

Technical Notes

- ECF may need to mute all participants to limit background noise and audio interference
- To start your web cameras, press the “Start my Web Cam” button and “Start Sharing”
- If you have questions, please type them into the chat box on the right-hand side of the screen
- PDFs of the slides and resource list are available for download
- This webinar is being recorded and will be made public



A Walk through the Vestry Resource Guide

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH FOUNDATION

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The Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF)

Independent, lay led organization, founded in 1949



Empowers congregations through visioning and planning, leadership development, and raising financial resources for ministry

Through our programs, ECF is building a Church...

- Lay and clergy leaders work together to transform the Church
- Healthy, vital, vibrant Episcopal communities of faith
- Meaningful opportunities for Christian stewardship and effective fundraising
- Innovative, mission-based ways to be the Church of the future

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Our Presenter: Nancy Davidge

- ECF associate program director; editor, ECFVP & *Vestry Resource Guide*
- Immediate past president Episcopal Communicators
- Experienced communications professional –for profit & nonprofit



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Presentation Overview

- Question: Who's on this call?
- What we'll cover
- Using chat feature
- Opportunities for questions
- Start with the Bible...



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Jethro's Advice: Exodus 18:13-27

Story where Jethro observes Moses' leadership style (doing it all himself) and offers this critique:

"What you are doing is not good. You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these people with you. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone."

"So Moses listened... and did all that he had said. Moses chose able men from all Israel and appointed them as heads over the people..."

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What's the Same?

Vestry Resource Guide = resource to guide vestry in their ministry

- Leadership role (shared with rector)
 - Discernment of God's call
 - Identification of new leaders
 - Stewardship and development of resources
- Fiduciary role
- Special duties when congregation without a rector

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What's Different: 2 A's and an F

Approach: What we know about congregations today

- Reflects the changing landscape of an increasingly secular world
- Strong focus on discerning mission & vision (what is God calling us to do?)
- Value of team approach to engaging in the work of ministry
- Importance of identifying, nurturing, supporting new leaders

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What's Different: 2 A's and an F

Acknowledgment: Congregations differ due to context

- > 45% PT, supply, or no clergy
- Increasing number of Spanish speaking members
- Blended congregations or multiple sharing one space
- No longer can assume building based
- Church plants/emergent may take different form

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What's Different: 2 A's and an F

Flexibility: What we've learned in our work at ECF

- Content as a starting point – consider, discuss, adapt
- Consider lay + clergy leadership teams
- Shared decision making, delegation (Exodus 18 Jethro & Moses)

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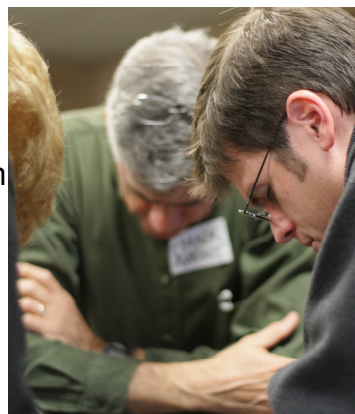
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Chapter 1: Mission-Focused Vestry

What is God's dream for your congregation?

- Facing the challenge of being church in an increasingly secular world
- Articulating your mission and vision
- Raising new leaders
- Stewardship/development of resources



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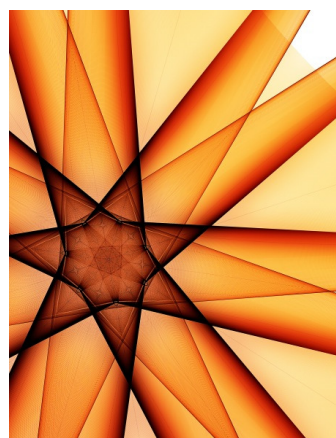
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Chapter 2: Ministry of the Vestry

Governance, structure, & selection

- Why is this important? Leaders come from many faith traditions
- Churchwide and Diocesan Canons – What do they say? What *don't* they say?
- Recommendations/approach based on well functioning congregations



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How are we doing? Is this making sense?



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Chapter 3: Strong Leadership Teams

- New chapter – built off of experience that led to Vital Teams
- Retains basics – orientation, norms & covenants, meetings
- Building effective teams
- Reinforces looking at big picture, delegating, evaluating, communications



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Chapter 4: Vision & Strategic Thinking

- New – looks at vestry's role related to complex issues facing congregations
- Introduces concept of strategic thinking
- Keeps “Why (are we here?)” front and center



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Chapter 5: Finance & Administration

- Recognition that day-to-day responsibility for these areas vary
- Strong emphasis on canons, diocesan practice, and CPG resources
- Offers guidelines & resources to help vestry members make sound decisions



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How are we doing? Any burning questions or clarifications needed?

And, please jot down questions that can wait for the Q&A at the end of this presentation.



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Chapter 6: Stewardship & Vision

- Year 'round stewardship formation
- Keeping the focus on mission & vision
- Recommendations related to capital campaigns, endowments, planned giving, and special fundraising events & projects
- Resources



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Chapter 7: Clergy Transition

- Update good information from 2007 edition
- Shift from FT to PT clergy – what that means for a vestry
- Recognition of different models piloted/adopted by dioceses



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Appendix

- Basic resources (commissioning service, job descriptions, covenants, models for vestry meetings, etc.)
- Addressing conflict
- In the spirit of ECFVP - sharing material from many sources



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Using the VRG with your Vestry

- Curriculum for annual vestry orientation or retreat
- Review a chapter at start of vestry meeting
- Resource to guide you in specific topic areas (print and online)



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Questions, comments, or clarifications???

Before we close – in chat, please share:

- One thing you learned
- A question that didn't get answered



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Ordering: Available through Forward Movement

[Vestry Resource Guide](#)

[Guía de recursos](#)

Also available in e-book form in both English and Spanish

<http://www.forwardmovement.org>

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