Building a Vital Newcomer Ministry

Mary Parmer
Newcomer Ministry Project Consultant
Episcopal Diocese of Texas
Connect via....

#invitewelcomeconnect
@gatheringleader
#teamjesus
@ecfvp

maryfosterparmer
ecfvp
episcopefoundation
Let us pray…

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength:

By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

-- A Prayer for Quiet Confidence, BCP, pg. 832
Newcomer Ministry Vision Statement

Cultivating new practices of **Invitation, Welcome, & Connection**
that are rooted and grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
will transform our congregations and help shape an authentic culture
of effective newcomer ministry.
Core Values

Prayerful

Intentional

Relational

Accountable
The Challenge
Essentials of Newcomer Ministry

INVITE .... Evangelism

WELCOME .... Hospitality

CONNECT .... Closing the Back Door
INVITE

INVITE.....EVANG ELI SM
DEEP TRUTH OF INVITE

Courage
Versus
Fear
Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7

The Episcopal Church... invites welcomes connects you....
Greeters & Ushers are God’s stand-ins & ambassadors
DEEP TRUTH OF WELCOME

Seeing
the
Other
CONNECT...closing the back door

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them. Romans 12:6

- Giving meaning to membership
- Discerning Giftedness
- Empowering Laity for Ministry
DEEP TRUTH OF CONNECT

Sacred Act of Listening
Relationship
Relationship
Relationship
Relationship
Relationship
Imagine the possibilities for the Episcopal Church

......if we lived into our calling to be Fully Engaged in living out God’s Transformative Mission of Hospitality to the World!
Interactive Check Lists

With embedded Ideas & Resources
INVITE
Check List / Ideas / Resources
This list is a starting place for you to assess and create your congregation’s system of INVITATION.
It is not intended to be either all inclusive or size specific.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INVITATION—EVANGELISM - Tools</th>
<th>We do this well</th>
<th>We need to work on this</th>
<th>We do not do this YET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Physical tools for invitation are provided to members i.e., business cards, postcards, etc. <strong>Idea #1</strong></td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Education & Training**

| • Opportunities to learn about invitation & evangelism are offered on a routine basis | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

| • Classes and/or teaching resources are provided to help parishioners learn how to effectively evangelize, i.e. how to share their faith story **Resource #1** **Idea #2** | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

**Church offers numerous creative ways of invitation to the local community **Idea #3**

| • Intentionally connect these activities with information about your church, always asking the question.. **Why are we doing this and how does it align with our mission?** | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
WELCOME

Check List / Ideas / Resources

This list is a starting place for you to assess and create your congregation’s system for WELCOME. It is not intended to be either all inclusive or size specific.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

- Greeting message on church answering machine
  Warm, friendly voice with clear information about current service times & instructions for leaving a message  Idea #1
  We do not do this yet

- Road signage and/or banners  Resource #1
  Contain easily readable information while driving by
  We do this well

- Facilities inside & out
  Clean, inviting, attractive, clearly tended & cared for
  We need to work on this

- Designated guest parking
  Located near the front doors & clearly identifiable
  We do not do this yet

- Interior signage
  Clearly marked entryways, walkways, & map of facilities available
  We need to work on this

- Nursery
  Accessible, clean, attractive to adults & children
  We do not do this yet

- Restrooms
  Well marked, clean, supplies on hand
  We need to work on this
**CONNECT**

Check List / Ideas / Resources

This list is a starting place for you to assess and create your congregation’s system for CONNECTION. It is not intended to be either all inclusive or size specific.

### CONNECTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>We do this well</th>
<th>We need to work on this</th>
<th>We do not do this Yet</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Process for connecting newcomers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Intentional system in place for tracking &amp; follow up</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Decision regarding preferred software system <strong>Resource #1</strong></td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Clergy &amp; Vestry have flow chart of newcomer process</td>
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<tr>
<td>[See “Welcome” segment-Resource #1]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Staff and/or lay ministry volunteer interaction with newcomers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Written job descriptions for staff and/or ministry volunteers</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Annual performance reviews for staff</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>**Designated person(s) who will connect &amp; keep track of newcomers ** <strong>Resource #2 &amp; #3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Intentional conversations to hear newcomer’s story</td>
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<tr>
<td>~ Listening for the Holy in their lives <strong>Idea #1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Connect newcomer with the people &amp; ministry that matches his/her particular life phase, gifts, talents, passion <strong>Idea #2</strong></td>
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# CHURCH ~ SCHOOL

## Check List / Ideas / Resources

This list is a starting place for you to assess your congregation’s relationship with your school. It is not intended to be either all inclusive or size specific.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL AS MISSION FIELD</th>
<th>We do this well</th>
<th>We need to work on this</th>
<th>We do not do this Yet</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify ways to intentionally build upon idea of the school as an evangelism asset/mission field <strong>Idea #1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intentionally connect school activities with information about your church <strong>Idea #2</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELATIONSHIP BUILDING</th>
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<th>We do not do this Yet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rector/clergy meet regularly with head of school <strong>Idea #3</strong></td>
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<td>- Rector/clergy are intentionally visible &amp; known by school board, parents, and students</td>
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<td>- Consideration of cost saving employment structure <strong>Idea #4</strong></td>
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</table>
Connect is where my heart is. All three are invaluable, but to me INVITE is like buying paint, and WELCOME is like pulling out the canvas. CONNECT however is where the art is. It is how the painting takes its shape. It is in blessing each others gifts and finding belonging that we discover the beauty in every contour the body of Christ.

The Rev. Les Carpenter @ Camp Allen 2014
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