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2

We are a team of Ministry Partners that strives to empower our congregations, clergy, and laity. We assist in telling the story of our Diocese through building strategic partnerships, facilitating collaboration, and providing robust programming and resources.

We are called to cultivate relationships that will empower congregations and transform lives in the love of Jesus Christ.



3

What is Congregational Vitality?

Spiritual - strengthening our relationships with the holy

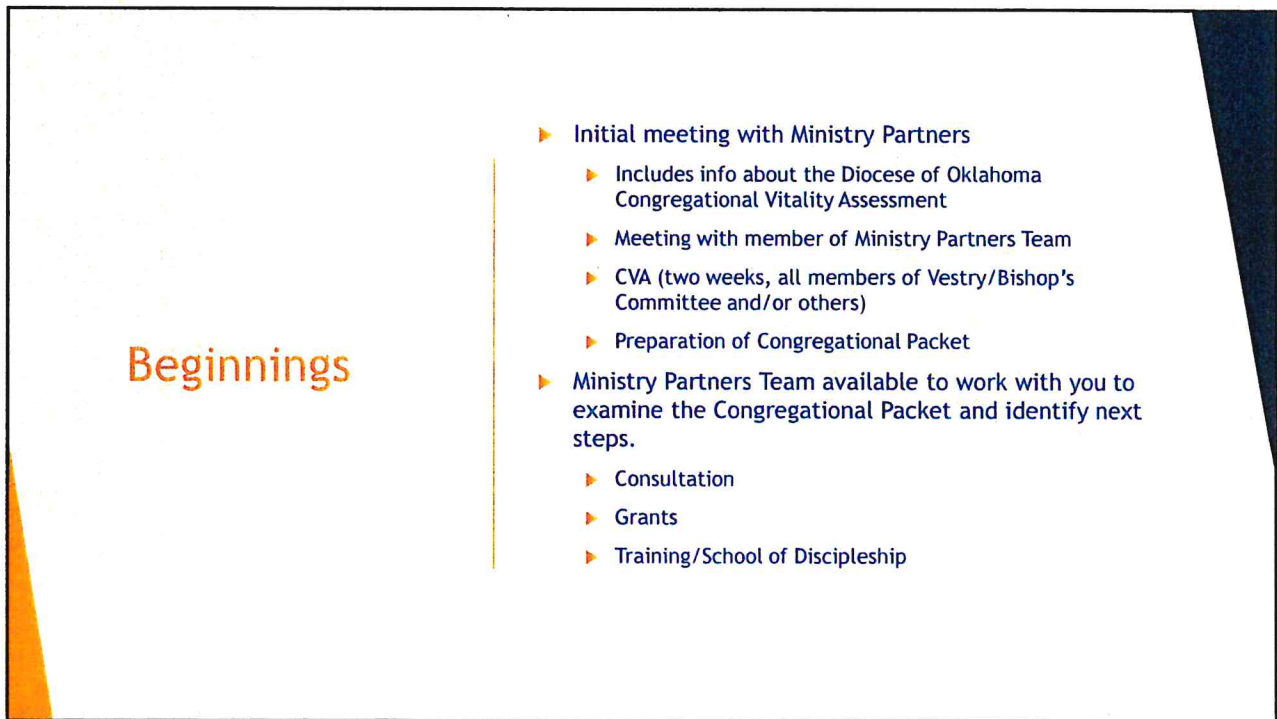
Relational - strengthening our relationships with one another

Missional - strengthening our relationships with our communities

4



5



6

Congregational Vitality Assessment (CVA)



First iteration of the Congregational Vitality Assessment released in 2020

Grounded in research and data
Online tool to measure Vitality and Sustainability



First Diocese to purchase the CVA Tool for use across the entire Diocese

It provides anonymous self-reporting from the individuals on how they perceive their congregation



We started with our Mission Congregations in May of 2021

So far 52% of our congregations have completed the assessment and are awaiting results.

7

Diocese of Oklahoma Congregational Vitality Assessment

- ▶ An online assessment tool
- ▶ Not a report card but a mirror
 - ▶ Qualitative survey of congregational leaders
- ▶ Purpose is to help self-identify areas of strength, areas of concern, and opportunities for growth
- ▶ Participants are completely anonymous

8

Format and Sample Questions

- ▶ 12 Sections with approximately 5-10 questions
 - ▶ *"Our worship focuses on nurturing people's faith:"*
 - ▶ Disagree
 - ▶ Unsure
 - ▶ Agree
 - ▶ Strongly Agree
 - ▶ *"We regularly "get outside the building" to learn about our surrounding community face-to-face:"*
 - ▶ *"Our congregation is excited about its future:"*
- ▶ Last Section has 20 questions and is specific to Diocese of Oklahoma

9

Next Steps

- ▶ I will set up the initial link and email it to the clergy or senior warden
- ▶ Main contact will receive an email with a link to forward to those taking the survey
- ▶ You have two weeks to complete the survey from the point it's initiated
- ▶ I will check in twice after we start the survey to let you know how many people have taken it

10

Results

- ▶ CVA Vitality Scores
 - ▶ Each section is scored
 - ▶ Comparisons with similar congregations in our diocese
 - ▶ Descriptions of possible responses
- ▶ MissionInsite demographic data
- ▶ Historical Parochial Report Data

11

CVA Move Cycle

- Entry
- Process Orientation
- Provide Results Package
- Vestry/Bishop's Committee Review Results
- Meeting with Ministry Partners to Strategize
- Create Action Plan
- Implement Action Plan
- Check-Ins with MPs
- Evaluation
- Cycle Back!

