



The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia

Serving Central and South Georgia since 1733

A Common Framework for Development

Church Development Institute (CDI) began its 6th cycle of instruction with a meeting held at Honey Creek last weekend. CDI is a two year program spread out over eight weekends for lay and ordained leaders in the diocese to enhance their leadership skills and gain a better understanding of how to promote numeric and spiritual growth within their churches. On Friday evening, returning CDI participants shared their year-long project reports with the first time CDI participants. As members of our Diocesan Community shared the successes of their experiences within their own congregations, a language trend became apparent.



So we asked: How does the common framework and language used at CDI affect the diocese on a congregational level?

“When it comes to language, CDI proposes a “framework” for looking at the obvious in a different manner.” *Fr. Larry Williams, Christ Church, Cordele*

Church Development institute provides its participants with tools of awareness to understand all components of the parish. By offering a common language to use in defining the parish, its many moving parts, and how it functions, participants are given room to communicate more effectively about how to address issues of growth within their congregations.

“We walked into the first meeting with no idea what to expect. It has given us a language, it has given us ideas that we had never thought about, and, most importantly, it has given us the tools and framework to solve problems before they even begin.” *-Terri Degenhardt, St. Michael's, Waynesboro*

Participants spend most of their first year of CDI training learning to understand how individuals in a group all use different techniques to approach and address a problem from their own perspective. By learning how to identify and name these differences in any individual, CDI participants can return home to their congregation with a greater sense of “Group Awareness.”

“The biggest thing has been understanding how groups of people function in accomplishing a task. It's been helpful in terms of working with the vestry as a senior warden- how we facilitate approaching problems and projects as a vestry.” *Alan Peaslee, St. Anne's Tifton*

CDI also provides four core frameworks to its participants: The Renewal- Apostolate Cycle; the Christian Life Model; The Benedictine Promise, and the Shape of the Parish. These frameworks are offered so leaders can see more clearly what is happening in the deeper and more hidden places of parish life and act to improve that life. The frameworks are models. We use them to do analysis, explore relationships, and as a starting place in solving problems, developing capacities, and shaping the future life of the organization.

“I'm in a position where I have a responsibility to care for the parish as a whole. CDI has helped me understand the components of the parish and given me a broader awareness of the church.” *- Alan Peaslee*