Transforming Companions, Congregations, & Communities

The Rev. Tim Hodapp
The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida
Annual Convention
October 9-10, 2026

1

One Witness: 58th Diocesan Convention



2



OUR VISION

We aspire to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, partnering together to foster oneness and mutual flourishing.

OUR MISSION

We exist to equip and empower our communities to share the healing and reconciling love of Jesus with the world.

ADAPTIVE CHALLENGES

Congregational sustainability
Regional structures
Land & asset development

WALKING together as ONE
Diocese of Southwest Florida

3

Transformation

Word origin

From Old French transformation and Church Latin transformatio, “change of shape,” from Latin transformare: trans (“across, beyond”) + formare (“to form”).

Origin: Online Etymology Dictionary

/ˌtræns.fəˈmeɪ.ʃən/
noun

a complete change in the appearance or character of something or someone, especially so that the thing or person is improved

Cambridge Dictionary

4

To form — innovate, experiment, reimagine — a network of Episcopal congregations across, within, and beyond our diocese.

5



Dwelling in the Word

Let’s begin in prayer

6


Companions in prayer: who's at my side?
Dwelling in the Word
Ephesians 4: 11-16
"...the gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ ..."

7


Congregations: Who's in the room?
75 Parishes
11 Worshipping Communities
1 Mission
Brooksville
Hernando
Spring Hill
Pasco
Dade City
Orlando
Lakeland
Tampa
Largo
Hills-borough
Bartow
Polk
Avon Park
Hardee
Bradenton
Manatee
Sarasota
Arcadia
DeSoto
Port Charlotte
Punta Gorda
Charlotte
Cape Coral
Fort My
Lee
Sanibel I

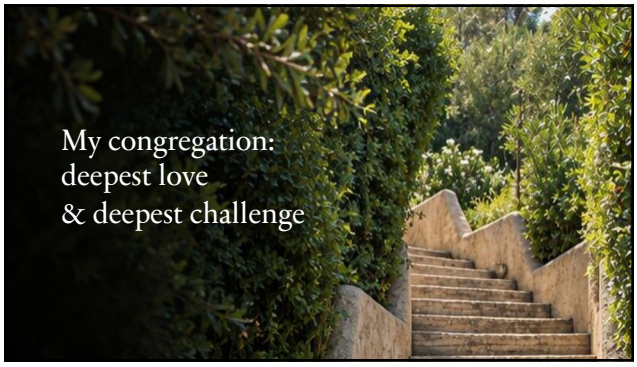
8


NEXT

9


Listening to
my neighbor

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My congregation:
deepest love
& deepest challenge

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Communities we serve:
Who's my neighbor?

12


God's Mission
Missio Dei
God Sending

13


WHAT? Matthew 22:36-40

14


WHO? Matthew 28:16-20

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17



18

Paul's communities in mid-1c. AD

- Small communities, mostly household churches/groups
- Ephesus: 20-30
- Corinth: 30-60
- Thessalonica: 35-50
- Rome: 100



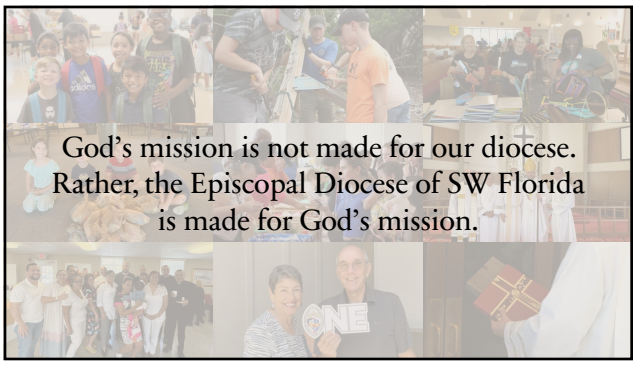
19

God's mission was not made for the church. Rather, the church was made for God's mission.



20

God's mission is not made for our diocese. Rather, the Episcopal Diocese of SW Florida is made for God's mission.



21

From *Christendom* (4c.-20c.) to A New Missional Age (20-21c.)

Christendom	**New Missional Age**
ecclesio-centric	missiocentric
industrial age	digital age
accumulation	transformation
economy of scarcity	economy of abundance
transactional	relational
growth	connection

22

EIRO: Our Name is Our Mission

A catalyst for churches seeking to participate more fully in the mission of God in their neighborhood.

Through coalition building, spiritual formation and missional training, EIRO helps local churches partner with their community in healthy ways.

23

Missional or Mission-Ish?

