



Total Common Ministry

May 2015

Christ Episcopal Church

Anacortes WA

No Want of Light

Blue-black night holds
such a thin crescent moon.
Spirit paints in gold light,
fishes near God's gilded,
luminous mark of Venus.

Mysterious life on this world
surrounds our days,
wonder exists in numerous ways.

A luteous yellow laburnum glow,
its tiny petal with pure heart shape,
graces song and food for the bees.
Crows caw and peck under canopy
of thick pine needles in trees.
Hummingbirds zip all directions,
an aerial dance inside joy.

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways
for his Name's sake.



Margo Huth

Our Common Ministry

Where Are We?

Total Common Ministry (TCM) is a model of ministry focused on the centrality of baptism and using our spiritual gifts to participate in God's work, in our daily life, our vocation and in the ministry of the church.



In response to our Christ Church Mutual Ministry Plan, the congregation gathered in March to discuss how TCM is working at Christ Church and to explore possibilities for change that would strengthen our ministry together.



The Reverend Diane Ramerman

A clear consensus emerged: we are ready to begin the discernment needed to call new people into the Ministry Support Circle and invite them to the formation process for commissioning. In consultation with the Diocese, the Bishop's Committee and the Ministry Support Circle have developed the process for call. This process begins now, at Pentecost, as we explore the gifts of the Spirit.

This Booklet is a First Step & Discernment Will Follow.

Please take the time to read it carefully, to pray and consider the possibilities as people are invited into new forms of baptismal ministry. This is the work of the whole community, each of us plays an important role. As outlined in the May 6, 2015 letter from Senior Warden Lorne Render, a general discernment group open to anyone in the congregation will begin meeting in June, under the guidance of The Reverend Sally Balmer. In September, the congregation will submit nominations to join the Circle in the role of supporting the ministry of all.



The Rev. Deacon Eric Johnson

These Nominations Will Not Be to Specific Roles.

You will be asked to support your nomination(s) with a short statement of the specific spiritual gifts you see in the individual(s) you are nominating. Canon to the Ordinary Marda Steedman Sanborn will review the nominations. *Priests Carol and Diane will invite those persons nominated into a conversation about whether or not they feel called to explore being a part of the Ministry Support Circle.*

Formation Process

Those answering the congregation's call will work with the existing Circle, the Commission on Ministry, and the Bishop's office on a course of study. The CoM will assign a mentor to assist.

The Circle will continue its ministry of support to the congregation, and assist and mentor those entering the formation process. The three ordained clergy (Reverend Diane, Reverend Carol and Reverend Eric) will continue their specific roles, as will the lay members Dale and Betty Anne.

Those called in this 2015 discernment process will add their gifts to the Circle; individual discernment will direct them into various congregational ministries, and determine whether any are called to ordained ministry. Over time, some in the Circle may feel their particular ministry is completed, and retire. Total Common Ministry is an organic concept, replenished and refreshed in response to changing needs and ministries of the congregation.

Faithfully,
The Christ Church Ministry Support Circle
The Reverend Deacon Eric Johnson
Betty Anne McCoy
Dale Ramerman
The Reverend Diane Ramerman
The Reverend Carol Rodin



Betty Anne McCoy



The Reverend Carol Rodin



Dale Ramerman

Spirit-Given Gifts

Spirit-given gifts are special abilities that God gives to every Christian in baptism to be used for the strengthening of the Body of Christ so that it might better fulfill God's purposes in the world. God has created us and our gifts for a place of God's choosing.

Ministry

Helping people make connections between God and their life.

Teaching

The God given ability to lead people into deeper understanding of God.

Exhortation

The God given ability to encourage people in their life and ministry.

Giving

The God given ability to give financially to the work of God in the world.

Leading

The God given ability to guide and direct the people of God in mission.

1 Corinthians 12:28, Acts 14:23

Compassion

The God given ability to empathize and assist those who are hurting or marginalized.

Faith

The God given ability to take risks for God's work and to trust in God's will.

Prophecy/Justice

The God given ability to tell difficult-to-hear truth in love.

Discernment

The God given ability to see and express the inner dynamics of people and situations.

Craftsmanship

The God given ability to make things useful for ministry. *Acts 9:36-39*

Support

The God given ability to make ministry possible or less burdensome for others. *Acts 6:1-4, Romans 16:1-2*



Hospitality

The God given ability to make people feel welcome in the name of Christ. *Romans 12:13*

Communication

The God given ability to communicate the gospel to people through the many media and art forms of the day. *Mark 4:2,33 Acts 17:22*

Intercession

The God given ability to pray to God on behalf of others.

