



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

EPISCOPAL VISITATION VESTRY DISCUSSION GUIDE 2015-2016

In The Episcopal Church the vestry plays a key leadership role, spiritually and canonically, in helping the congregation of a parish discern and participate in God's mission. The vestry's conversation with the bishop at the time of the Episcopal visitation is meant to help you as parish leaders become more effective in this leadership ministry. Please prepare for the vestry conversation with the bishop in the following manner:

A: As individuals, answer these initial questions:

What are the blessings and challenges of being a follower of Jesus now?

What stories in the Bible come to mind when you consider the blessings and challenges of being a Christian in today's world?

B. Read "Chapter 6: The Way Forward in Mission" pages 36-42, and "Chapter 8: Staying Grounded as Disciples" pages 47-49 in: Ferebee, Randolph C. *Cultivating the Missional Church: New Soil for Growing Vestries and Leaders*. New York: Morehouse Press, 2012.

C: Consider these additional questions:

What does it mean to be a Christian leader in a post-Christendom world? How are we called to be both disciples and apostles?

How does the transition to post-Christendom invite your parish/the Episcopal Church in Connecticut to be different as we participate in God's mission?