



Diocese of Western Anglicans Ministry Leader Network Guide

Background

A diocese is a network of missional Local Churches and their clergy with a special focus on the Kingdom of God and its inbreaking on the context to which God has called them. Missional people are people with a clear sense of vocation to disciple unchurched and churching people alike, forming them through Christ-centered community where vibrant worship, effective disciple-making and evangelism and church multiplication are normative and organic.

In the Anglican way of following Jesus, we understand that there are 4 orders of ministry: laity, deacons, presbyters and bishops. We also understand that the calling of each is designed to create the environment for effective maturing of people in Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16) by the power of the Holy Spirit so that the church effectively reaches the world with the good news of Jesus (Matt 28:19-20).

- While bishops may be important for their apostolic witness, that witness is best distributed among a 'College' of Presbyters who oversee and equip the Local Churches.
- The bishop appoints Deacons to facilitate mission in and through the Local Church by 'leading the church in mission and discipling (catechizing) the unsaved and unchurched to seek God in the Local Church.
- The laity are those who leaven their homes, neighborhoods, job sites and community services with the 'lived-in' gospel of personal witness spoken of by Luke the evangelist in Acts 1:6-8:

"6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Rationale

Each Local Church relies on lay people to do the daily work of embodying the gospel and encouraging others to do the same. There are those who govern, others support public worship services, still others who focus on forming and maturing Christ-followers and still others who serve by inviting others through mercy and justice to follow Jesus. These lay leaders need the mutual support, specific equipping, policy and procedure guidance and troubleshooting on an ongoing basis in order to be effective and maintain effectiveness over time. Our tradition relies not only on the personal wisdom or experience of its members, but



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the corporate wisdom and experience of the church over 2000 years. As ‘reformed catholics’, we rely on structures and decision-making processes that were established through the Reformation and they must be applied effectively so that we can present the Kingdom of God in a context that requires a missional response.

What

Consequently, in a setting where resources are limited, we have the joy and opportunity to encourage, strengthen and advance the lay leaders of local churches through the formation of Ministry Leader Networks. What follows are the ministry networks that will most help the local church to be supported, especially as 44% of our churches are below the 50 ASA threshold.

<u>Network</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>
Wardens	Jim Dale, Canon Jim Hearn+
Treasurers	Cindy Drennan
Youth Workers/Missioners	Eric Overholt
Children and Family Workers	Fr. James, Linton, Cindy Frost, Liz Read-Smith
Mission Team Leaders	Fr. Ken Greenlee, Fr. Rob Holman
Intercessors	Sue Ellen Warren
Life Ministry	Betsy Shelton
Church Administrators	Walter Johnson, Jenna Vazquez
Worship Leaders	Deacon Ron Offringa, Chuck Maggs
Altar Guild Leaders	Michele Wright
Hispanic Ministry	Gabe Garcia+

How

Due to the availability of video conferencing software, online gatherings provide the most convenient and cost-effective way to strengthen lay leaders. The limitation of video conferencing is the difficulty building meaningful relationships with one another over time, which is best accomplished in person. Consequently, the video conference meetings are balanced by an annual opportunity to gather in person to build and solidify relationships with one another. The preferred rhythm for most Ministry Leader Networks will be:

Zoom Conference	3 times	Winter, Spring, Summer
Synod	1 time	Fall (October last weekend)



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Moving Forward

On March 1, annually, the Operations Manager will send a Ministry Leader Document to be completed by April 1, 2020. Ministry Network Leaders will gather everyone in a local church listed as having a responsibility in a Ministry Area on a Zoom call. A follow-up meeting will take place in the summer. Each person involved in a Ministry Network will be invited to the Ministry Networks Luncheon with the clergy on the Friday of Synod at noon. During the afternoon, the Ministry Networks will meet in their cohorts. After the first of the year, the Winter meeting will take place by Zoom.

Leading a Ministry Network

Our goal is to advance the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God advances best through relationships of significance:

Priority 1: Build and deepen relationships

Priority 2: Spiritually form all members in their capacity to follow Christ

Priority 3: Equip the members with the knowledge and skills to fulfill their ministry

Priority 4: Troubleshoot difficult challenges together and apply best practices wherever possible

A Typical Gathering

- Prayer
- Personal Check-in spiritually and practically
- Presentation and discussion of a Specific ministry subject
- Problem-solve a case event
- Prayer for one another
- Commitment to the next gathering