Music Leadership

The God given ability to lead and support others in making a joyful noise to the Lord.

Healing

The God given ability to encourage the restoration of peace and well being among others.

Pastor

The God given ability to guide and nurture people to be who God has made them to be.

Prayer

The God given ability to hold themselves, others, and the world in God's love.

Creativity

The God given ability for artistic expression through art, music and word.

Organization

The God given ability to organize groups and tasks and to keep in mind the larger picture.

Administration

The God given ability to facilitate the work of ministry through administrative support.

*“...we don't find our gift through self-examination and introspection
and then find ways to express it. Instead, we love one another,
serve one another, help one another, and in so doing
we see how God has equipped us to do so.”*

-Russell Moore, *Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches*

Living Our Baptismal Covenant Through Ministry

Given Who We Are, What Is Our Potential?



TCM Theology

In Ephesians, Paul uses the image of the body for the church (*Ephesians 4:11-12*). Early churches organized themselves to discern, equip, support and oversee people in the ministry to which they were called. They selected people from their congregation to be their presiders, preachers, teachers, administrators and deacons. They trusted that the gifts and resources needed by the community of faith, whether large or small, were present through the work of the Holy Spirit.

TCM theology is grounded in abundance: abundance of gifts and abundance of persons formed and trained to support the ministry of all the baptized. Each baptized follower of Christ is called and empowered to do the ministry to which he or she has been called, each with a particular charge, and dependent on each other. Some are called to ordained, or specialized, ministries of oversight and administration of the sacraments. Together, the ordained and those called but not ordained serve in the mutual ministry of all the baptized. TCM lives out the promise of Jesus that we will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit. In the TCM model, the leadership, including ordained persons, are called from the local congregation.

TCM in the Diocese

Christ Church is one of seven TCM congregations in the Diocese of Olympia. Each congregation has one or more local priests, some also have a deacon. Ordination is according to ECUSA canons and standards for seminary trained priests and the vocational diaconate. Our TCM clergy are non-stipendiary. Our priests (Reverend Carol Rodin and Reverend Diane Ramerman) are mentored by and receive oversight from Diocesan Canon to the Ordinary Marda Steedman Sanborn; our deacon (Reverend Eric Johnson) serves under the oversight of the Archdeacon of the Diocese. The TCM clergy are part of the Ministry Support Circle.

TCM at Christ Church

Presently, there is a Support Circle of five. With our three clergy, two lay members exercise their spirit given gifts as part of the Support Circle. Dale Ramerman serves as leadership and support in preaching, faith formation and administration. Betty Ann McCoy serves as the congregation's voice of leadership in the greater church and offers leadership and support to healing prayer ministry.

The Ministry Support Circle does not replace the Bishop's Committee; they work in tandem. The Circle supports the BC and the BC supports the Circle. The Bishop's Committee supports the ministries of the congregation through governance: making sure the ministry is done in

good order, has the financial support it needs, and is good for the whole congregation. The Bishop's Committee has primary responsibility for the property of the church.

We do not expect people to serve in these non-stipendiary roles forever. We recognize that the needs of the congregation change, and that the Spirit given gifts of the members are constantly being refreshed in response to those changing needs and as new members join the congregation. Each member of the Bishop's Committee serves for three years; one third of the Bishop's Committee is elected each year, so that Committee is renewed annually. This 2015 Call to Discernment for new members to refresh the Circle recognizes the investment of time necessary for formation and, through the expansion of the Circle, will allow Circle members to retire as needed.

Formation Process & Ministry Roles

TCM is an organic concept – that includes the call to ministry and formation processes. The Diocese of Olympia is preparing its own “seminary without walls” which will offer theological educational programming for TCM ministries. Those called into the Circle will receive the preparation necessary to fulfill their calls: their time commitment will be considerable over the next two years, and they will need the support and encouragement of the congregation in this process. Their education and formation will be mentored by our clergy, overseen and reviewed by the Office of the Bishop, the Diocesan Commission on Ministry, the Standing Committee, and the Board of Examining Chaplains; the Bishop will meet regularly with them.

Specific ministry roles, e.g., priest, deacon, youth leader, outreach support, administrative coordinator, preacher, pastoral care giver, educator– are not mutually exclusive. The discernment we will do together recognizes the spiritual gifts of the individual in response to the needs of the congregation. Ultimately, working in discernment group, the specific calls of those ‘in process’ will be determined; one or more may be chosen for ordination.

