

Workshop Opportunities for Vestry University - 2015

Session A 9:15-10:30	Session B 10:45-12:00	Session C 2:00-3:15
A1: Senior Ministry Matters. <i>Learn about ways to: 1) celebrate the involvement of seniors in your congregations; 2) develop ministries that enhance the quality of life for seniors; 3) deal with issues that affect the health and independence of seniors; and 4) share resources and ideas through workshops and diocesan communications.</i>	B1: Episcopal Polity 101. <i>A discussion of the particular fiduciary and spiritual responsibilities of the vestry as a whole, as well as for individual vestry members, wardens and clergy.</i>	C1: Polity 102: What Does Our Diocese Do? <i>How much do you know about how our diocese works? Find out what Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Diocesan Trustees, and Diocesan Convention (and related bodies) really do and what role they play in the life of your congregation.</i>
A2: Generational Giving. <i>Learn about the unique sensitivities and behavioral trends of different generational groups and how to tailor your stewardship message to more effectively reach everyone.</i>	B2: Strengthening Stewardship with Electronic Giving. <i>More and more, people are giving electronically. Learn about the benefits of e-giving and some of our congregations' early experiences with the diocese's recommended vendor, Vanco Payment Solutions.</i>	C2: Contemplative Prayer. <i>Learn and experience how Centering Prayer can be an invaluable tool both on a personal level and also in vestry and other congregational meetings.</i>
A3: How to Avoid Conflict. <i>Conflict can often be avoided when we understand our roles and responsibilities. Join the conversation on ways to avoid destructive conflict.</i>	B3: Clergy Are from the Sacristy, Vestries are from the Counting Room. <i>Learn about ways that clergy and lay leaders can create and promote a culture of trust, responsibility and accountability.</i>	C3: How to Thrive During Transition. <i>Transition does not have to be a time of stagnation or non-growth. Learn ways to make this time productive.</i>
A4: What You Need to Know About Your Church's Finances. <i>We will outline the financial and other information you need to see each month, how to understand it, and how to identify any "red flags."</i>	B4: Management and Mission. <i>A discussion with the Bishop about holding both management and mission in creative tension. FOR WARDENS ONLY.</i>	C4: Anti-Racism Conversation. <i>Racism is still very much a reality in America and in our own congregations. Join members of NAMASTE (our diocesan anti-racism commission) in a candid conversation about what we and our congregations can do to not just "talk the talk" of racial justice and reconciliation, but "walk the walk" as well.</i>
A5: Moving Back into the Neighborhood. <i>How do I discover what God might be up to in my neighborhood? Join Ginny Dinsmore, Coordinator for Missional Church Strategy for this interactive and informative workshop.</i>	B5: For God's Sake! What we are learning as we Go Local. <i>Going Local is a journey of discovery. On the journey, we learn how to discover and join with God in the work God is doing in the world. Join Ginny Dinsmore and a panel of Going Local participants as they share what they are learning.</i>	C5: Intro to Appreciative Inquiry. <i>A brief introduction into appreciative inquiry and how it can be utilized to bring about change in our parishes. We begin by asking, "What do we do best?"</i>
A6: Ministry Planning. <i>Most congregations don't plan to fail, they just fail to plan. What you need is a GPS for success because without a ministry plan, you don't have a clue. Now more than ever, a congregation needs to create a plan for its present and future mission and ministry. Come and learn how to get started.</i>	B6: Asset Mapping. <i>What are your real passions for ministry? How can you share your passion and gifts with others to discover new opportunities for ministry? Discover new ways of gift discernment for your congregation as we explore the process of Asset Mapping and take stock of our gifts, learn how to share them with others and use group synergy to discover commonalities and passions.</i>	C6: Keeping Young Adults Connected and Involved. <i>Come hear from lay and ordained leaders about effective practices & experiences that keep people (18-33) engaged & excited about their faith communities.</i>
A7: Church Legal Issues: What Every Vestry Should Know. <i>The State of New Jersey has a number of legal requirements that churches must follow. Learn about reporting, recording, and filing obligations; e.g.: changes to your by-laws, annual meeting dates, and number of vestry persons, that many congregations overlook.</i>	B7: Property Management Guide. <i>The Property Management Guide is an invaluable tool for congregations to use in managing their property(ies). Join the discussion involving roles, responsibilities and who does what with the wide range of property issues.</i>	C7: Ways to Help Solve Your Property Problems. <i>Even when property problems seem insurmountable, there are financial resources and knowledgeable people to help manage and partially fund the project.</i>
A8: "Pick the Geeks' Brains". <i>Bring your church communications questions and meet with members of the diocesan Technology Committee ("Geeks for God"). "Pick their brains" on topics such as websites, social media, e-newsletters, etc. Learn more about an important diocesan resource, the Church Website Project.</i>	B8: Google or God? Conducting an Online Digital Evangelism Test. <i>Digital Media is a powerful marketing and recruiting tool that's being used effectively by religious organizations, household brands, and terrorist organizations alike. But The Episcopal Church has yet to jump in with both feet. Find out how this powerful medium can be used to grow the Church and win converts.</i>	C8: Eucharistic Minister Training. <i>A Eucharistic Minister is a licensed lay person who administers the bread or wine during communion. Topics include proper use of the voice, basic liturgy, and the rubrics governing ministry. All are welcome to participate in this course but your priest must request licensure and the Bishop issues the license.</i>