The Episcopal Diocese of
Central New York

Learning Communities Initiative

WELCOME!

LEARNING COMMUNITY INITIATIVE TRAINING DAY
JUNE 2018

LEARN BY DOING

Using Action Learning to Discover God's Leading

LISTENING TO GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE

DWELLING IN THE WORD – ACTS 16:6-15

SHARING OUR LEARNING

Sharing Our Learning

- **Listen to Others**
  - **What's one thing your Guiding Team learned from listening to people in your congregation?**
  - **What's one thing your Guiding Team learned from having to do this assignment (or empower other people to do it)?**
- **Dwelling in the Word (Acts 16)**
  - **What did your Guiding Team learn from listening to this text?**
  - **How did you use the dwelling exercise in your parish?**
  - **What did your Guiding Team learn from doing this practice of listening to Acts 16 together and encouraging other people to do it?**
- **Walking the Neighborhood**
  - **What did you learn from paying attention to your "neighborhood?"**

WHAT MIGHT GOD BE UP TO?

And HOW CAN WE JOIN IN?

NEXT STEP: ACTION LEARNING EXPERIMENTS

What is an experiment?

An experiment in this process is a planned action-learning experience that is designed to help us "behave our way into new thinking."
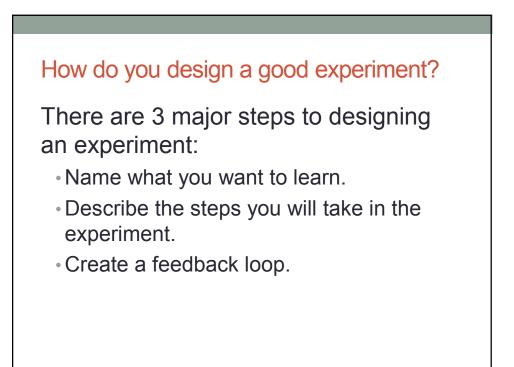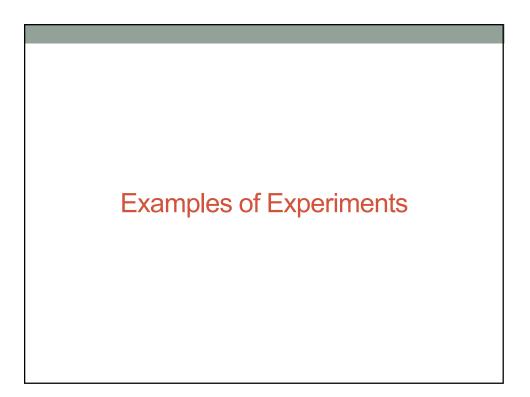
What is the point of experiments?

Experiments are the best way to learn when we are faced with challenges that require us to adapt and do something differently than we have done it before. Experiments create space for us to discover new ways to be the church in our context.

What makes an experiment successful?

The success of an experiment is determined by how much we learn and are transformed by the experience rather than by how much impact our actions have on others.
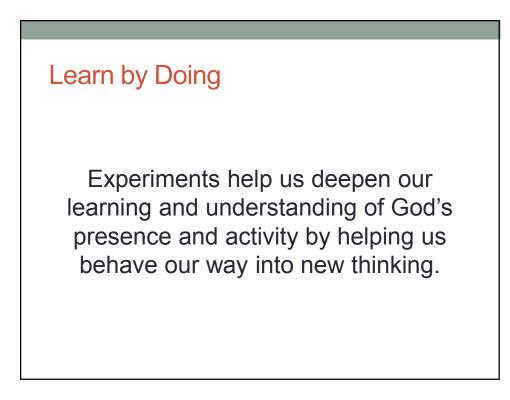
How do you design a good experiment?

There are 3 major steps to designing an experiment:

- Name what you want to learn.
- Describe the steps you will take in the experiment.
- Create a feedback loop.

Examples of Experiments

Learn by Doing

Experiments help us deepen our learning and understanding of God's presence and activity by helping us behave our way into new thinking.

CASE STUDY: PRETEND EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ACTION LEARNING EXPERIMENT OPTIONS

ACTION LEARNING EXPERIMENTS

How can we act in some new ways that help us build on some of what we learned during our listening work?

TWO PRIMARY APPROACHES:

INVESTING PRESENCE

INVESTING RELATIONSHIP
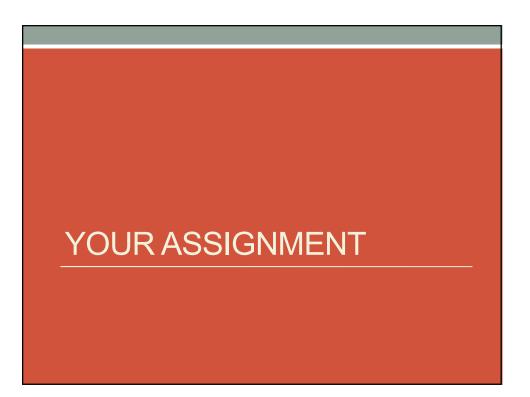
Examples of Action Learning Experiments

INVESTING PRESENCE:
Prayer Experiment
Sit on the Front Lawn
Hangout in a New Place

INVESTING RELATIONSHIP:
Listen to Spiritual Stories
Go See a Baseball Game
Eat with Your Neighbor
Borrow a Tool (or a cup of sugar)
Pray at the Laundromat

DESIGN AN EXPERIMENT

Name what you want to learn. How is this based on your listening work?

Describe the steps you will take in the experiment.

Create a feedback loop.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT

YOUR ASSIGNMENT

GATHER

DWELL

EXPERIMENT

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD AT WORK TODAY?

NEXT TRAINING

Saturday, September 29th