Jeremiah 6:16

"Ask for the good way, and walk in it, and find rest for your souls."

where the **good way is**

ECMN **Convention 2026**

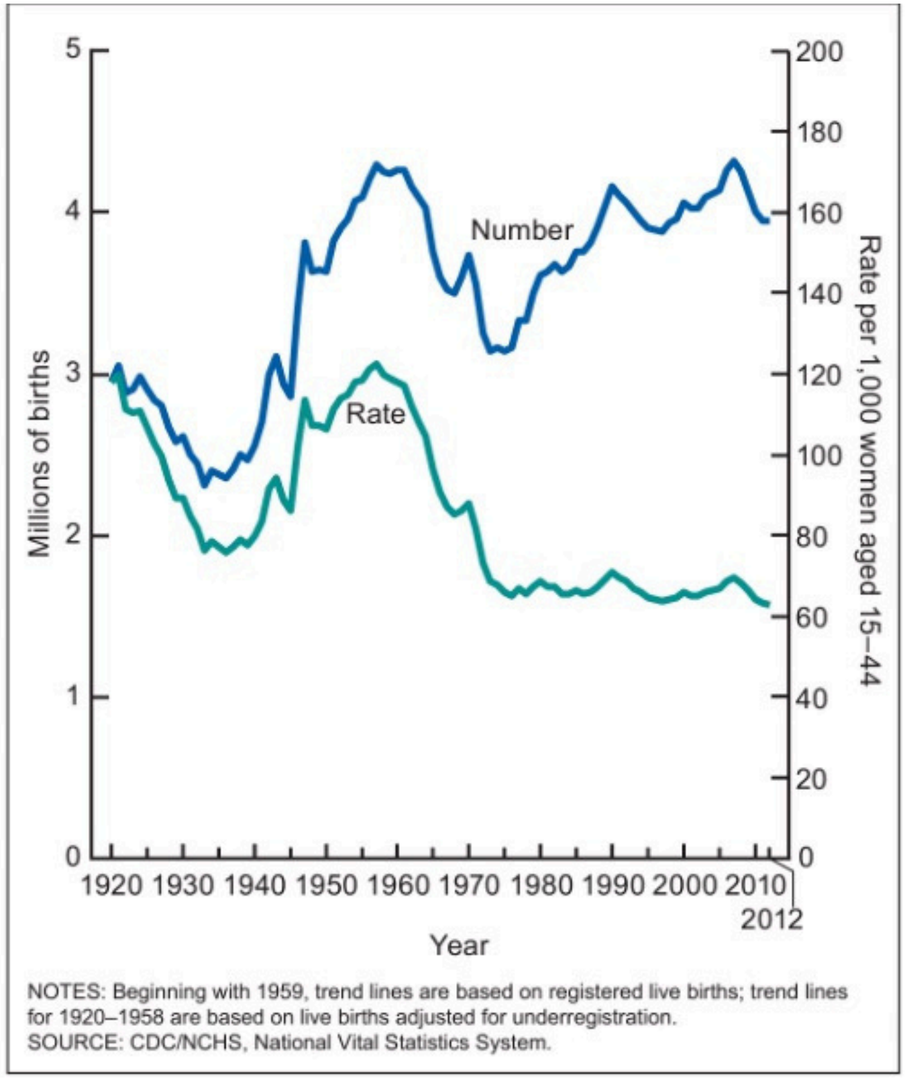
Diocesan Convention • 2026

What is the church for?

