

TEACHING TUESDAYS: SIGNS OF PARISH VITALITY COMPELLING MISSION & VISION



"Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (BCP pg 832)

Recordings:

The entire [recording of our Teaching Tuesday](#) session of April 13th, 2021.

Just the [interview with Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers](#).

Links to get to know Rev. Katie and the work of Genesis:

[Genesis: New Episcopal Communities](#)

[What to Expect When You're Starting a New Episcopal Community](#)

[The Genesis Podcast](#)

Notes from the session:

In our mission and vision discussions, we often state *Who we are*, *Who we are trying to reach*, and *How we want to do that work*; Rev. Katie introduced a compelling aspect of beginning with *Who is Jesus?* We also explored the idea of a parish revising their mission and vision statements as though they were a new church plant!

Aspects of a Compelling Mission & Vision... *in which aspect could your parish to lean in and do some work?*

- Crafting the statements. We need to have clear statements of our mission (who we are: identity) and vision (how we live out that identity: action). Do we have those statements?
- Creating alignment with leadership. We need all the leadership to know the mission and vision and support it, especially when new leaders come on board.
- Integrating it into parish life. Do our parishioners know the mission and vision? Especially when it comes to our vision(s), do parishioners understand and support our aims? Do they know where to find those statements? Can they repeat them, even if paraphrased?
- Is there a piece of the process especially designed for outsiders? That piece for guests and outsiders would need to be invitational, stripped of unknown "churchy" vocabulary, and prominent when they visit the parish or parish platforms like a website, Facebook group or YouTube.

Next Steps? Do I need to *Re-view? Re-do? Re-share?*

- Who needs to review the work we've done? We should honor the work that's been done and keep it fresh in our hearts and minds. We might find some buried treasure when we go back to those statements.
- Does the parish mission and vision need a re-do in light of changes in context and community? If statements are older, say from ten years ago, it's probably time to rework them a bit. Remember that *mission* (identity) doesn't really change much over the years, but *vision* (how we do ministry in light of our identity and context) needs to be refreshed with contextual shifts and changes around us.
- How can we creatively and effectively share our mission and vision, engaging the whole parish? Can you plan a sermon series or class offering around mission and vision? Who in your parish has the creativity to make some visuals and graphical representations of your statements?

Resources to help with the mechanics of Mission & Vision statements:

[Several examples of mission and vision statements.](#)

[5 Easy Steps To Writing A Church Mission, Vision and Values Statement.](#)

[Barnabas Foundation: Developing Your Church Vision & Mission.](#)

[Mission and Vision in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.](#)

[UnStuck Church Group Masterclasses for EDOW.](#)

