



Frequently Asked Questions

Coaching for Congregations

Easily available, free coaching is one of the great benefits for congregations in the Diocese of New Jersey. We have trained more than 35 people (lay, clergy, Anglo, Black, Hispanic, men and women) to come alongside you, help you determine what God's will is for you right now, and take real, measurable action steps to respond. Here are a few questions people often ask.

What can we expect from a coach?

Our coaches come alongside anyone or any group in your church who want to know better what God's will is for them and to do it more effectively. Based on the conviction that you are creative, resourceful and whole, coaches help celebrate your successes, clarify your challenges, and develop action steps. Then they help you evaluate your progress and set the next steps.

How is a coach different from a consultant?

Coaches do not come in with a "here's what you need to do" approach. Rather, they walk with you as the faith and wisdom of the group comes to light. Because you learn quickly and because your entire team has ownership of their effort, this radically increases the likelihood of success.

What are the different ways that congregations can use coaches?

- 1-1 coaching with the rector, wardens or leaders of key ministries (youth, altar guild, etc.)
- Triads with clergy from two other parishes or missions
- Congregational leadership triads, where a coach works with clergy and wardens
- Vestry coaching as a group, including retreats
- Way of St. Paul team (contact Cn. Droste for more information on this innovative initiative)
- Establishment of a small group program in your congregation
- And many more - feel free to be creative and we'll discuss it

How long does coaching typically go on?

Coaching can be a single session or it can go on for much longer. At the end of every coaching session, however, your coach will ask you what you got out of the session and if you want to meet again. When it stops being useful (and enjoyable), you stop doing it. That's it.

Is there anything else I should know from the start?

It is important to know that our diocesan coaches are intentionally "growth and discipleship coaches." Everything they do is designed to forward the diocesan mission of forming disciples of Jesus Christ to participate in God's mission of reconciliation in the world. With our coaches, you'll get used to talking about Jesus (a lot); reflecting on your own discipleship; and helping your congregation become a "school of discipleship" (our diocesan vision).

What does it cost?

It's free. The Diocese of New Jersey allocates a budget for this support ministry.