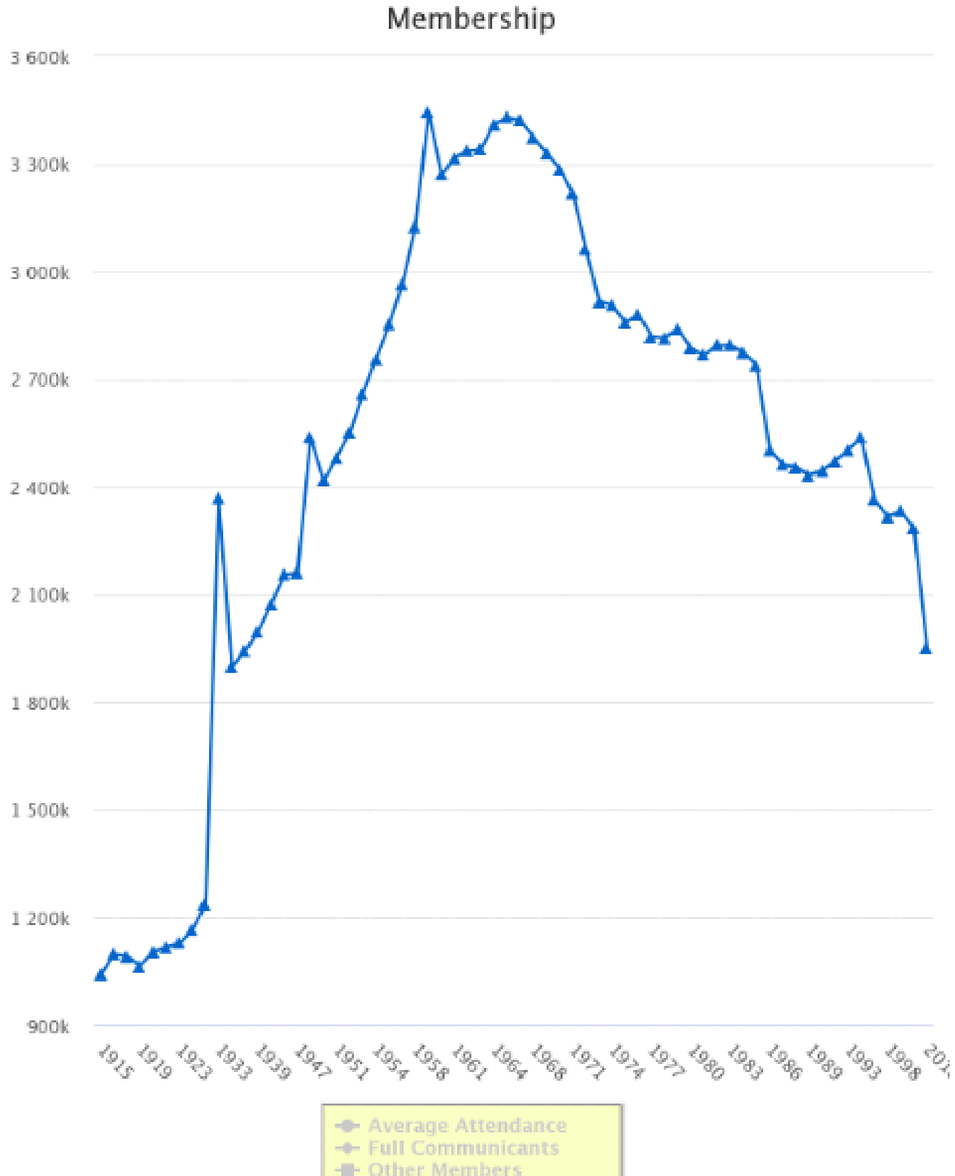
- Gather regularly to celebrate sacraments
- **Share lives deeply together**
- Engage practices to be formed in the image of Jesus
- **Reach out with the love of Jesus to the world**

> *The Church is the risen body of Jesus in the world. The Church exists to extend the ministry of Jesus across time and space, to reconcile all of creation to God's self.*

Where has the church been?



NOTES: Beginning with 1959, trend lines are based on registered live births; trend lines for 1920–1958 are based on live births adjusted for underregistration.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.



