

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



welcomes you

**Black
Ministries**

NEW VISIONS INITIATIVE
A Blueprint for a Vibrant Congregation

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A Blueprint for a Vibrant Congregation

New Visions is an ongoing congregational renewal program designed specifically for congregations of African Descent. Built upon a foundation of lifelong Christian formation, the initiative's purpose is to spark new visions of mission-centered communities and find fresh ways for congregations to strengthen their ministries.

New Visions takes its purpose from our call as Christians to “go in peace to love and serve the Lord” (*Book of Common Prayer, p. 366*); the Great Commission to “go therefore and make disciples” (*Matthew 28:19*); Jesus’ judgment of the nations, “For I was hungry and you gave me food” (*Matthew 25:35*); Jesus’ instructions to Peter to “feed my sheep” (*John 21:17*); and the statement of mission, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free” (*Luke 4:18*).



REVIEW, RE-VISION, RENEW

This dynamic movement will utilize experienced coaches to work in partnership with congregational teams of clergy and lay leaders for renewal and re-visioning and for engaging in God's mission in the world. Teams will commit to a broad range of renewal activities, such as:

- » Developing prayers for the initiative
- » Bible study
- » Community revivals
- » Consultations and meetings
- » Topical readings and discussions
- » Pew and pulpit exchange
- » Sharing practices that work
- » Mission projects
- » Ministry with children, youth, and young adults
- » Storytelling

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A Leadership Training Institute for Clergy and Lay leaders is an essential part of the New Visions Initiative and will include training through online seminars, webinars, and attendance at conferences. Among the skills the initiative will focus on include:

- » Lifelong Christian formation
- » Radical welcome and hospitality
- » Group dynamics
- » Problem solving
- » Conflict management
- » Financial management
- » Worship and preaching
- » Team building and administration as ministry
- » Church finance and stewardship

CONSULTANTS

Five dynamic clergy leaders have committed to serving with their congregations as resources for transitioning communities of faith seeking to turn the corner in their ministries: the Rev. Trevor Babb, rector of St. Simon of Cyrene Episcopal Church, Cincinnati; the Rev. Dr. Allen Robinson, rector of St. James' Episcopal Church, Baltimore; the Rev. Dr. Martini Shaw, rector of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia; the Rev. Dr. Howard Williams, rector of St. Augustine's Church, Brooklyn; and the Rev. Dr. Sandye Wilson, rector of the Episcopal Church of St. Andrew and Holy Communion, South Orange, New Jersey.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- » Attend an orientation for recently enrolled congregations in September, 2014
- » Develop strong relationships with a partner congregation
- » Work with a committed coach to reimagine, renew, and redefine your ministry
- » Make broader connections across the church

To participate in this dynamic initiative, please complete an enrollment form and forward to: the Rev. Angela S. Ifill, The Episcopal Church, 815 Second Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:

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