

Diocesan Reimagining Task Force
Evangelism Visits
Suggested Agenda

This agenda is intended as a guideline for visitors to parishes. It may be adapted as local conditions, time constraints, etc. warrant. It is very important for visitors to take notes of comments of what is said at these meetings to inform the work of the DRTF. Where there are two visitors, trading off roles in the agenda as you are comfortable is fine.

It is also our hope that by bringing up questions of the relationship of each parish to its community and the wider church, we spark thinking that will be useful to each parish in carrying out the mission it is called to.

Welcome and Introduction – 3 minutes

Introduce yourselves, where you're from, etc.

Prayer – 2 minutes

If you're not comfortable with extemporaneous prayer, use Prayer for the Church (BCP p. 816)

Highlights of Resolution (emailed prior and handed out) – 5-10 minutes

- Modeled after Resolution C095 adopted by the 77th General Convention
- Diocese and Officers open to prompt sharing of information
- Task Force should: study scriptures and pray; reflect; engage in appreciative inquiry of all programs, activities and outreach; discern a shared vision for the Diocese; develop recommendations
- Review Explanation section of the Resolution

Personal Testimony – 5 minutes (10 minutes total if 2 DRTF members present)

- What is my history in TEC? (Faith)
- Why did I offer or accept to join the Task Force? (Hope)
- What do I want to see happen? (Love)

Note that of the members of the task force, none are cradle Episcopalians, and some had no religious background before the Episcopal Church. The DRTF itself is living proof of the ability of the Episcopal Church to grow.

Scripture Study: Romans 16 - read aloud by DRTF member or volunteer

Break into small groups of 3-5: discuss - what did you hear that may be speaking to you today?
DRTF visitors are to instruct attendees to break into small groups. They will discuss what they hear in the scripture for 3-5 minutes. Then ask a representative of each group to report some of the things they talked about. You may still find that people are reluctant to talk in front of the group, but prod (cheerfully!) a little bit and people will usually get talking. The reason this passage is selected is to fire the imagination about the importance of relationships across distance in the growth of the early church. This will hopefully provide some spiritual fuel for the subsequent questions.

Questions Asked to the Group – 15 minutes

Break into small groups to have people discuss among themselves - then come back to the group; these should ideally be the same groups as for scripture study. Ring a bell or call time to inform people when it's time to move on to the next question.

- What unique gifts does your parish offer the community around you?
- What unique gifts does your parish offer other Episcopalians/Episcopal Churches in the diocese?
- What are obstacles to you fulfilling your mission/offering these gifts?
- What ways can the Diocesan office or other Episcopalians/Episcopal Churches help?
- How does this parish/ministry depend on the Diocese, if at all?
- What types of support would you like to see from Diocese, if any?
- Does your parish feel connected to other parishes in the Diocese and is that important?
- What are the best things about your parish? What challenges exist?
- Tell me a story about the best worship experience you have had...about a time when you served others...about a time when you sensed God's presence

General questions or comments
Use FAQs if needed

Closing Prayer
Use prayer for Mission of the Church (BCP 816) if uncomfortable with extemporaneous prayer

Say Thank You!