

The Episcopal Church's



Connecting Vital Retired Clergy and Vibrant, Small Worshipping Communities for Mission

Introduction for Diocesan Transition Ministers and NDNV Clergy



Entering with Your Exit Strategy



The Big Picture

We want the congregation to be gathered around the ministry and not the minister.

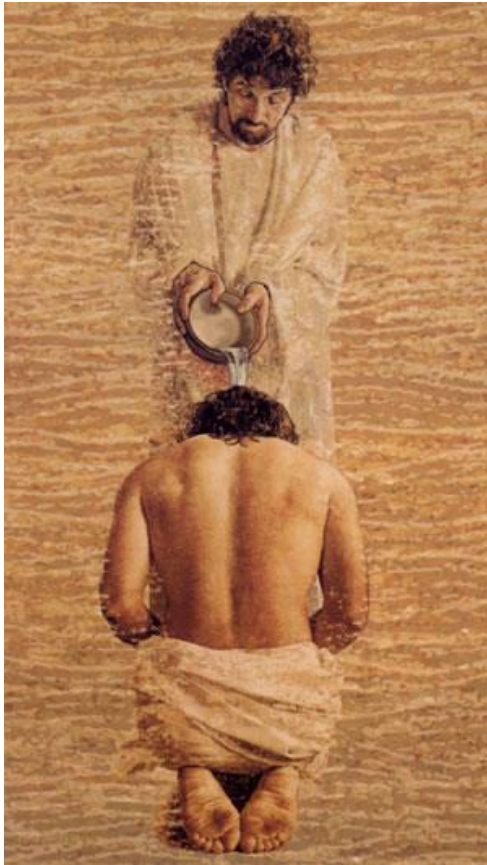
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



One Story

- 📖 Small congregation, ASA < 35
- 📖 23 year Part-time Rector – local educator
- 📖 Retires
- 📖 Diocese in transition; not much help; leadership vacuum
- 📖 Left adrift
- 📖 Begin to realize: This is our church and we'll make or break.
- 📖 Claim their authority
- 📖 Call a *priest-(not)-in-charge*
- 📖 Baptismal ministry
- 📖 Established areas of ministry and leaders for each
- 📖 Priest's 5 year exit strategy: leave better/differently
- 📖 Positive retirement

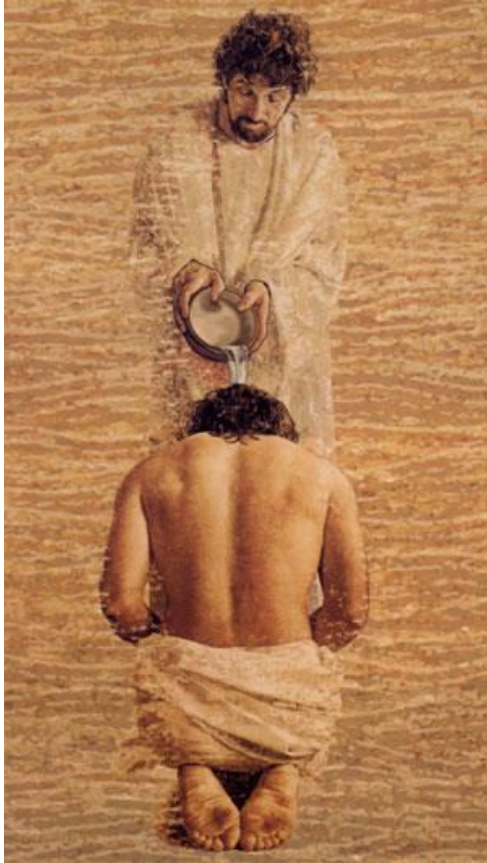
Jesus had an **Exit** **Strategy**



From the moment of his baptism *You are my beloved* Jesus starts a journey of mission and ministry
His first act (after wilderness) is to implement his **Exit Strategy**

What do you think were some components of his strategy?

Jesus had an **Exit Strategy**



- Identified people with leadership potential
- Gave them some training
- Empowered them to act
- Checked-in and supported
- Gave them more training/teaching
- Warned them of dangers
- Left them with gifts and skills for going on

*See **Elephant in the Boardroom***

Developing YOUR Exit Strategy

We are pretty sure the NDNV pastorate is not going to be 20 years 😊

So, whether it is 3 or 5 or 7 years we encourage you think about your “**exit strategy**” from the start.

What needs to be in place when you leave for this congregation to be able to own its ministry?

First: **Stealth Exit Strategy**

Second:

- ❖ Listen
- ❖ Check with diocese
- ❖ Listen
- ❖ Check with Vestry
- ❖ Listen
- ❖ Pray

Third: Make a Plan

Developing YOUR Exit Strategy

Some of the classics for empowering small congregations to claim their own ministry and gifts are:

Worship

- Licensed Leaders for worship and preaching

Pastoral Care

- Licensed Eucharistic Visitors, trained pastors, healing team, prayer ministry, etc.

Christian Formation

Outreach

Administration: Finances & Communication

Etc.

Developing YOUR Exit Strategy

This is a concept –

**Do NOT try this
at home NOW!!!**



We want to plant this seed with you at the start and see what grows with the watering of the Holy Spirit