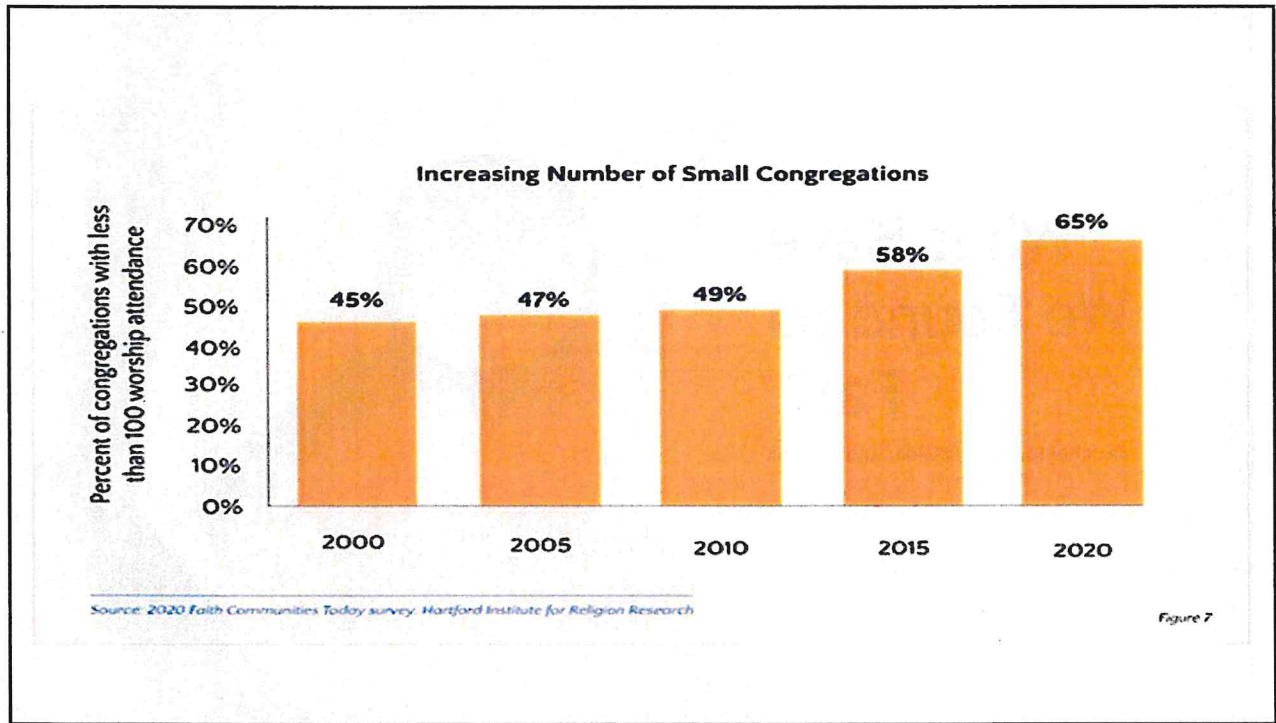
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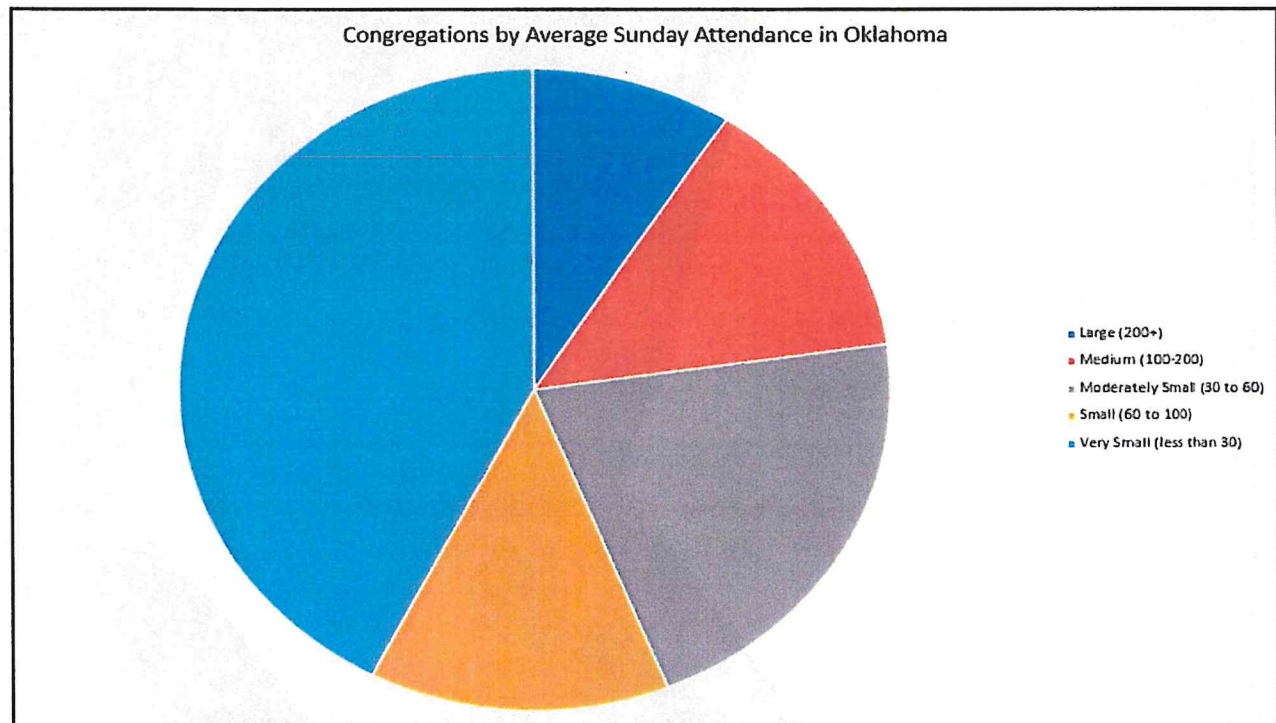
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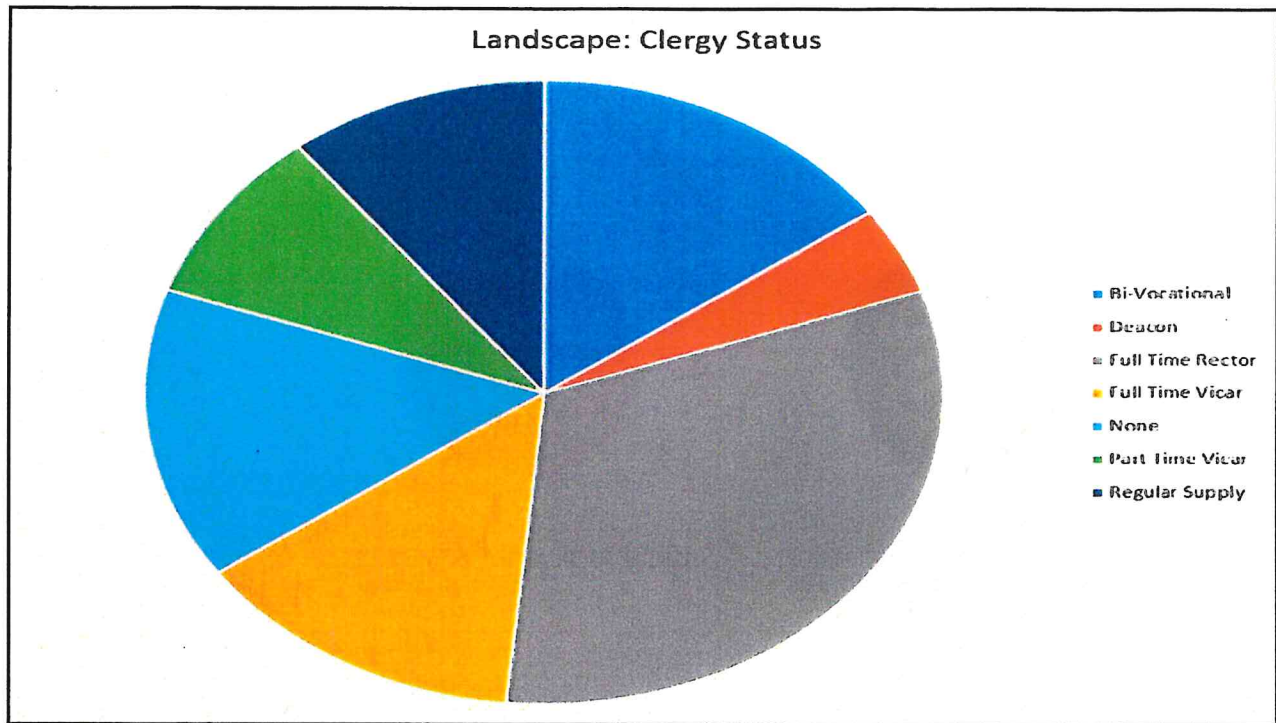
