

Emergent Church Meets the Mainline:

Renewing Congregations for the 21st Century

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 9 AM TO 3 PM

Here in 21st century America, religious practice is changing dramatically, average church attendance is declining, and membership in the institutional church is no longer a social norm. In the face of such challenges, congregations have an opportunity to redefine their identity and purpose as they seek to further God's mission in a changing culture.

This workshop invites leaders in established congregations to use the ancient tradition of practice and reflection as a way to help new life, vitality, and mission emerge. Participants will explore:

- The characteristics of our postmodern culture and its challenges and opportunities.
- Research about changes in current U.S. religious practice and the implications of these changes for congregations.
- How traditional congregations can learn from the emergent church.
- A way for congregations of all sizes to redefine identity and purpose.
- Tools and resources to use immediately.
- Creative options and resources for worship.

During this workshop, participants will create an initial "action plan" for their own congregations and identify concrete steps to share with parish leaders and implement with the entire congregation.

WORKSHOP LEADER: The Rev. John Denson, D.Min., is the Rector of Christ Church, an endowed parish in Exeter, New Hampshire, where he has served since 1999. John earned his Master of Divinity Degree and Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Development from Seabury Western Theological Seminary. His doctoral thesis, *Redefining Congregational Identity and Purpose: Initial Steps Toward Becoming a New Commons*, explores the opportunities

Let **new life, vitality,** and **mission** emerge in your congregation from the ancient tradition of practice of reflection

and challenges for the church in a postmodern and emerging world. It articulates a new vision for congregational identity and illustrates congregational practices that create opportunities for transformation.

John has served on the Bishop's Search Committee for the Diocese of New Hampshire, as co-chair of the Diocesan Re-imagining Committee, as the clergy convener of the Seacoast Convocation and as a strategic planning consultant for congregations. As part of this event, John will share his congregation's journey through this process and the on-going results of this work.

DATE: Saturday, September 18, 9 am to 3 pm

LOCATION: Roper Hall at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, 14115 Hillcrest Road (NW corner of Spring Valley and Hillcrest Roads), Dallas

COST: \$10 for lunch

TO REGISTER: Contact Ellen Dingwall, Director of Congregational Development. Email: edingwall@transfiguration.net or call 972-233-1898 ext. 229.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 15

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