TCM is a Mutual Ministry Covenant

As some are called to ministry as Circle members, others in the congregation may see their own call to ministry more clearly. The Circle encourages and supports all baptized members in discerning what their vocation, their calling by the Spirit, is in this community.

The ministry capacity of the congregation (both within the faith community and the larger community) is greatly increased by the broad base of Circle members formed in community. The energy is not gathered around a central priest figure. The Circle becomes the leaven in the community: new ministries and leaders are called forth as the gifts of each person are recognized, supported and utilized in Christian community.

Given who we are, what is our potential?

-The Reverend Diane Ramerman

The full version of this article is available at www.christchurchanacortes.org

Total Common Ministry Discernment Process

*“Jesus, standing in the immense courtyard of the temple at the outset of his public ministry, seems to be challenging us to entertain this question:
How can we create something new that honors the ancient dream
of God’s purpose for the church in the world?”*

The Reverend Carol Rodin



The Total Common Ministry discernment process is a journey that begins at the cross-roads of two great truths about the Church: the first is that the Church is not a human society formed by a human gathering of people with like-minded religious opinions. Instead, the Church is a convocation, a company of the faithful who have been called by God’s faithfulness. One of the tasks of those who have heard God’s call is to convey that call to the world and to make the world our concern. The second great truth about the Church relevant to discernment is that each person has their gift assigned by God (I Corinthians 7:7). One can desire gifts (I Corinthians 12:31); one can understand and discern gifts; and one can cultivate gifts. Gifts are

not jobs and gifts are not offices and gifts are not simply skills, strengths or experiences. A gift (Greek: charisma) is a spiritual manifestation, related on one side to “grace” (Greek: charis) and on the other side to the Holy Spirit, who continues the work of Christ in and through the Church.

The discernment process, then, is a journey not so much of self-discovery as “relational discovery,” namely, the discovery and cultivation of our unique gifts through the process of prayer, dialogue, reading, contemplation and desire. This journey is difficult not because we have no gift, nor because the Holy Spirit is unwilling to help us, but because we are afraid of our own uniqueness. Therefore, dealing with that fear is one of our first and most important tasks.

We cannot take this journey alone; the work of the Church, even the work of individuals to understand themselves and their gifts, is always the work of a company. Materially, this will mean meeting together with others on a regular basis. We will follow a process that has been proven effective in the past and yet provides ample room for creative work in the present. Each must be willing to learn; each must be willing to help others learn.

There are those who serve the Church by special office (i.e., as part of the Ministry Support Circle). We hope and expect that as a part of the church's discernment journey, some will ascertain that God is calling them to this ministry. And yet, the discernment of gifts is for all, both to help and to be helped. The discernment process is one of the first steps in mobilizing people to tackle the tough problem of how to convey the call of the faithful God to the world and how to make the world our concern. All who participate are, therefore, leaders.

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future" (John F. Kennedy). These are exciting times for Christ Episcopal Church and yet times

where reasonable people might be stressed out, ambivalent or skeptical about the changes—even though we are hardly certain of what those changes might be. So be it. Bring your stress, ambivalence or skepticism; verbalizing those conflicting feelings is essential to the process. Others might be hopeful or even enthusiastic. Bring that hope and that enthusiasm.

The discernment process is a great leap forward for Christ Episcopal Church; you are cordially invited to be a part of the journey: you will reap immeasurable personal benefits and others will grow in wisdom and understanding through your participation. Come and be part of the creation of something new that honors the ancient dream of God's purpose for the church in the world.

-Brian Lennstrom

*Gifts are not jobs
and gifts are not offices
and gifts are not simply
skills, strengths
or experiences.
A gift... is a spiritual
manifestation...*

***"But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift."
Ephesians 4:7***

The intent of mutual discernment is to help each one of us find a ministry to which we contribute our unique spiritual gifts. We may, from time to time, find ourselves engaged in a ministry which we are not really gifted to do. Or, a person may feel gifted for a particular ministry, and the church or the congregation does not discern that such a ministry role fits the needs of the community or gifts of the person. In these instances, we must trust the promise of the Holy Spirit to be present in the discernment to specific ministry roles needed to best serve the Christ Church congregation.

Call to Ministry Support Circle as a Lay Member

The role of the lay member of the Ministry Support Circle (MSC) will be determined through the discernment process. Our baptismal covenant calls us all to ministry; a lay person can make this unique commitment to be a member of the Ministry Support Circle at Christ Church and serve in a leadership role in the congregation. The leadership comes as Jesus calls us to serve others and to help others identify their gifts and areas they might serve.

