Church Size: Experience and Expectations

With Thanks to the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and their resource, \textit{ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL: Congregational Size and Dynamics.}
Your Church Experience

• Think about the church in which you have the most experience.
• How many people were in church on an average Sunday?
• How many buildings did the church own/use?
• How many full time clergy and lay staff did the church have?
• What do you love most about that church?
Understanding Church Size

Churches function differently, depending on their size.
Family Size Church
(under 75 Average Sunday Attendance)
Pastoral Size Church
(76-140 Average Sunday Attendance)
Transitional Size Church
(141-224 Average Sunday Attendance)
Program Size Church
(225-800 Average Sunday Attendance)
Resource/Corporate Size Church
(801+ Average Sunday Attendance)
Size Does Matter

- Focus: Relational
- Rector Role: Chaplain
- Vestry Role: Doing
- Decisions: Informal
- Change: Bottom-up
- Conflict Tone: Emotional

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Your Congregation

What size congregation are you in now?
How is your congregation true to the description above?
Are there ways in which your church “acts like” a church of a different size?
What do you want to hang on to - no matter what?
Your Expectations of Your Church Now

What expectations do you have of your church today?

How might your expectations of church be informed by your past experience of church?
Where’s the pinch?

With a part time clergy person, what might we need to let go of in terms of our expectations?
What have we learned about our past experiences that might set up unreal or unreasonable expectations?
What Is the Holy Spirit saying to us?