Annual Report of the Canon for Congregational Vitality

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The Canon for Congregational Vitality's work is a combination of strategic work across the Diocese and The Episcopal Church and tactical work with congregations and their lay and clergy leaders. The canon's work also includes guiding and supporting the Commission for Congregational Missions (please refer to the report on the CCM). Each week, the canon works with multiple churches who are either working their plan of vitality, making a new plan for vitality, revitalizing, or redeveloping. The canon also is the contact person for new faith communities. Reference the article Every Church Has A Future that helps churches describe where they are and what support may be helpful.

This ministry has secured subscriptions for services valuable to church, and available at no cost to them. These include Invite, Welcome, Connect On-Demand, the 13-area Congregational Vitality Assessment (Faith X), and the Neighborhood Insights for missional engagement (providing demographical information). Other resources provided on the webpage include Markers for Thriving Churches, Our Church Our Neighborhood, and information about skill building through The College for Congregational Development.

The canon also works collaboratively with the Committee for Congregational Vitality as we build out resources and tools for our churches. See the webpage for resources. We are excited to offer a workshop on December 5 at All Saints Church in Richmond called Vital Neighborhood Relationships = Vital Church. This is the first of a series of workshops that will be offered in various regions of our diocese, in collaboration with the Ministry of Discipleship.

This year, Congregational Vitality also worked directly with Latino/Hispanic Episcopalians and churches to develop the inaugural Festival! One Church, Many Cultures, All in God.