

Programs for Vestries and Congregations

Available Through the Bishop's Office
Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Training for Vestries and Congregations: This training is geared to providing vestries and/or congregations the tools they need to begin more effective and sustainable ministry. Use the tools of ABCD for everything from designing Christian education programs to developing outreach ministry with the broader community. It answers those questions that plague all new beginnings: 1) How do we decide what to do? and 2) How do we get people to help? For an added bonus: all of it is done through the lens of relationship-building. Training requires approximately 3 hours. *(Questions or to schedule: Deacon Elaine Clements, deaconelaine@gmail.com or 504-236-1133)*

Program Planning: Theory of Change Model (More or Less): This thirty-minute program-planning guide introduces the Theory of Change Model. The Theory of Change Model defines those building blocks required to bring about a long-term goal. It gives tools for planning, decision-making and ongoing evaluation of results over the long term. Training requires approximately 30 minutes and is done as an addition to Asset Based Community Development Training. *(Questions or to schedule: Deacon Elaine Clements, deaconelaine@gmail.com or 504-236-1133)*

Peer-to-Peer Recovery Program: This program, created in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and funded by Episcopal Relief and Development, is a multi-day training to provide congregations with the resources to accompany people who have been the victims of a disaster. Participants will receive training on the basics of the disaster recovery process and how to coach people in walking the path to "the new normal". Exercises provide insight into the issues of grief and loss that accompany disaster as well as a guide to the "Alphabet Soup" of disaster agencies. The aim of the program is to give congregations the tools to develop teams to respond through one-on-one relationships after a disaster. *(Questions or to schedule: Deacon Elaine Clements, deaconelaine@gmail.com or 504-236-1133)*

Contextual Bible Study: This program, the purpose of which is to point participants towards the justice messages of the Bible and thereby increase capacity for outreach ministry, conveys a particular way of reading and responding to Biblical passages. Contextual Bible Study came out of the Liberation Theology Movement of the Roman Catholic Church of the 1950's and 60's. It has been described as "an interpretation of Christian faith through the poor's suffering, struggle and hope". Each session takes approximately 1-1/2 hours and can be one session or many, depending on the needs and desires of the participants. *(Questions or to schedule: Deacon Elaine Clements, deaconelaine@gmail.com or 504-236-1133)*

Miscellaneous: We are ready anytime to brainstorm with vestries some ideas for increasing capacity for outreach. We have a number of resources that can help.

