



2021 Archdeacon & Deacon Directors Conference

Open Space Report: Deacons and Digital Ministry

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Can Deacons come together to lead this movement?

- To be the conscience of the diocese to reach out into the community
- Taking the Church to the people.
- Explore ways of raising people up for ministry

To address the need for access to worship services and other activities for church members who are unable to participate in-person during the pandemic, Robin applied for and received a UTO Big Innovation grant. "Community Driven Streaming & Digital Ministry in the Time of COVID-19" was created. It provided video production equipment to 18 congregations throughout Arizona, and will be used longer term to continue to provide access to the large retirement population.

See <https://uto.stjamestempe.org/>

This resource can be used to build capacity beyond this project

- Tech gurus offer set up and support, willing to share their knowledge,
- Project assistance
- Issues, tips and tricks
- Info on licensing and privacy issues, streaming disclaimers, "stream-free zones"
- Photo/Video Release forms
- Tools to enhance gatherings/presentations
- Integrating with social media

3rd party apps:

- Jam Board (free on Google)
Create sticky notes, place text and pictures on sticky board. Works well.
- padlet.com. Digital notice board. Can feature images, links, videos, and documents on a
- "wall" that can be made public or private. Interactive through url. Can download as picture or pdf.

bhphotovideo.com for MEVO Start- live streaming cameras

Who at TEC can help -

Julie Lytle: Two groups doing a lot to train and support the move to online... the Episcopal Communicators and Forma/eFormation regularly have good info on their Facebook feeds.

How is digital technology being used where you are?

- Connie - Montana: bible studies across parishes...So one church is not bearing all the burden; Being used in Deacon formation- role of Deacon at the Altar
- Maureen: several churches have a preaching rota so they can use a colleague's sermon
- Juan/ ATL: We offer Eucharist via online 2x on Sunday; portions of Nuevo Amanacer was live-streamed; Dismantling Racism training from the Absalom Jones Center is held via Zoom.
- Tom - Chicago: Formation is done remotely. Smaller scale retreats done digitally; more people across state borders are in attendance at worship.
- Jan- RI: Deacons' retreat in April will be virtual.
- Laura-CA: Co-leading group on racism that includes breakout groups and other activities; 21 Day Racial Equity Challenge.
"Established solid norms to facilitate deep discussions."
- Lynn -NJ: Already beta testing for online learning one month before they had to go virtual.
- Robin: Fixed hour prayer, Compline, Taize, Agape meals.

Even after we are able to gather in person again, we have seen the possibilities that technology enables.

- Hybrid Church
- There will still be a need for technology in connecting members of the Body of Christ
- How do we keep these things going after we go back into the buildings?
- How will we address the inequities then?

Other questions to consider:

- How do we build this capacity?
- How can I use it in my ministry?
- How can I help my congregation, diocese, community....(for worship, formation, ministries, music...

Submitted by Nadine Pope

Next page: *Coffee Hour Reflection Discussion*

Coffee Hour Reflection Discussion

We ask that you follow practice of mutual invitation when participating our discussions:

- ❖ **Confidentiality:** Personal details of what is said in the group, stays in the group
- ❖ **Share-** Allow each person to speak without interruption; free yourself to fully listen and only listen.
- ❖ **Step up, step back-** Be mindful that our time together is limited, and be aware of how much, or how little you are speaking.
- ❖ **Mutual invitation-** After you have spoken, invite someone else to speak; feel free to pass or wait if you do not wish to speak.
- ❖ **Tell your story-** Instead of responding to or trying to ‘fix’ or ‘answer’ what someone has said. Give advice or suggestions only when asked.
- ❖ **Listen -**When we disagree with something that’s been said, we communicate respectfully our disagreement focusing on what was said, and not on the person.
- ❖ **Tell-**When we return to the main group. give a brief synopsis of your discussion- in less than one minute: two "bullet points" of the main themes or points.

Each group designates a time-keeper, who may raise their hand when a person has talked for 3 minutes (this may vary depending on the size of the group), indicating that it is time to wrap it up and invite the next person.

Each group designates a reporter who gives a synopsis to the main group in less than one minute: two-three "bullet points" of the main themes or points.

Reflection Question: Changes weekly, written by the preacher.

-We publish this ahead of time in several places: FaceBook, church website, etc.

-We announce the reflection question during our online service & put it in the “chat on zoom” in order to interest people in coming to coffee hour.