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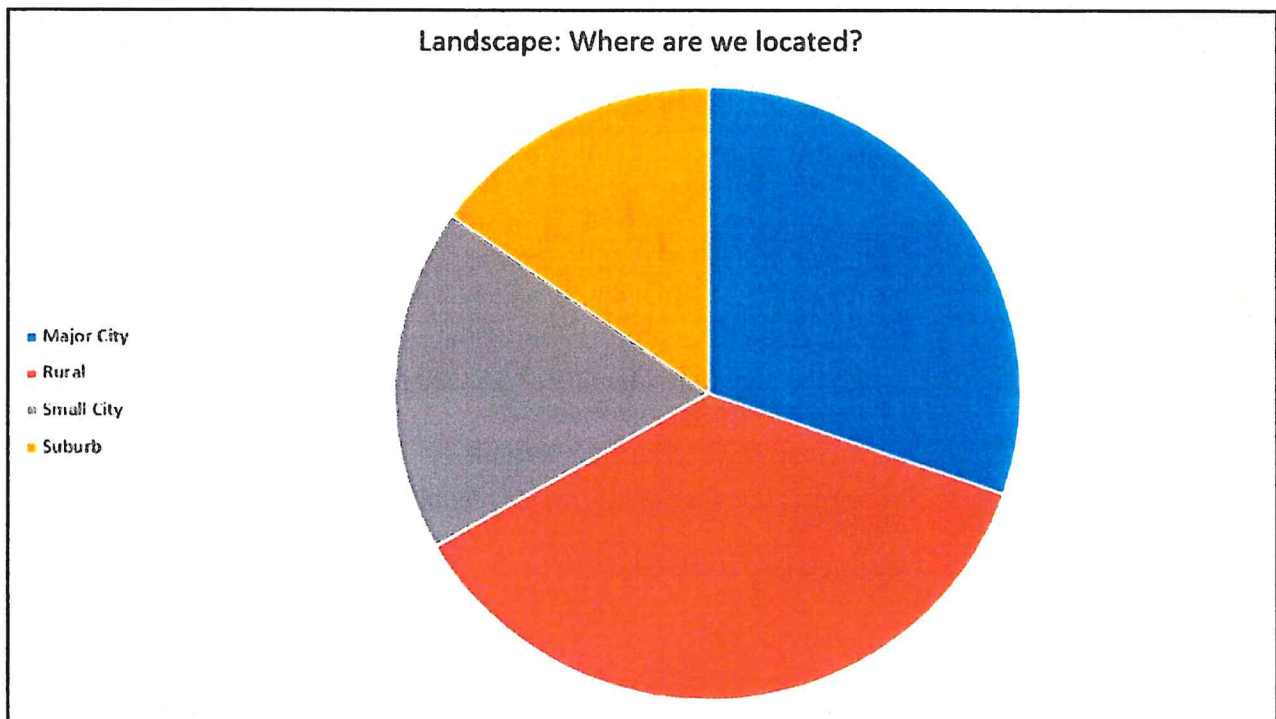
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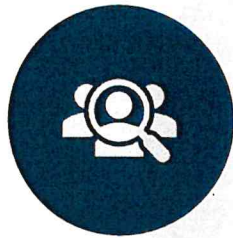


