September 13, 2020 – Pentecost 15 (A)

Intentional Small Groups

The Episcopal Church continues to offer new resources for congregations interested in following the Way of Love as a way of life by starting small group ministries. New resources include the Building an Intentional Small Group Ministry information packet, an infographic, video compilations, and social media graphics. These resources are available at iam.ec/smallgroups.

Inspired by the foundation laid by Arlin J. Rothauge’s work and booklet, Making Small Groups Effective, the Building Intentional Small Groups information packet can help congregations answer the questions of why, what, when, and how of Small Group Ministry. Written and curated by formation and evangelism leaders across the church, the packet is an instructional tool to help churches as they begin or re-start an intentional faith-based small group ministry. This is not a curriculum, but instead a tool to help adapt existing curricula and other formation resources for a small group context.

In addition, the Building Intentional Small Groups videos are designed to be a source of encouragement and inspiration for those looking to start or re-start an intentional faith-based small group ministry. Small group leaders and participants from across the Anglican Communion, lay and clergy, gathered to record these videos. The videos can be shared digitally through social media, or congregations may choose to include them in their Sunday morning worship if they are launching a small group ministry, or during a virtual coffee hour as a conversation starter.

"There is no better way to grow and practice the Jesus Way than in our homes, in our day-to-day lives, with a circle of followers who love and mentor one another as apprentices in the Jesus Way,” says the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, canon to the Presiding Bishop for evangelism, stewardship, and creation care, “Particularly in this present moment, when pandemic has stripped away the trappings that usually surround church, small discipleship groups and neighborhood circles may be the most practical way for us to walk the path to love, freedom, and abundant life that Jesus laid out.”

For more information and resources visit iam.ec/smallgroups or email wayoflove@episcopalchurch.org.

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