

Opening Prayer

Agenda

- **Why are we meeting?**
- Bishop Shannon is requesting all congregations to assess church sustainability for at least the next 3 to 5 years
- Churches are encouraged to look at new models to enhance viability as we are constantly faced with change in today's world
- **What are we looking to accomplish?**
- What is God Calling us to do next?
- POSSIBLE ANSWERS
- Revitalize our church through education & new mission work
- Restructure our church to meet the expectations of the Diocese for sustainability, including having a full-time clergy in place within 3 to 5 years. Examine 3 suggested restructuring models of constellation, merging, & community mission.
- Assess if closure of the church is needed.
- **How do we accomplish this?**
- Prayerful discernment
- Asking critical questions regarding status of the church in various operational areas
- Being open & honest in the assessment process
- Identify our strengths, weaknesses, & barriers
- Learn from experiences in our church's history
- Look to the future & assess new possibilities
- **Timeframe**
- Our plan is to be developed & approved by the end of 2022
- Our goal is to submit our plan by October 2022 at the latest to ensure time for any revisions that might be needed upon Diocesan review.
- This process coincides with the discussion already underway to plan for next steps at the point of Rev. Earl's retirement\
- * We hope to have the plan formulated and approved not implemented
- **Structure**

- Notify the Canon for Mission Vitality when we are ready to start our discernment – Completed
- Utilize the Diocesan Congregational Discernment Committee (DCDC) throughout the process for support, direction, information, & final approval of our plan
- Provide regular communication of our committee’s progress to update the congregation & vestry and seek their input
- Finalize our plan with input from the congregation & vestry and present to the DCDC for final approval

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- **Ch/3 Key Areas of Questioning**

- Mission Statement
- Demographics of Church & Community
- “Our Town” Status & Needs
- Physical Plant
- People Resources/Finances
- Resources for Possible Shared Ministry

- **Legal/Policy Awareness**

- Church property belongs to the Diocese
- Anything sold needs input from a Diocesan Standing Committee representative & the DCDC
- Diocesan approval is needed before any restructuring exploration can be done with another church
- A record must be kept of all meetings
- Bishop Shannon has the final say in approval of any plan
- The checklist defined by the Diocese must be followed to address spiritual & legal matters if closing the church

- **Meeting Schedule**

- Life cycle of a congregation