17



18

Where We Are



BY MAY 1ST WE WILL HAVE 66% OF
OUR CONGREGATIONS THROUGH
THE CVA SURVEY PROCESS



GOAL IS TO BE AT 80% BY SEPT 1ST

19

Summary: What Did We Learn?

- ▶ Vision and Mission Lack Definition.
- ▶ Sustainability is Complicated and Multi-Faceted
- ▶ Fear/Anxiety/Grief are Real but Paralyzing
- ▶ Trustee Leadership: Committed and Skilled but Lacking Knowledge and Resources
- ▶ Formation: Desired but Not Present
- ▶ View of Church as Family but Community Ties are Loose
- ▶ Spiritual Life ≠ Worship

20

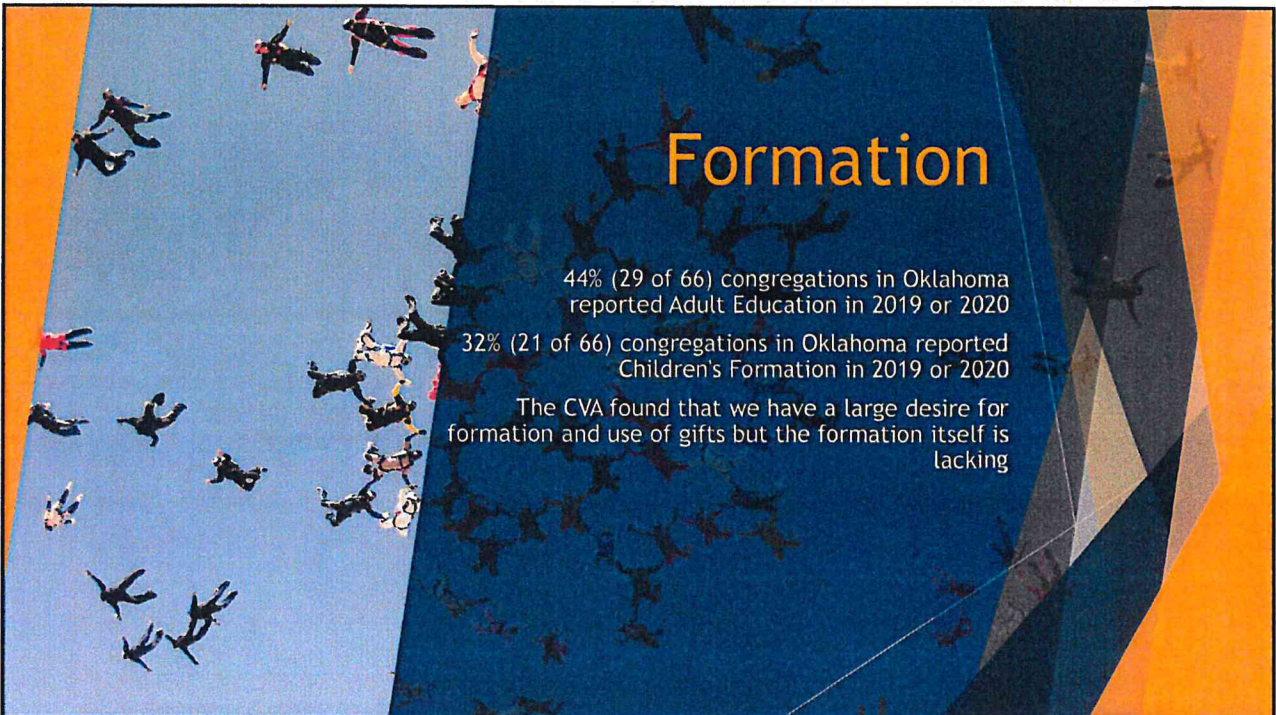


Trustee Leadership

CVA Findings

- Leadership is deeply committed and guided by a shared sense of mission/vision/discernment however there is a wide variation in what the mission/vision is within congregations
- Leadership diversity and turnover are low
 - Leadership feels they must seek permission to try something new
 - Strong clergy orientation

21



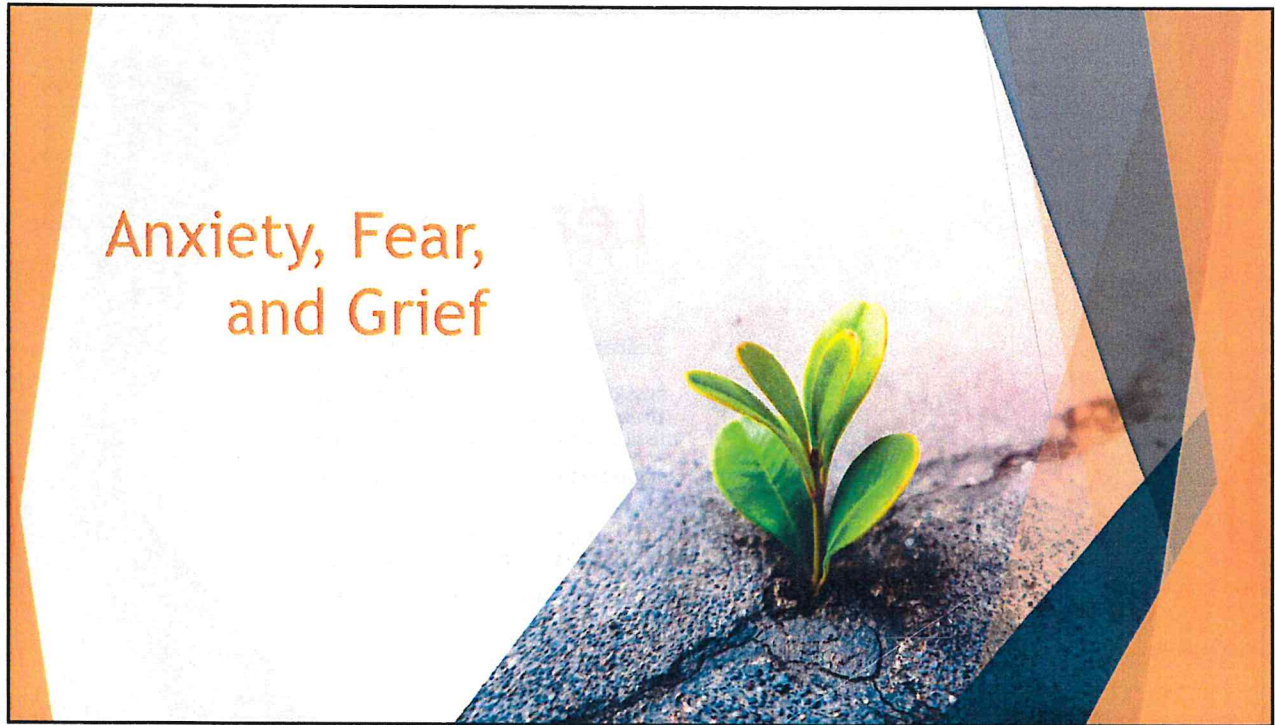
Formation

44% (29 of 66) congregations in Oklahoma reported Adult Education in 2019 or 2020