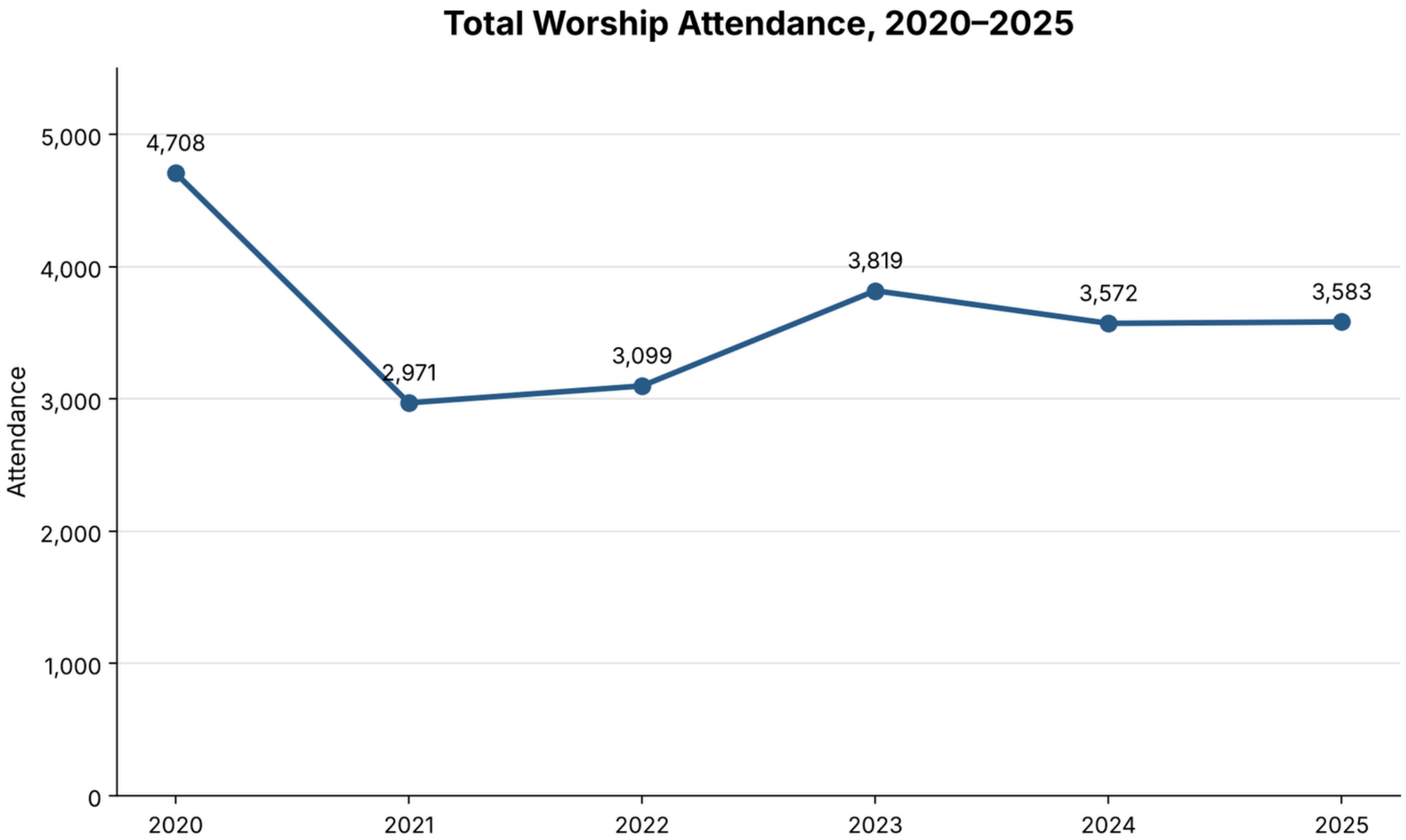
Who are we as a Diocese?

90 worshipping communities

13,307 baptized members

3,583 worship on an average Sunday

What are the trends in ECMN?



What are the trends in ECMN?

↓ 24%

Average Sunday attendance is trending slightly upward, but still 24% below pre-2020 numbers.

