

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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