32% (21 of 66) congregations in Oklahoma reported Children's Formation in 2019 or 2020

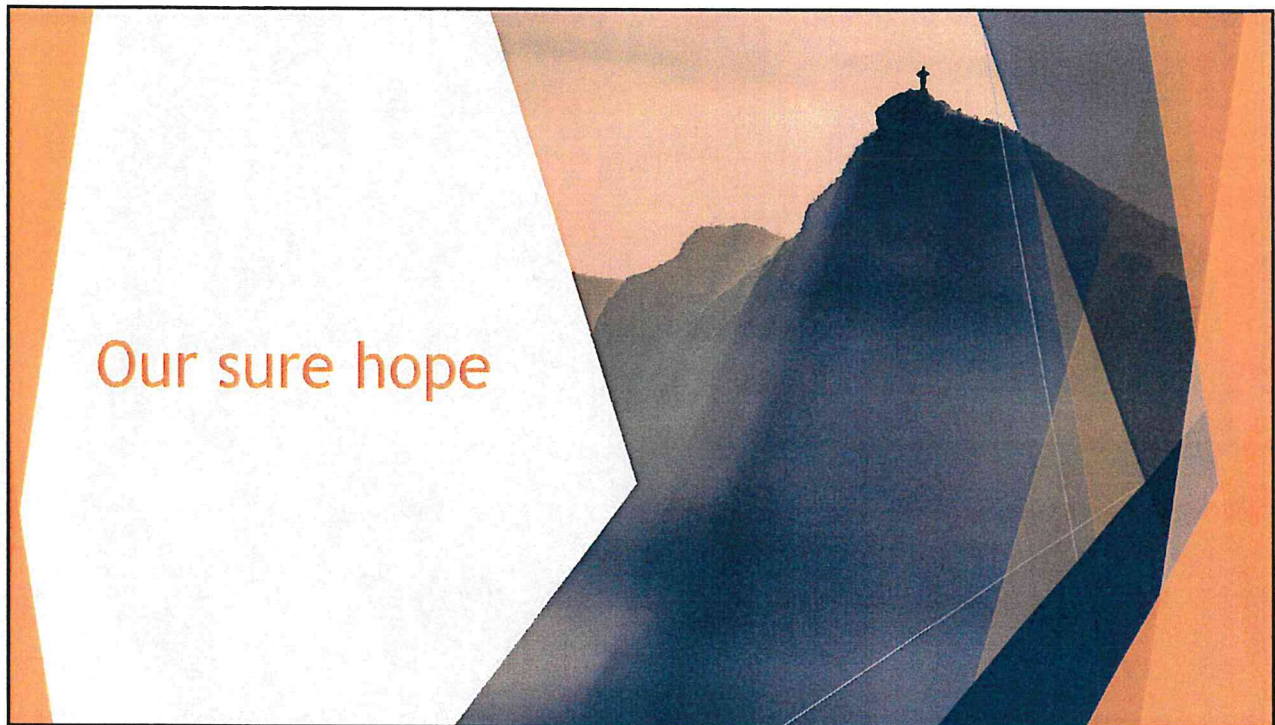
The CVA found that we have a large desire for formation and use of gifts but the formation itself is lacking

22



Anxiety, Fear, and Grief

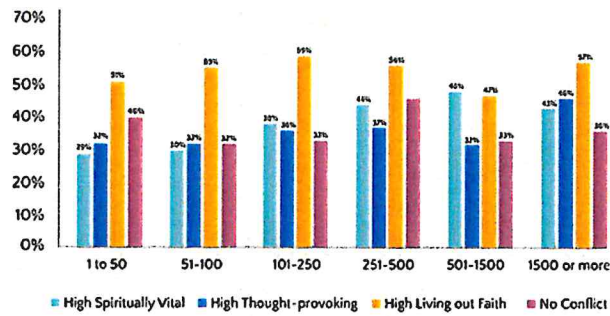
23



Our sure hope

24

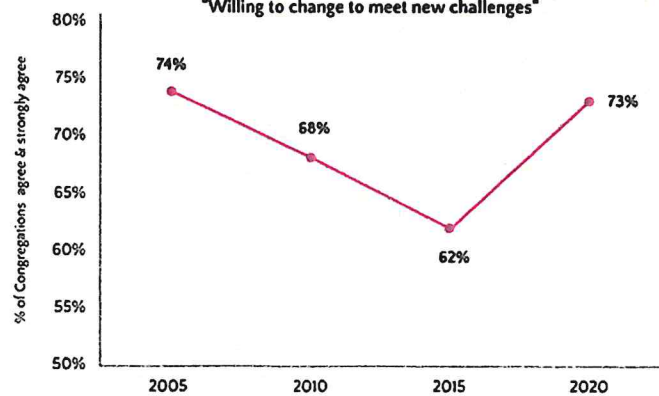
Some Level of Flourishing is Evident at Every Congregational Size



Source: 2020 Faith Communities Today survey, Hartford Institute for Religion Research

