

# Dispatches from the Journey

## *How to identify and collect the stories that will change our culture*

We are on a journey together of *Joining God in Shaping Our Future*. God is inviting us into a new way of living together, calling us out of our churches and into the world – to see what God is up to and to join God there.

Sharing our stories – “Dispatches from the Journey” – is important because stories...

- ...help us make sense of our environment.

- ...provide a shared context for mutual understanding of events and issues that impact us.

- ...convey values and help us transfer complex knowledge.

- ...make us care.

- ...inspire us to change our point of view.

If we can share many stories of congregations and individuals *Joining God in Shaping Our Future*, eventually our entire diocesan culture will start to shift, and we will move closer to where God is calling us to be.

**Listening** is key to our journey, and learning how to identify stories involves cultivating a special kind of listening. By cultivating this type of listening, we become Story Finders.

## *Anyone can become a Story Finder.*

How will you know when you've found a story about *Joining God in Shaping Our Future* – and what do you do when you find one? Turn over this page to find out!

# Identifying stories

*How will you know when you've found a story about Joining God in Shaping Our Future?*

Pay particular attention whenever you notice any of these behaviors:

- Non-conventional listening
- Transformation (can be of individuals or groups)
- Experimenting
- Risk-taking
- Overcoming challenges



Also, ask yourself:  
Does this story touch or inspire you personally?  
Are you *excited* to share this story?



Finally:  
Be open to the **unexpected!**

# Collecting stories

*In order to share a story, here is what you need to collect or articulate:*

- **What happened?**  
(Remember the “5 Ws” of journalism: who, what, where, when and why.)
- **What was learned – and what are the implications?**
- **Why is this story important to our journey of Joining God in Shaping Our Future?**

The more **detailed and colorful** stories are, the more impact they have. So also ask yourself:

- Who can be **quoted**?
- Who or what can be **photographed** or **video recorded**?



# Shaping and sharing stories

*You don't have to do this alone—help is available!*

Once you've done the above, help is available from the Communications Office to shape the story, and then share it on the diocesan website, in *The VOICE Online* and through diocesan social media.

Submit stories to:

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Director of Communications

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