59.5

average age of a member of an ECMN congregation

↑ 13%

in revenue in congregations

Growing Churches

Growth is possible and is happening in a statistical and numerical way

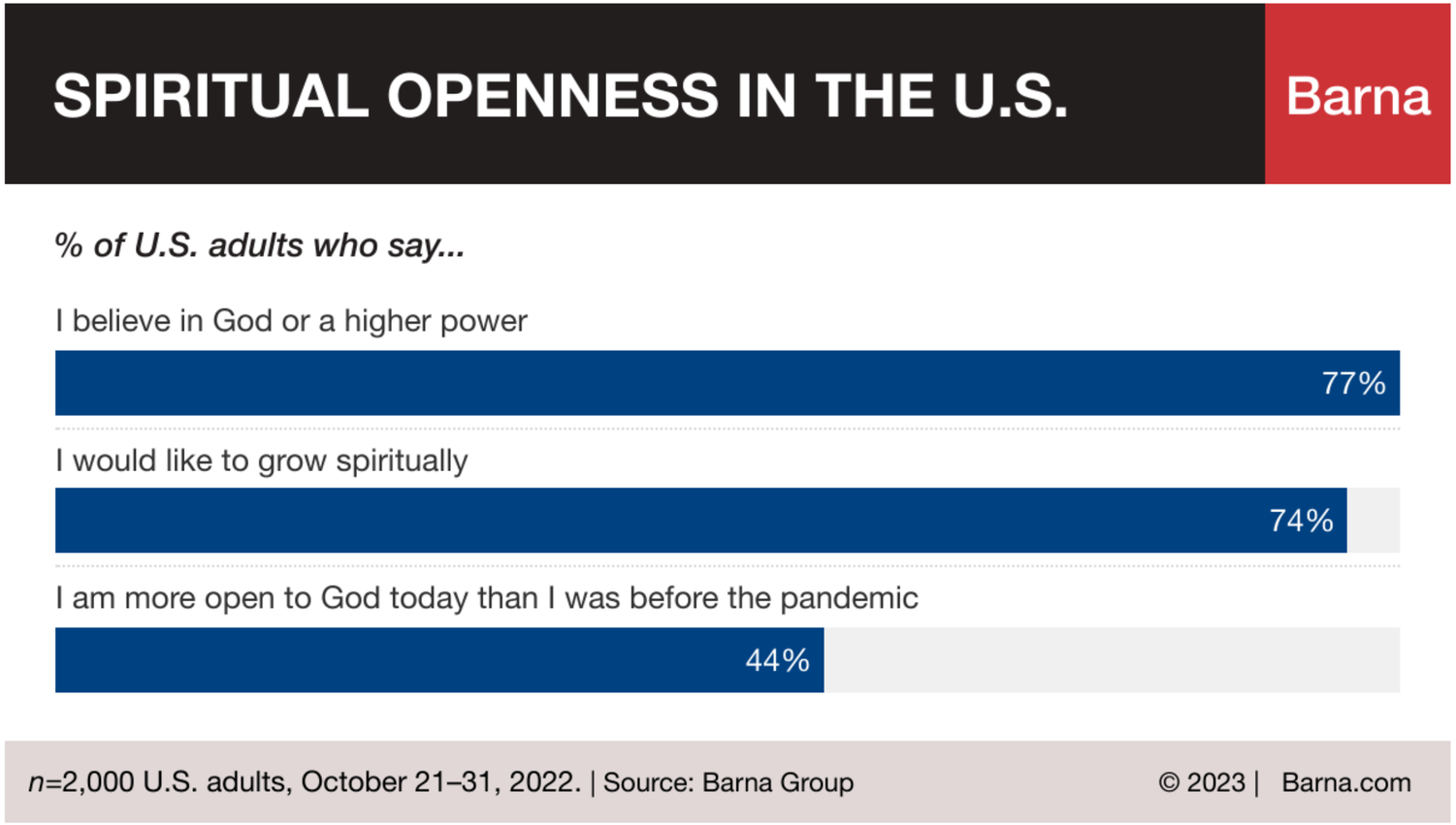
Amongst congregatoins that are growing, that growth is rapid, and built on practices of discipleship within the context of community.