Mark 2:22-28 Who's at the center: God or the congregation?

Missionish: what's our church doing for others?

Missional: what's God doing just ahead of us in our neighborhood and waiting for us to join in?

24

Missional or Mission-Ish?

Luke 4:14-21 What's our focus: identity or activity?

Missionish: adding new programs?

Missionial: embracing a whole new way of life?

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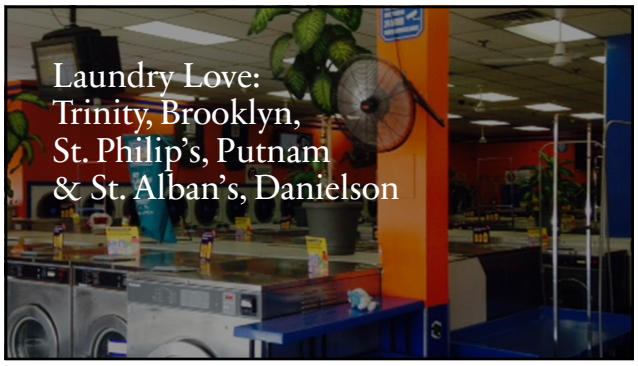
Missional or Mission-Ish?

Luke 10:1-12 On what level do we meet our neighbors: relationsal or transactional?

Missionish: service projects that meet needs?

Missional: mutually transformative relationships?

26



27

How do we face this moment?

Congregational Stability

Regional Structures

Land & Asset Development

28

HOW does The Episcopal Church Face This Moment?

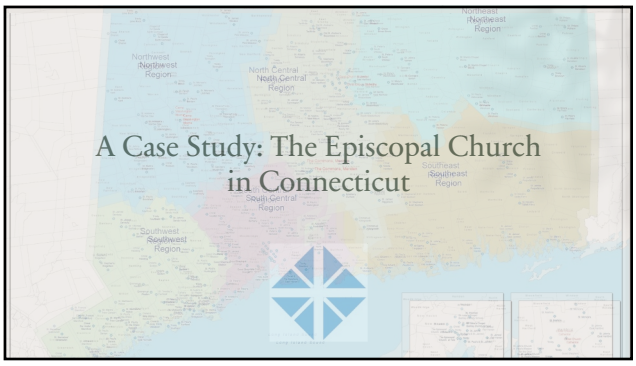
Taskforce for Reimagining the Episcopal Church

77th General Convention 2012 & 78th General Convention 2015

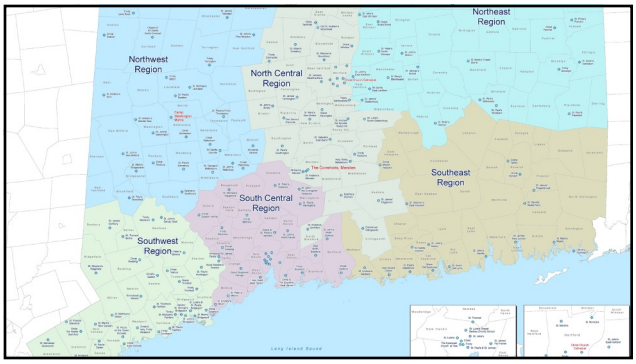
Luke 10: Travel lightly and follow Jesus into the neighborhood

Governance Overhaul | Leadership Structure | Presiding Bishop Election | Financial &Property Resource Realignment | Clergy & Seminary Support

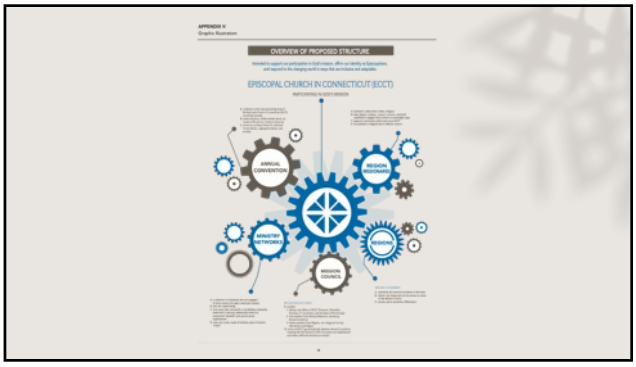
29



30


Northeast Region
Northwest Region
North Central Region
Southeast Region
South Central Region
Southwest Region

31


OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED STRUCTURE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT (ECCT)

32


What is a parish?
CONGREGATIONAL STABILITY
a community of theological imagination
fed by Word and sacrament
forming disciples and apostles
connected to the wider body of Christ
Old Trinity Episcopal Church 1771 By Marty Aligata -

33

How do you determine sustainability?

