

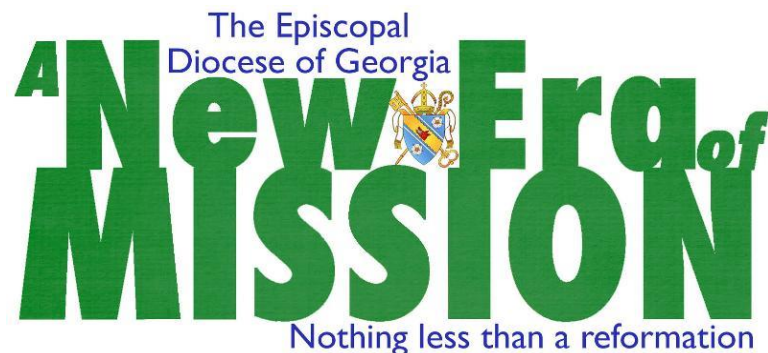


The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia

Serving Central and South Georgia since 1733

Campaign for Congregational Development **Upcoming Discernment Study**

The Diocese of Georgia is conducting a Discernment Study to determine the current highest priorities and needs of the members of our Diocese regarding the Campaign for Congregational Development. The Bishop and staff are working with Andi Tilmann, our Campaign consultant with the Episcopal Church Foundation. In the coming weeks, she will be in the Diocese to hear from lay and ordained leaders across the convocations.



In 2010, Bishop Benhase pledged to move from a quartile system with asking from 10-17.5% (depending on the income of the congregation) to a flat tithe for all congregations. The Diocese was able to achieve that-while keeping the budget in the black-within his first two years of service. However, his greater vision for congregational development and ministry can not happen through the annual Diocesan budget alone. Thus, the Campaign for Congregational Development was conceived as an approach to meet both the Bishop's greater vision for the

Diocese as a larger Body of Christ and his commitment to require only annual tithes of our congregations.

Every initiative supported by the Campaign for Congregational Development arose directly from the priorities expressed by the people of our Diocese during an initial 14 months of listening. Three clear priority areas stood out from all the others:

- Congregational Growth & Development
- Clergy & Lay Leader Support and Development
- Leadership Formation for Youth & Young Adults

Nine initiatives emerged from these core priorities, to be supported by the Campaign for Congregational Development. The Campaign is designed to generate the base funds to launch as many of the identified ministries as possible over the course of the next 5-10 years while simultaneously continuing to support the already existing ministries, as funds come in. The long-term vision is for the ministries that prove vital and effective to become line items in the annual Diocesan budget, supplemented by ongoing support from individuals and congregations.

This upcoming Discernment Study will guide us in determining which initiatives have the most support at this time, and how much the Campaign for Congregational Development could raise to achieve them over the next 5 years. Gifts of all sizes are welcome and will enable the Diocese to strengthen our congregations, serve our communities and grow in the Body of Christ. More information on the Discernment Study and how to submit a survey will be highlighted in From the Field in the coming weeks. To find out more about the Campaign, call Rebekah Stewart at (912) 236-4279 or visit campaign.georgiaepiscopal.org