

Toward Defining our Purpose/Mission Statement

A PROCESS FOR THE VESTRY AND CONGREGATION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COVENANT IN DEFINING ITS PURPOSE

Then the LORD said to me, "Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed."

Habakkuk 2:2-3 NLT

The goal of the Purpose/Mission Development Committee is to:

1. State the mission in terms of results rather than in terms of activity.
2. Encourage participation by every member and arrange into sequential process.
3. Focus on growing people with a purpose instead of growing a church with programs.

What is the Church's mission?

Two scriptures summarize what the church is to be and do:

1. The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40 NIV)

Jesus replied, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

2. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Defining Our Purpose:

The Purpose/Mission Statement Development Process for The Episcopal Church of the Holy Covenant

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WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE A PURPOSE/MISSION STATEMENT?

Defining our purpose/mission:

- Gives us direction and focus;
- Establishes a directional point,
- Enables us to say "this is what we sense from God is most important, and this is what's not,"
- Equips us with a focal point, which prevents our work and ministries from not making an impact, being vague and without clear meaning.

WHAT MAKES A PURPOSE/MISSION STATEMENT EFFECTIVE?

- It is biblically based (steeped in God's Bible Instruction)
- It is specific (simple and clear, a narrow mission is a clear mission. A specific purpose statement forces you to focus your energy.)
- It is transferable (short enough to be remembered and passed on by everyone)
- It is measurable (look at the statement and evaluate whether the church is doing it or not.)
- A good statement will provide a specific standard by which we can review, revise and improve everything our church does.

HOW WE WILL PROCEED:

1. **Scripture study:** Each week for 12 weeks, a bible scripture will be listed in the church bulletin. Parishioners will be asked to review the scripture at home.
2. **Group Discussion & Scripture Review:** For the duration of the scripture study, there will be a follow-up group discussion led by an assigned facilitator on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. During these sessions, the group will review and discuss the assigned scriptures given the previous week.

3. **Write the vision:** Subsequent to the at-home review and weekly group discussions, a town hall meeting will be held. Findings from this discussion will be put in writing on newsprint.)

The facilitated discussion will be focused on the following questions:

- *Why does The Episcopal Church of the Holy Covenant exist?*
 - *What are we to be as a church? (Who and what are we?)*
 - *What are we to do as a church? (What does God want done in the world?)*
 - *How are we to do it?*
4. **Summarization of findings:** Newsprint findings will be summarized under the following headings: evangelism, worship, fellowship, spiritual maturity, and ministry.

All of these themes will be condensed in a single paragraph; eliminating all unnecessary words and phrases.

**The schedule for this process will be distributed and posted.*