Figure 12

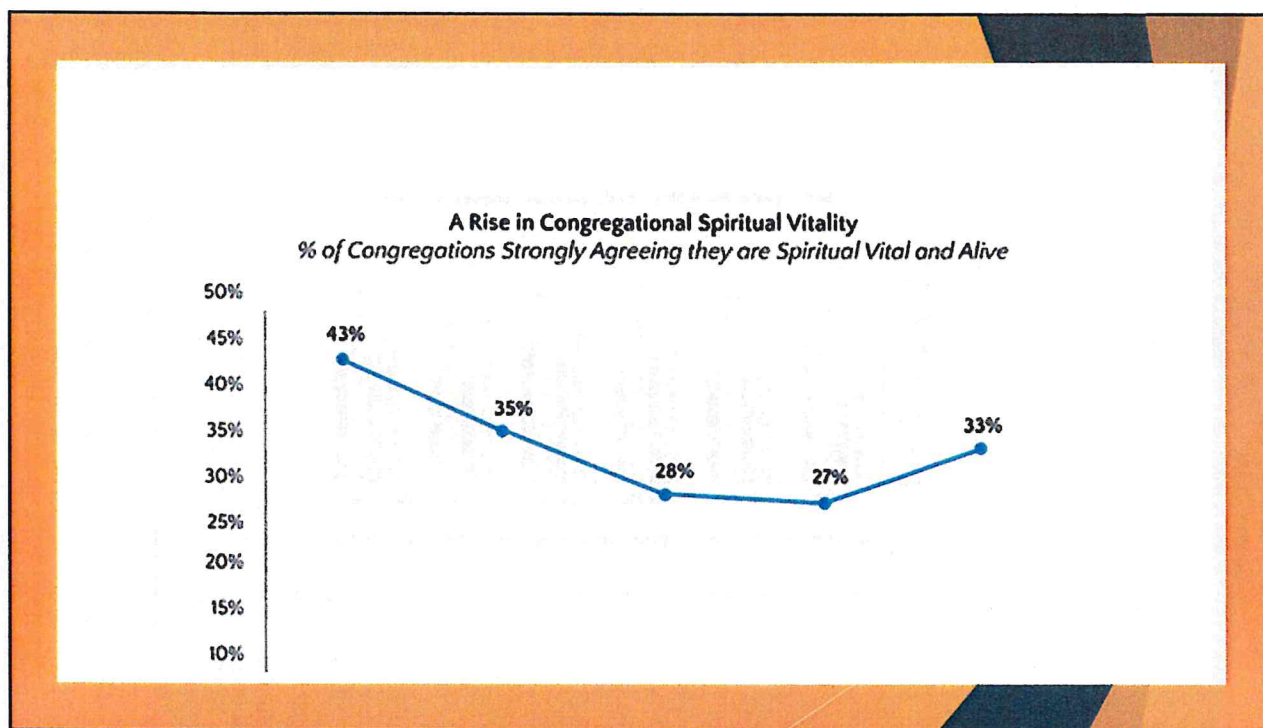
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An Increase in Congregational Openness to Change
"Willing to change to meet new challenges"

Source: 2020 Faith Communities Today survey, Hartford Institute for Religion Research