↑ **21%** of ECMN Congregations are growing

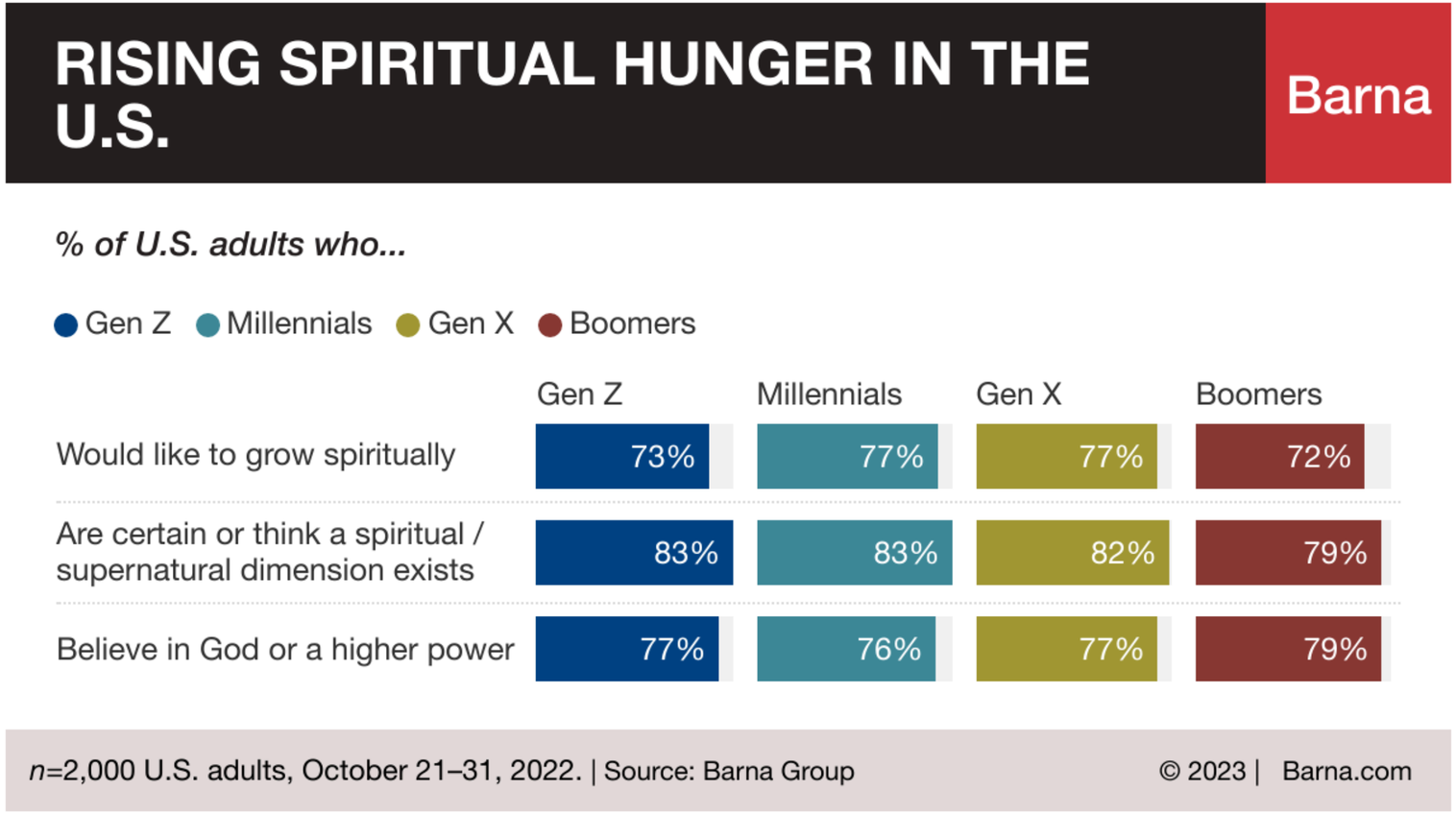
↑ **15%** In Growing Churches, ASA increase the last 2 years

