rev. John Burton, the Rev. Jack Gilpin, Jane Hale, the Rev. Rowena Kemp, the Rev. Ron Kolanowski, Cathy Schroll, Shirley Wick, Valzie Peterkin, Deacon Diane Peterson, Deacon Don Richie. Communication subgroup: The Rev. Marilyn Anderson, Canon Karin Hamilton, Cathy Schroll (chair).

More info is at www.episcopalct.org/t3/

Includes PDF versions of all letters, links to online version of each, maps, more.