Figure 26

26

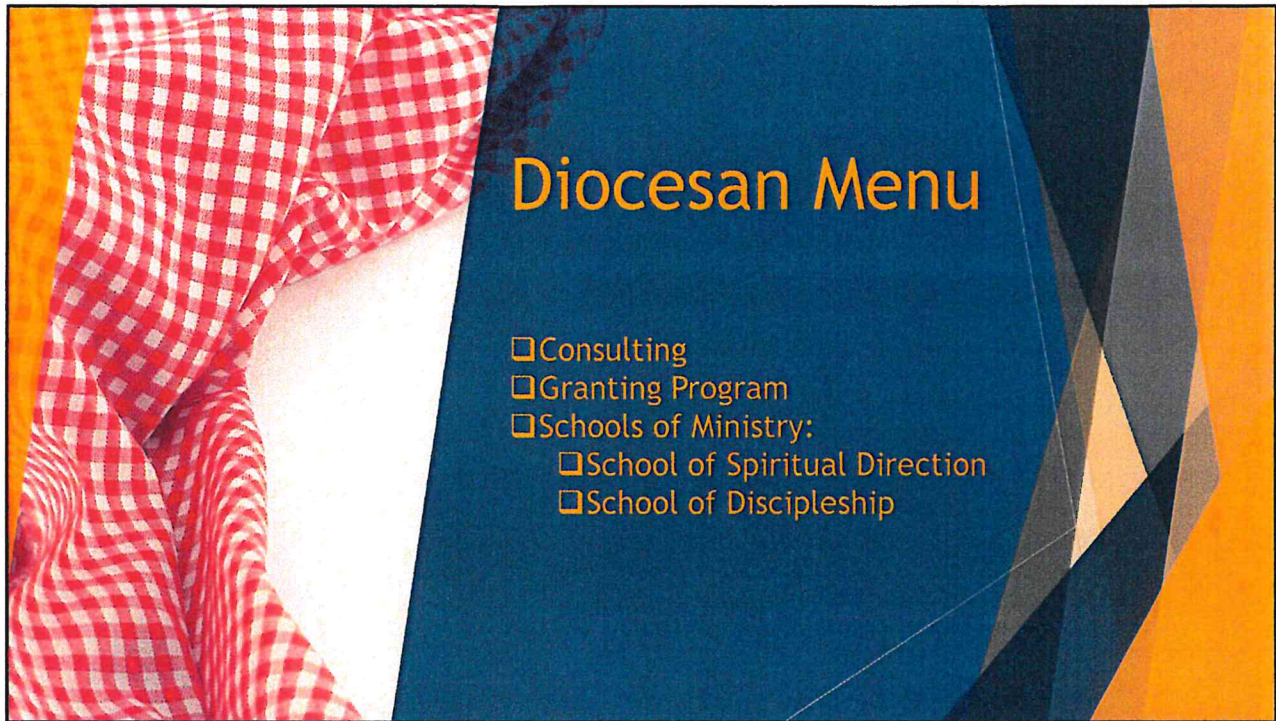


27

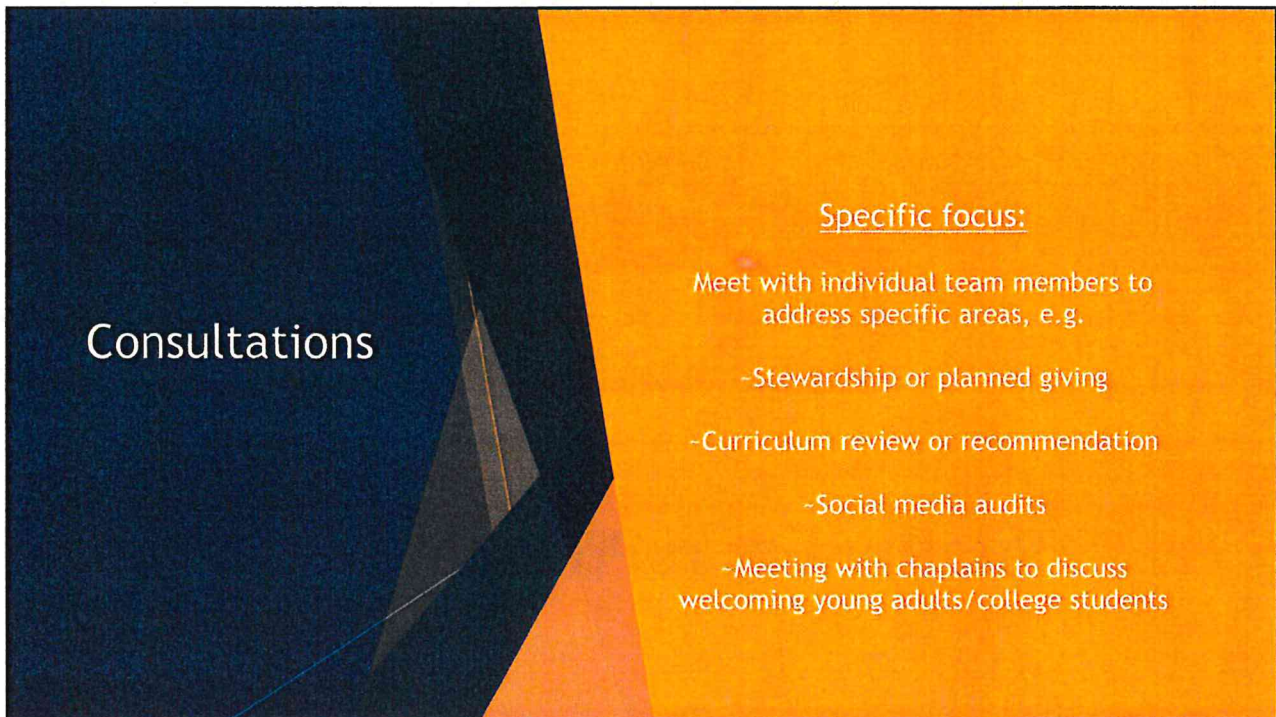
Summary: What Makes the Difference?

	Discipleship and Mission Orientated Mindset		Strong and Committed Leadership
	Spiritual Life and Formation		Openness to Congregational Adaptability

28



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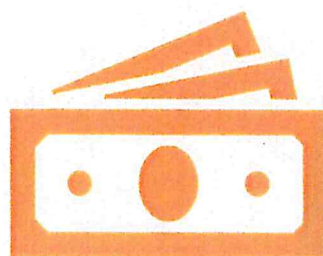
Consultations

Long Term Planning/Consultation:

Intentional work with larger team:

- Vitality assessment/discernment
- Facilitating vestry retreats
- Mission and vision retreats
- Board or Trusteeship development

31



Vitality Grant Program

32






New Projects or Programs

- These grants are restricted to a new programs or projects that provide direct benefit to the congregations' mission over a period of time with measurable results.
- Project support grants may be used to pay for any costs directly related to the operation of the new project. Requests for individual projects, programs and capital projects will be considered in this category.
- Projects funding existing programs or expenses in the congregation's operating budget will not considered.

33

Grant Types

	Experiment Grant	\$500 or less Mini Proposal Approval given within a week or two
	Small Grant	\$501 - \$2,500 Full Application Small Grants will be reviewed and approved or declined by the executive team quarterly.
	Large Grant	\$2,501 - \$25,000 over 3 years Full Application Large grants will be reviewed and approved or declined by the Grants Committee twice a year

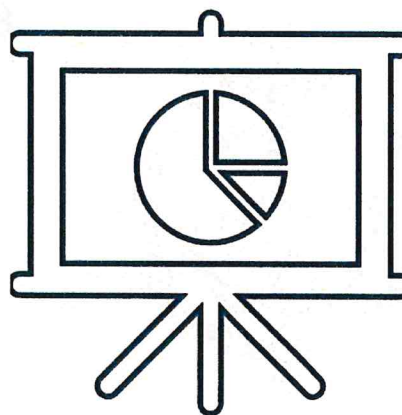
34

Details

Congregation must participate in the Congregational Vitality Assessment prior to applying for small or large grants - highly recommended for experimental.

All Congregations can apply to each cycle, but preference may be given to new applicants.

Grant recipients are expected to submit a written report upon completion of the project.



