Building the Snapshot

When we gather for “Part Two” of Convention in March, the focus will be on celebrating and launching the diocesan mission strategy. The task force is hard at work getting ready, but they are not the only ones with work to do.

The March gathering is being designed as an interactive experience, and every church will get more out of it by taking some next steps to get ready. First and foremost, if you haven’t already, take some time to [acquaint yourself with the mission strategy to date](https://www.episdionc.org/mission-strategy/).

Next, build a snapshot of where you are today. Take some time to sit down together as a congregation and look at where you are in your own work; there are some conversation starters below.

As you do that, take a look at the diocesan mission priorities on which the mission strategy is built:

● Racial Justice and Reconciliation

● Congregational Vitality

● Collaboration and New Communities

● Lifelong Formation

● Creation Care

As you build the picture of where you are, keep going back to the priority areas of the mission strategy. Find yourself in them and picture where else you want to go, whether it’s deeper into work already happening or expanding into something new.

***You do not have to do it all.*** This is not about making sure you are involved in every mission priority; it’s about finding that one thing God is calling you to do and starting there (or taking the next step if you’ve already started).

You may find you’re already there and are ready to do more, and that’s where we are asking you to focus between now and March. Where are you now, and where do you want to go?

Building the Snapshot: Conversation Starters

The call to Become Beloved Community is already a part of the life and mission of your congregation. The Holy Spirit has been activating this call and bringing it to life as a part of the work of the Jesus Movement; as your particular expression of making disciples who are making a difference. The Mission Strategy process helps us all to identify, focus, build out and celebrate the work that the Holy Spirit is initiating in each of our congregations.

If you have ever done an exercise that has helped you identify your own particular spiritual gifts, this is similar, but is focused on your congregation, instead of individual members of the Body of Christ. The following questions are to help your congregation in this process.

What is the work happening in your church that brings life, joy, energy?

What ministries do you currently offer?

What partnerships are part of your current mission?

What are the strengths and characteristics of your congregation in which you take pride?

*As you look at the priority areas of the mission strategy:*

Which priority or priorities are connected to the work you are currently doing?

Do you see different priorities in particular areas of work and ministry?

If you see more than one, how and where do they intersect?

*When you think of the future:*

What work do you want to expand?

What work would you like to start?

What do you have in place/available to help you with that (new or expansion)?

What else do you need?

What obstacles do you need to overcome?