↑ **10%** In growing churches, increase in giving over the last 2 years

People are Spiritually Hungry



People are Spiritually Hungry



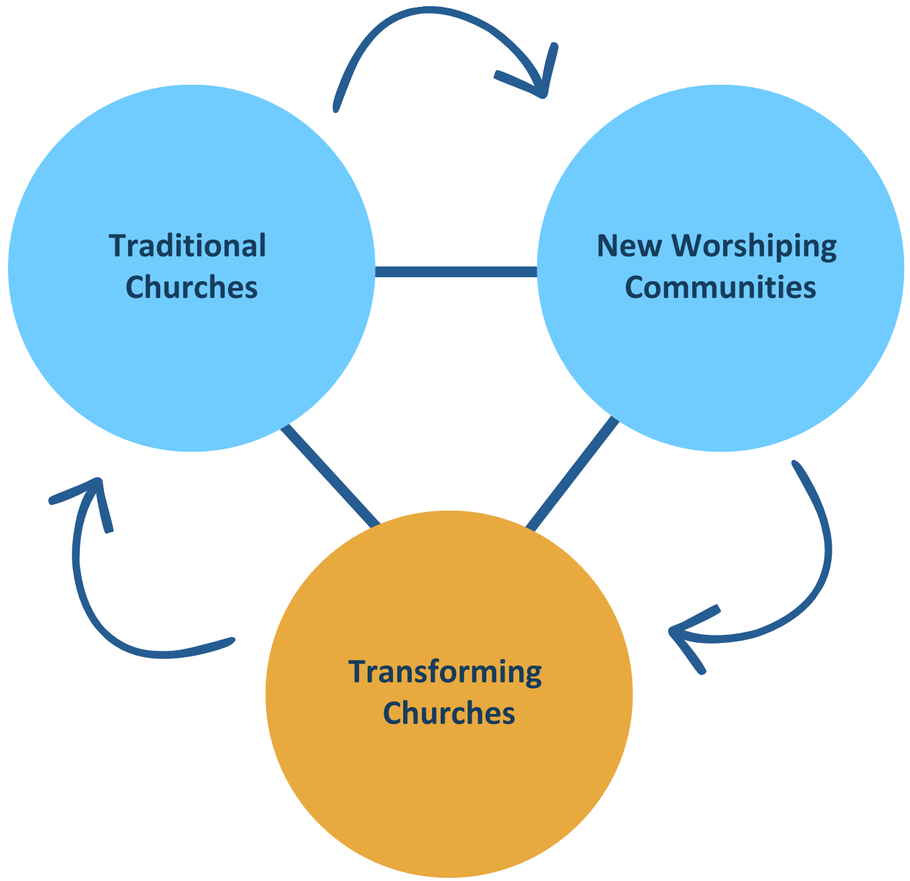
What story does this tell?

Church growth is happening in traditional model churches , and we're going to need to continue to be creative about **what it looks like,** and **how we support it.**

People are open, curious and hungry to meet a God who has something to say about their lives.

We're going to need to connect people with the good news of the Gospel in a **variety of creative ways.**

A Diverse Church Ecology



Fueled by and existing for the making of disciples who follow Jesus — so that God's dream can come to earth. Each expression stands in mutually supportive relationship with the others.

Traditional Church

All Saints, Northfield



Characteristics

- Manage and maintain their building
- Have residential clergy - paid or exist in a team ministry model
- Largely sustainable with adaptation needed on the horizon

Transforming Church

Trinity, Anoka



Characteristics

- Historically a traditional church
- Pressures have pushed them to a decisional point around sustainability
- They are exploring transitioning in a variety of different ways in their structure (clergy support, place of worship, etc.)