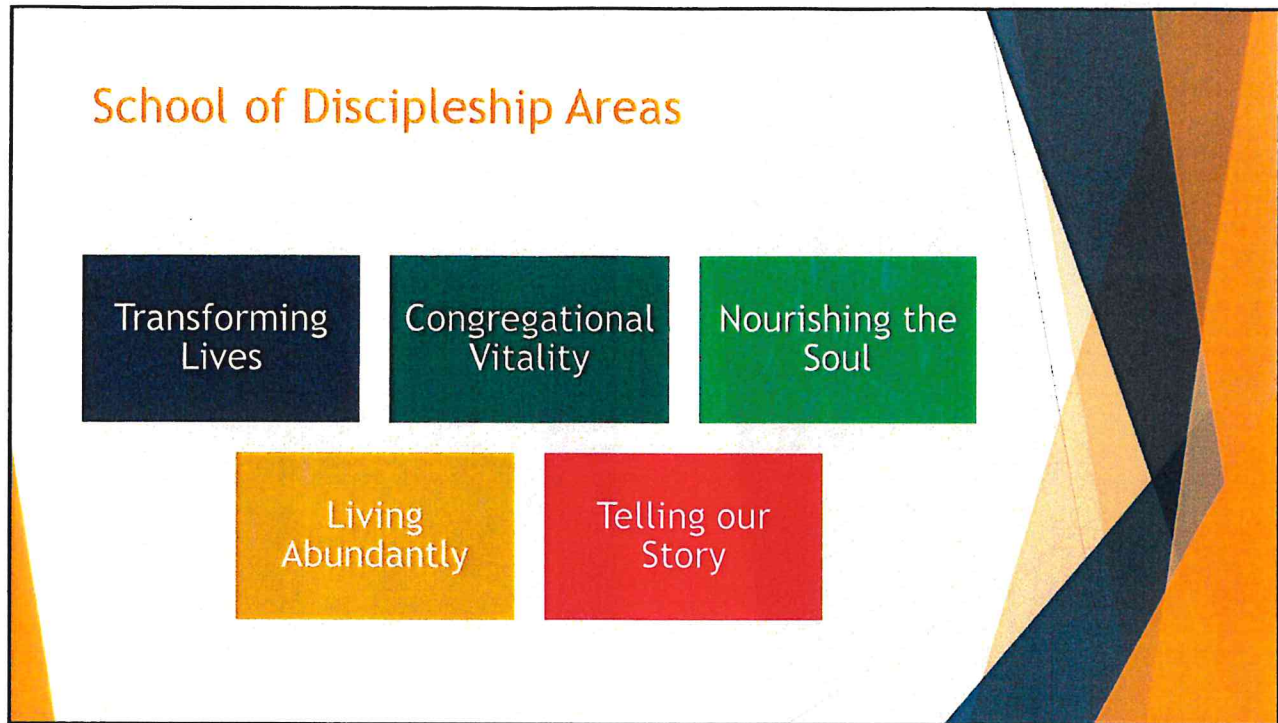
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A stylized graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a blue flame-like shape at the top, a blue water droplet in the middle, and a red flame-like shape at the bottom, all enclosed within a dark blue outline that resembles a cross or a flower.

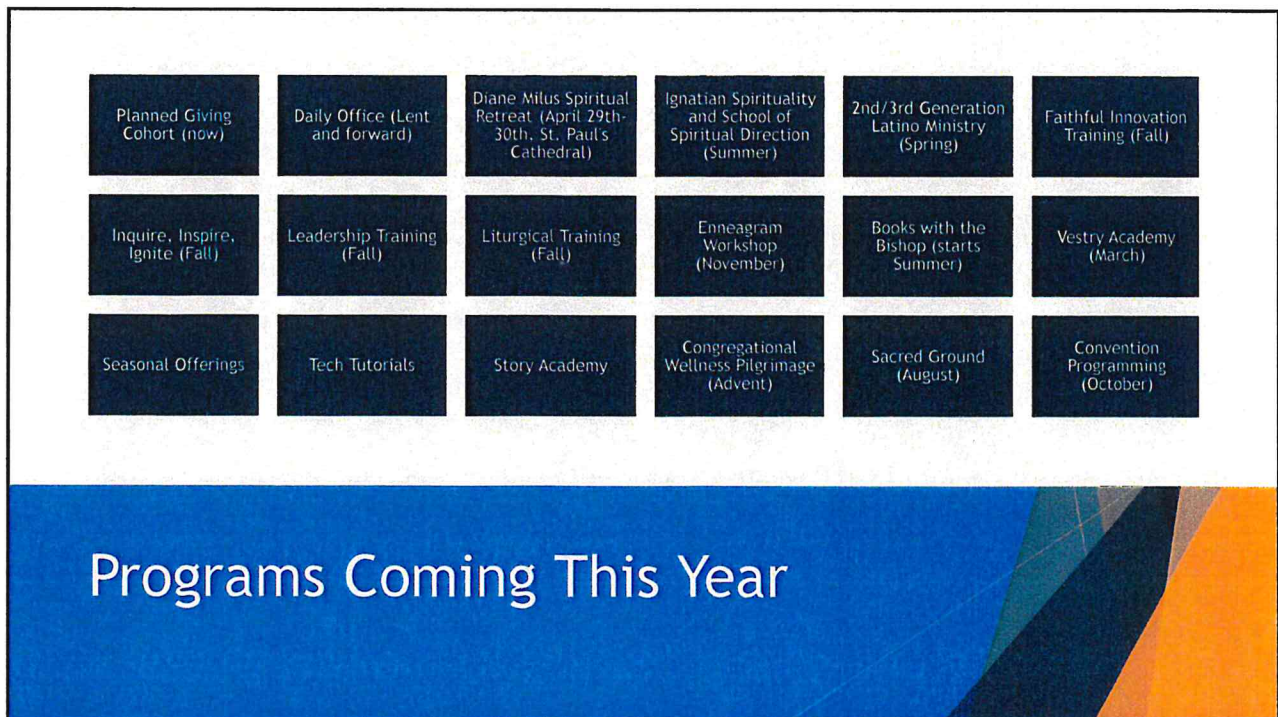
Schools of Ministry

- ❖ The IONA School of Formation
- ❖ The School of Spiritual Direction
- ❖ The School of Discipleship

36



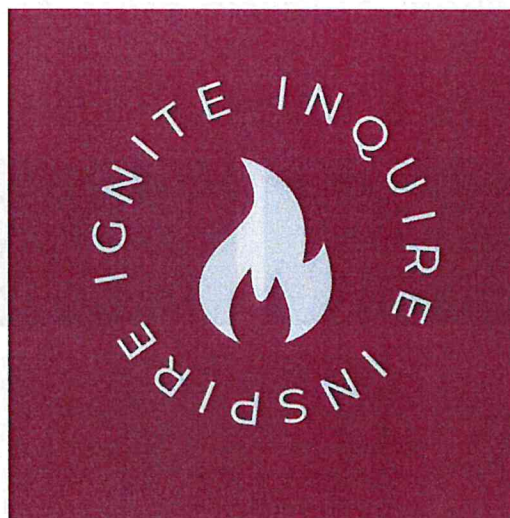
37



38

Core Program

Catechumenate-based program with the goal of deepening the call of our Baptismal ministry as we inquire about our faith, inspire ourselves, and ignite our ministry.



39

Questions?

40