- Define markers of vitality
- Measure interest and accountability
- Collaborate to outline next steps
- Assist throughout
- Revise the Canons

34

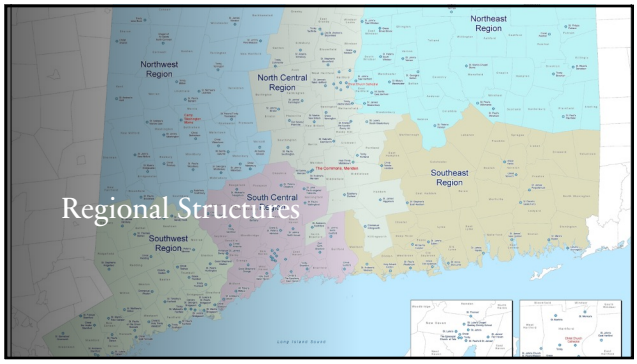


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How do Regional Structures support the work?

- Heritage, culture, & tradition
- Existing/Former Structures (*e.g.*, Deaneries)
- Geography
- Economics

36

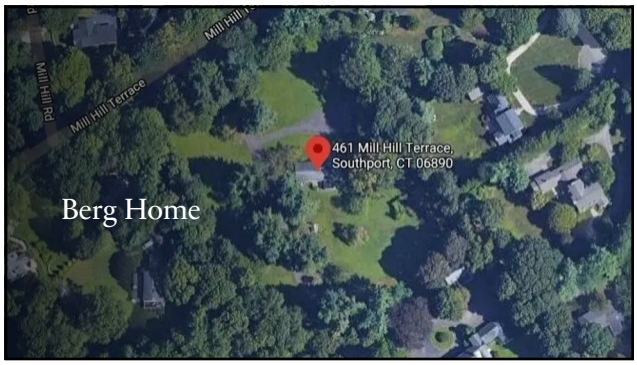


37

How Do We Assess & Develop Our Land & Assets?

- What do we have?
- How are these gifts being used?
- What are our needs, dreams, hopes, expectations?
- Who are the Subject Matter Experts & what do they think?
- What's even possible?

38



39



40

Christ Church
Easton, CT



41



42

Five Spiritual Practices
in A New Missional Age



43



Luke 10: Traveling lightly together and following Jesus into the neighborhood.

44

St. James' Episcopal, Glastonbury
Trinity Episcopal, Wethersfield





45

St Paul's Episcopal Church, Bantam
with Christ Church, Bethlehem





46



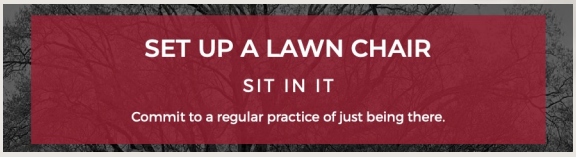
47

HOW TO DISCERN GOD'S PRESENCE
FROM A LAWN CHAIR

Source: Faith+Lead, Luther Seminary

48

From a Lawn Chair



Source: Faith+Lead, Luther Seminary

49

From a Lawn Chair



Source: Faith+Lead, Luther Seminary

50

From a Lawn Chair



Source: Faith+Lead, Luther Seminary

51

From a Lawn Chair

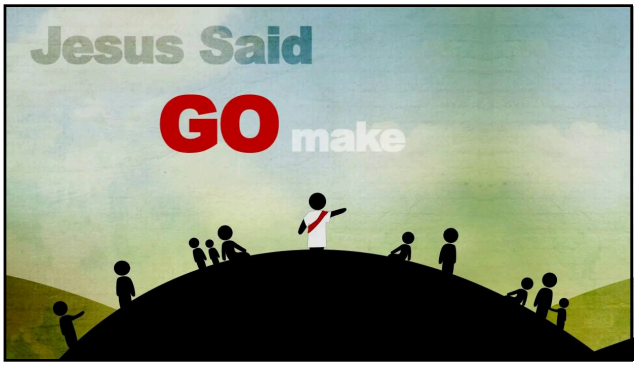
TRY VARIATIONS

GET OUT AND OBSERVE

Spend regular time in a coffee shop, library, park, or bar, just to see where God might be showing up.

Source: Faith+Lead, Luther Seminary

52



53

This is Disipling
https://vimeo.com/24570032

Thank You!

54

One Witness: 58th Diocesan Convention



55