Lay members of the Circle play an important role in helping ordained clergy to maintain balance in their lives, encouraging others in the congregation to keep personal family relationships healthy and not secondary to church involvement. Circle members can be a conduit for the congregations' reflections on parish life in a TCM congregation. The lay members accept responsibility for the formative period of education and training that will be required leading up to commissioning as a Ministry Support Circle member and will receive specific training to fulfill their discerned roles. This period is a rewarding opportunity to have a deeper understanding of the Episcopal Church and the unique role we have in doing Christ's work in the community and the world.

-Betty Anne McCoy

Who Can Be Nominated & Who Can Vote

Adult baptized members in good standing of Christ Church are eligible to vote and to be nominated. According to the Canons and Constitutions of the Church, "in good standing" means a baptized person who contributes to the church through personal service and monetary gift and has participated in the Eucharist at least three times in the last year.

Baptismal Promises

To continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

To persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord.

To proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.

To seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself.

To strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being.

To Aid in Your Discernment, Consider Following These Steps:

Step 1

Daily Remember your Baptismal Identity

You are God's Holy and Beloved Child, marked with the cross of Christ, and sealed by the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is who we are as baptized people.



Step 2

Reflect on the Life of Christ Church

Think about the gifts of all the people who help support the ministries of this congregation. If you are interested in discerning your own gifts or reflecting on an issue in your life, or are willing to help others to discern, join the general discernment group beginning this June. Please contact any member of the Circle for more information on the discernment group.

Step 3

Review the Spiritual Gifts

The congregation has all the gifts it needs for its own ministry. Review the partial list of gifts God gives so that the church may do its ministry in Christ's name.

Step 4

Review our Membership List

Pray and give thanks for every person on the congregation list in this booklet. Mark the names of those you feel are called and gifted to support the ministry of the whole congregation through leadership. By each name you select, note the specific gifts you see in them. Continue to pray for them.

Step 5

Nominate Those who Support Others in Ministry

Early in September, you will receive a nomination card. Write the names & the gifts of those persons you have selected. Put your card in the offering plate on Sunday, September 20 or in the box in the Parish Hall no later than September 25. Envelopes will be provided for confidentiality.

Baptized Members Eligible for Nomination

Doris Andersen	John Guinn	Elaine Oliphant
Gary Anderson	Karen Halgren	Lorraine Patmore
Margaret Carpenter Arnett	Keith Halgren	Mark Perschbacher
Shirley Barrett	Richard Hoffman	Mark Raphael
Kaeti Barrett	Georgia Hosac	Micael Raphael
Maegan Barrett	Margo Huth	Jennifer Rash
Don Blankenship	Don Ibsen	Kyle Rash
Joanne Blankenship	Marie Ibsen	Judith Render
Diane Canington	Anne Jackets	Lorne Render
Mimi Chambers	Mike Jackets	Mary Revello
June Cook	Bonita Janz	Dee Roberts
Carl Corbin	Dana Jenkins	Emerson Roberts
Charlene Corbin	Jennifer Kellen	Curt Rodin
Guy Davidson	Joel Kellen	Marj Scribner
Jane Davidson	David Laidman	Sara Shao
Sandi Davidson	Janis Larkins	James Snoey
Betty Dawes	Becky Lennstrom	Barbara Stephan
Lee Dawes	Brian Lennstrom	Jack Tobien
Karolyne DeAtley	Calvin Lloyd	Sara Tobien
Sharon DuBois	Janice Lloyd	Doyen Vigus
Linda Everton	Valerie Long	Janice Walker
Ann Falk	Kathryn Lyons	Bill Walker
Pamela Foggin	Richard Lyons	Dale Walsh
Tom Foggin	Carleton Manning	Dedy Ward
Ed Forsman	Sandy Mathis	Jean Wharton
Shirley Forsman	Frank McCoy	Margaret Whatley
Dale Fountain	Robert McElroy	Kris Whitely
Louise Fountain	Diana McGaw	Peyton Whitely
Ann Gayle	Myrna McLalwain	Linda Wilhoit
Jim Glasgow	Clark McKee	Steve Wilhoit
Ann Green	Bill Myers	Creamy Wilkins
Jenny Gronholt	Rosalie Myers	Lu Ann Wohlander
Mary Gronholt	John Nelson	Rita Yribar
Diane Guinn	Sydney Olausen	Gloria Zillig