New Worshipping Community

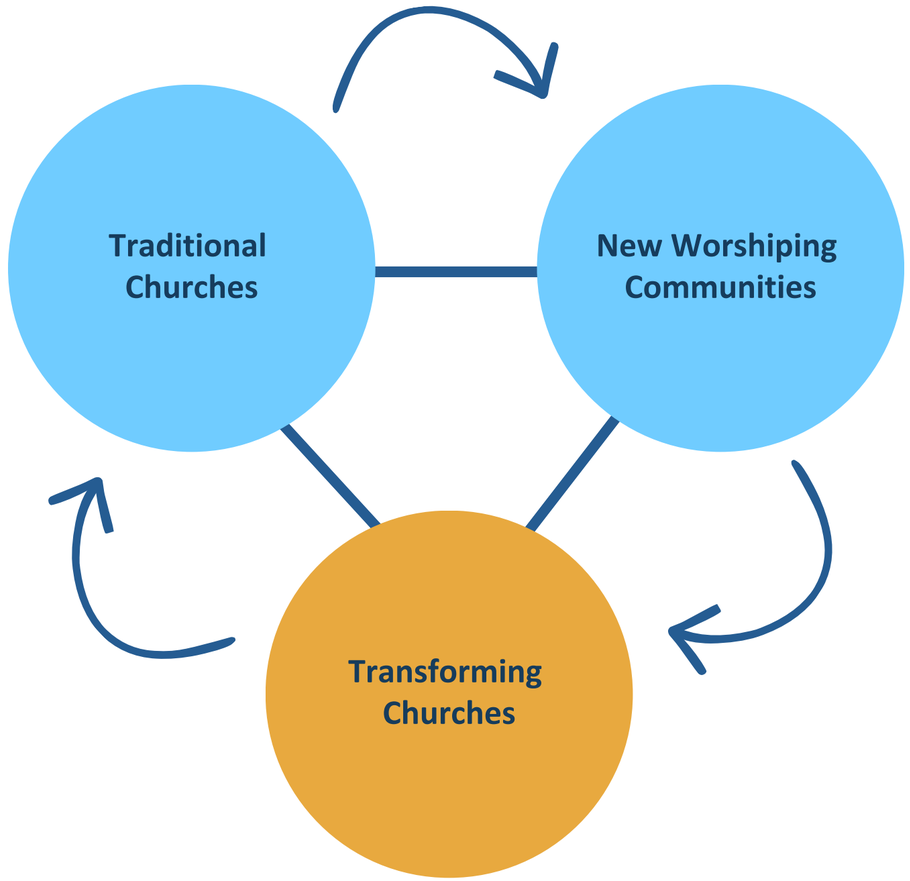
Gathered, St. Paul



Characteristics

- **New** - reaching new people outside the church
- **Worshipping** - believe and understand themselves to be gathered to worship through prayer, Bible study, teaching, singing, or sacraments
- **Community** - meet at least monthly in-person or online; connected to an existing congregation or led by an Episcopalian.

A Diverse Church Ecology



Fueled by and existing for the making of disciples who follow Jesus — so that God's dream can come to earth. Each expression stands in mutually supportive relationship with the others.

Pause & Reflect at Tables

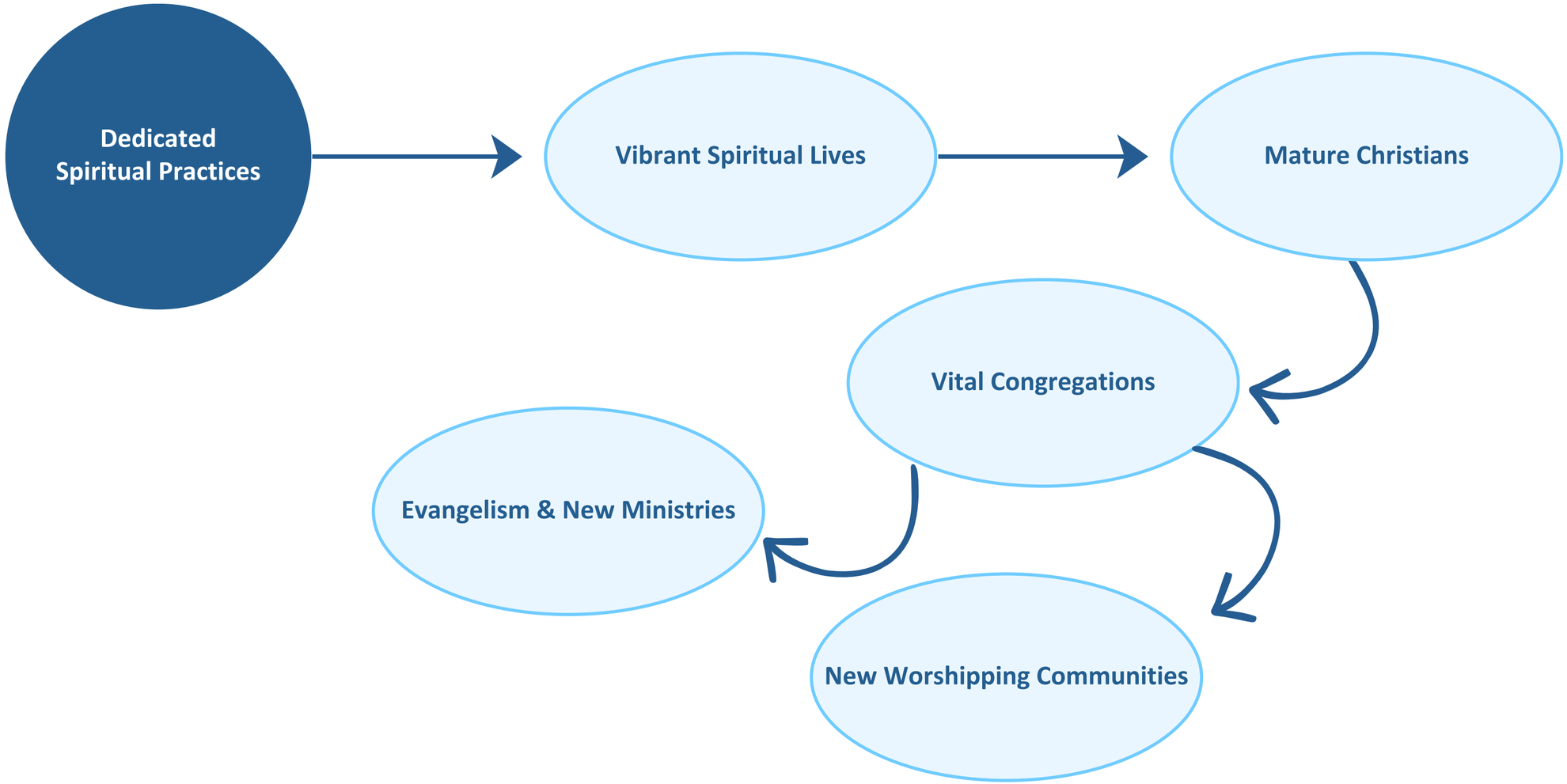
- Where do you see your community in this?
- What do you wonder about?
- Where are you interested in learning more?

