



Diocese of New Westminster  
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

# Visiting Each Other

## Building Christian Community

# Outline



- Background
- Objectives
- Leadership
- Timeframes
- The parish story
- Building & training the team
- The “package”
- Supporting activities
- Keeping track & evaluation

# Effective Methods



- Clergy visit
- Lay peer visit
- Clergy letter
- Staff visit
- Clergy phone call
- Lay peer phone call
- Event invitation
- Lay peer letter
- Staff phone call
- Staff letter

MOST

LEAST

# Daft & Lengel: Information Richness





# Visiting: Strengths



- Creates a clear focus on the spiritual and evangelistic dimensions of life together in Christian community.
- This is stewardship! This builds community like no other stewardship model.
- Opportunity to give information about the work and vision of the parish, and the diocesan shared outreach ministries; also to get feedback about the church and its ministry.
- Encourages stewardship commitment as a thoughtful, intentional act of discipleship.
- Clears up misunderstanding about the priorities of the parish and those who want to be on the parish list or not.

# Visiting: Weaknesses



- Requires organization
- Training visitors
- Printed materials needed
- Takes more time

# Objectives



- Building community
- Communicating mission & vision
- Updating parish information
- Financial development
  - Budget
  - Program
  - Outreach
- Identify pastoral needs

# Leadership



- Rector
- Lay chairperson
- Committee members
  - Visitations
  - Materials
  - Events
  - Support
- Team leaders
- Visitors



# Timelines



- Purpose dependent
  - Time
  - Talent
  - Treasure
- Allow 4-5 months to recruit/prepare
- Spring: building community
- Fall: financial development

# The Parish Story



- Mission statement
- Strategic plan
- Financial plan
  - Operating
  - Outreach ministry
  - Capital
  - Endowment
- Narrative budget

# Building The Team



- Organizing team geography
- Team potential: 40 visits
- Visitor's ratio: 1:5
- Team leader's ratio: 1:8
- Teams required =  $\text{Households}/45$
- Prepare household cards
- Set up training workshop

# Training The Team



- Team leader's responsibility
  - Coordinate, encourage, support visitors
  - Visit 5 visitors
  - Attend campaign meetings
- Visitor's responsibility
  - Communicating the parish story
  - Information gathering & updating
  - Soliciting donations and pledges
  - Reporting results



# Training The Team (Workshop)



- Opening Prayer
- Appreciation
- Outline process
- Review support materials and their use
- Reporting system
- Role play visiting techniques
- Share tips on good practice
- Commission team members (or at service)
- Questions & answers
- Assign households to teams/visitors

# Visiting Sequence



- Principle: Give before you ask
- Rector and lay chair visit each other
- Lay chair visits committee members
- Committee members visit team leaders
- Team leaders visit their team members
- *Alternative:* above commit at workshop
- Visitors visit their assigned households

# The “package”



- Rector's letter
- Parish story
- Financial plan
- Commitment card
- Household contact & information
- Visitor's reporting form
- Team leader's reporting form
- Folder
- Saying Thank You

# Supporting Activities



- Letter campaign
- Telephone solicitation
- Special events
  - Recruitment event(s)
  - Parish Dinners
  - Visiting Speakers
- Commitment Sunday (Visiting Day)
- Celebrating results



# Visiting Day



- Special commissioning service
  - Emphasis on commitment to mission
- Light lunch for visitors
- Last minutes instructions
- Visiting all afternoon & evening
  - 30-45 minutes maximum per visit
- Follow with missed visits over the week
- Reporting progress to team leader

# Knock Knock: The Visit Sequence



- At the door
- Opening conversation
- Presenting the “ask”
- Discussion & questions
- Making commitments
- Departing

# Administrative Needs



- Update parish list
- Draft leaders/visitor's list
- Prepare
  - household information
  - pledge cards
  - “package” contents
  - training materials
- Organize
  - Stewardship “moments”, bulletin inserts
  - Events
  - Special services
- Pledge fulfillment

# Evaluating Results



- Financial summary
- Visitation Results
  - # Visits
  - # Incompletes
  - Qualitative feedback
- Areas for improvement
- Time & Talents discovered
- Update database



# Tips for Visitors



- Give first to show commitment
- Communicate the story in person
- Use support materials
- Be aware of body language, eye contact
- Treat questions as interest, discuss
- Note any information changes/pastoral needs
- Aim high based on situation/information
- Get signed commitment card
- Never leave commitment card, revisit if needed
- Follow up as required
- Thank the person

# For More Information



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