



Triennial Assembly 2016 - Diakonia: Engaging God's Mission

Open Space Notes

Teaming Deacons

Facilitator: Margaret Dyer-Chamberlain

Deacons need support, avoid Lone Ranger, what is the purpose of having of Deacon, looking for ideas

Deacon's council in CT - have a quarterly book reading generally justice related. Invite postulants and others to help build a team. Fortunately CT smaller geographically so this can work. Also part of Province 1 which encourages team across dioceses. Phone conferences as well. Encourages networking. For example they can reach out out churches for help. Has one Deacon to serve in one region (deanery) who facilitates one program such as food security so that three parishes can work together. Website has a Deacon page for contact info, books being read, what deacons.

Team Deacons - formed so they could learn more about different parishes to help. In this case 4 parishes brought together to feed homeless. This brought together small churches with more volunteers to support a program.

Deacon council in ECCT for a long time. 2 presbyters, two lay and 5 deacons.

How to get the rector share with other parishes resources? Maybe use the "I wonder" statement. Maybe can invite the other churches to events. How to work with rectors who are resistant to looking out into the world?

Learned in Team Deacon - support group, work in the world in through parishes and get together with all parishes, joint ministries. Ground root started with priests for the joint ministries of the deacons. Newly ordained helped to allow formation of group.

Cross-diocese - Northern Indiana and Cincinnati: Go to for more resources and shared ministries. Look for asset based assessment may be good.

Shared ministries- meet monthly, sharing gifts and bringing together. Team covenant is important and review it regularly.

Pittsburgh - lots struggling churches and consequently many Deacon masses. Perhaps the deacons need to come together maybe as a season to see where it can go.

How do we turn it on its head that the church shrinking? Get out of the mindset that we are struggling group instead let's celebrate that we are a strong good group that wants to do God's work.