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MINUTES

Moving into the Future

What we're doing on purpose, together, to move into where God has called us

A focus on discipleship starts it all



Discipleship

How this priority contributes to our overall objectives for the coming season.

Seeding Spiritual Formation

- Encouraging spiritual maturity through intentional spiritual practices
- Connecting leaders and the children, youth and adults they serve with the right practices and resources.

Discernment for All

- Diocesan run program
- Opened to anyone
- Focus on teaching formation
- Results in a discerned pathway to lay or ordained leadership and deeper faith

Lay & Ordained Ministry Formation

- Multiple formation options
- Focus on Licensed Lay Ministry
- Formation focused on leading the church we are becoming

Justice

How this priority contributes to our overall objectives for the coming season.

Regular Retreats & Learning

- Twice weekly in person retretreats
- Book studies
- Regular reflections in Diocean communications

Migrant Support Work

- Dedicated group of volunteers supporting congregations
- Raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to provide relief through congregations
- Continuing to pivot and provide support

Casa Maria

- Ministry of St. Nicholas, Richfield
- Many Episcopal churches already engaged
- Becoming a place of learning and training

Vital Congregations

How this priority contributes to our overall objectives for the coming season.

Layers of Support for Congregations

- Diocesan staff visitations
- Deans supporting congregations
- Ministry companions walking in a dedicated way

Congregational Compass tool

Developed by Diocesan leaders to see where congegations sit:

- financial stability
- property condition
- spiritual formation
- mission & strategy
- community connected

Empower Faith Communities

Direct Support

Assist Discernment

Faithful Innovation

How this priority contributes to our overall objectives for the coming season.

Learning Together

Over 100 leaders in ECMN are gathering to learn how to meet their neighbors with the love of Jesus, sharing stories and learning practices

New Worshipping Communities

Fostering 11 new worshipping communities, supporting leaders and building infrastructure to help them sustain

Connecting to Discipleship

Faithful Innovation is a natural outgrowth of a deep faith, tethering Faithful Innovation to Discipleship will help grow this work

Move & Talk

- New worshipping communities (center)
- Traditional Church (left)
- Transforming Churches (right)

Seeding Question

What are the most important things you can do in this next year in your faith community?

40

MINUTES

SO WHAT?

An Invitation to the Diocese

This year we hope every congregation will take action in the following ways.

1

As a community, choose one way to know Jesus better in the year to come.

- Christian Basics
- Bible Study
- Prayer Walk

2

Be willing to be changed by the living God, and be willing to say yes to the invitations that following Jesus will offer.