



ASSOCIATION FOR
EPISCOPAL DEACONS
ENGAGING THE DIAKONIA OF ALL BELIEVERS

2021 Archdeacon & Deacon Directors Conference

Open Space Report: Parish Ministry Leadership

“Promising New Practices for Raising Up Parish Ministry Leadership”

Robin Hollis, Tempe, AZ

How do you start ministries? What is the way to make that happen?

Robin Hollis, Tempe AZ

- indigenous ministry team with 10 people...have also just started a creation care group
- have started these simply by extended the invite

Darcie Kafka Dvarishkis – MT: congregational-wide listening sessions (What’s stirring in them, what’s breaking their hearts?, what brought them to the church?)

Mini-ministry fairs by Zoom?

David Curtis, VA: ministries have grown out of concerted preaching and teaching, providing the theological underpinning. Now have a social justice ministry separate from outreach, and not all the same people on both committees. Working on tougher issues, like eviction, working to keep people out of the prison complex.

Marti Holmes, AL: have to prepare people for what’s going on

Anne Flynn, Kansas: bring the basic principles of community organizing to the congregation...important to how to get people involved. thedartcenter.org

How to handle situations where the volunteer is not the best leader? “Come along and see what part of this you belong in” is a good way to raise up natural leaders. Learn at their own pace and they become encouraged.

Leadership academy?

Connie Campbell-Pearson, MT: Survey of vestry leaders to determine what kind of training should be provided beyond tactics (how to be a treasurer)...have found that people are inadequately trained. This issue is going to Diocesan Council.

Kate Harrigan, Central PA: Initiative taken from the Canons, licensed lay ministries. First, identification and discernment in the parishes. Will have 10 week

Theresa Lewallen, VA: Learned the need to use mentoring skills to walk beside the leader. Learn to say “you don’t need to come back to me anymore.”

Any discussion about boundaries or term limits?

Jane Griesbach, Western PA - At every Commission on Ministry, never get around to the laity....always gets put off to the next meeting and then never happens

Intentional succession planning, term limits

The problem with that is that you need to have younger deacons coming up

Hilary Greene – MA: we just have a Canon for Ordained Vocations...and she is on the Commission on Ministry. We did add a lay person as Missioner for Networking and Formation on the diocesan staff- she does work with clergy and lay.

Chris Ross – Canada, Kootenay – they have a program for training deacons on how to raise volunteers.

The book on which "You are Called" study in Dioc of Dallas COM did: "Consider Your Calling" by Gordon T Smith

Kellie Mysinger KY (Bowling Green) – there’s value in experimenting, particularly when you don’t know what to do.