

Missional Fellowships

Adapted from a PowerPoint presentation by The Rev. Jim Hobby
at Clergy Day on February 19, 2011

What is a Missional Fellowship?

- An extension of the “parent congregation”
- A gathering of people who worship, enjoy fellowship, support, and instruction in the Christian Faith as expressed in the “Anglican Way”

Starting a Missional Fellowship

- Start informally, often as a “small group”
- Purpose of the group is to be an extension of the parent parish and (eventually, if not immediately) the primary locus of worship for its members
- Longer-range goal of becoming a self-sustaining parish

Each Missional Fellowship Catechist Commits to this Rule of Life:

- Regular worship at the Fellowship
- Daily Bible reading and prayer
- Tithing, or on a three-year discipline to a tithe
- A life that is a “godly example”
- Oversight by one of the clergy of the parent parish

In addition, each catechist...

- Receives adequate biblical and liturgical training (which is reviewed and approved by the rector)
- Is formally licensed as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, and Lay Reader (the latter for the purpose of leading the Daily Office)
- Is trained in basic evangelism and discipleship

A Mission Fellowship starts with Ten Interested Persons Committed to worship, fellowship, & discipleship:

- A time of hospitality and fellowship
- A time of teaching
- A time of simple liturgical worship (Daily Office, Great Litany, Order of Worship for the Evening, etc.)

Teaching

- Phase I – Alpha
- Phase II – Some introduction to the “Anglican Way” (i.e., *Our Anglican Heritage*)

After Phases I & II

- Members meet with appropriate parish leadership to determine whether they wish to continue as a Missional Fellowship of the parish.
- If so, Fellowship members are expected to join the parent parish, become pledgers to the parish budget, and to engage in the parent parish’s mission in specific ways...

Participation in the Parent Parish

- Visits to the parent parish throughout the year (Founders’ Day, Parish Weekend, Bishop’s Visitation, New Comers’ Luncheons & Reception of New Members, etc.)
- Participation in special ministries (Tour of Homes, VBS, Christmas Pageant, Quiet Days, Stewardship, etc.)
- Fellowship leaders meet semi-annually with vestry to review goals/objectives

Missional Fellowships

Adapted from a PowerPoint presentation by The Rev. Jim Hobby
at Clergy Day on February 19, 2011

Multiplication

- Each Fellowship member commits to praying for and recruiting one other person and walking with that person through Phases I & II of discipleship (similar to Nigerian model)
- Thus, Fellowship members go through Phases I and II as participants, then as “sponsors” or leaders
- As Fellowships grow, they determine whether to meet together or separately for discipleship

Mission Status

- When a Fellowship reaches fifty, it may choose to enter into a “discernment year” with its parent parish. This year includes
 - Leadership training/identification
 - Stewardship (budget, banking, etc.)
 - By-laws and other administrative matters

Financial Matters

- Fellowship Members pledge to the parish operating budget
- Line item for the Fellowship in the budget to cover travel, hospitality, and curricula
- Balance of pledges split 1/3 to parish and 2/3 into “reserve fund” for future Fellowship needs

Clergy Support From Parent Parish

- Monthly or bi-monthly Eucharist
- Presence/Sacraments on key liturgical days (negotiable, given various circumstances):
 - Ash Wednesday
 - Good Friday
 - Easter Sunday
 - Christmas Eve

Growth

- Year 1 – 10
- Year 2 – 20
- Year 3 – 40
- Year 4 – 80

Given some “fall out”, it is still reasonable to expect a Missional Fellowship to be a possible mission in 4-6 years

College Missional Fellowship

- Different financial considerations
- Ministry to faculty and local residents near campus (continuity) and students
- Eye on international students