



## An Invitation to Join the Wisdom Community

**Are you invigorated with the work of redeveloping Episcopal churches...  
especially with an eye for deepening connections  
between church and neighbor?**

**Have you been doing this work of congregational redevelopment?  
Are you willing to share your gifts and experience in redevelopment more broadly?**

In *Genesis II Re-Vision and Renew*, the Episcopal Church is looking for experienced practitioners in church redevelopment to join us as mentors, curriculum developers, and/or facilitators to work with a cohort of 12 Episcopal churches. These congregations are already asking these questions: "How are we called to be Christian communities today, in this place?" and "What is God is up to in our church's neighborhood?" Congregations who participate are hungry to go deeper into relationship with each other and their neighbors for the sake of starting new, collaborative ministries in their neighborhoods.

This is a 18-month initiative in which this 12 church cohort from across the Episcopal Church will meet online 2x/month (April 2020 - Nov 2021) to learn skills, collaborate as a cohort, and innovate new ways of being church today. **The participants will be supported by committed members of this Wisdom Community who will bring their experience of redevelopment for the sake of new ministries to bi-monthly meetings of participants.**

*Genesis II Re-Vision and Renew* highlights specific practices that strengthen parishes for the challenging, yet exciting, work of launching new ministries. We have a particular focus on the practice of building stronger relationships not only within our churches but also and with our wider community, especially those often unseen in our faith communities. In Resolution AO32 (GC 2018) the church is charged to "*redevelop to better engage the cultural realities of their communities for the sake of launching new ministries.*" We believe that as we deepen relationships with all of our neighbors, we discover the ways God is already active in and around our congregations and the potential for new partnership emerges.

Wisdom Community participants may co-facilitate a specific bi-monthly gathering of the Practicing Community, mentor a church in its redevelopment, and/or help develop resources for the broader church based on the lived experience of *Genesis II Re-Vision and Renew* and their experience with church redevelopment for the sake of launching new ministries. The following describes the opportunities and time commitments:

All members of the Wisdom Community:

1. Meet once a month with Genesis II: Re-Vision and Renew leadership to help shape the experience of the Practicing Community.
2. Practice and explore “Six Conversations that Matter” by Peter Block.
3. Serve as a constant support in a time of change by listening to the experiences and questions of members of the Practicing Community.
4. Demonstrate a whole-hearted willingness to learn and adapt their understanding of new ministry development based on this lived experience.
5. Actively practice ministry in their context - embodying the behaviors that invite us all into deeper relationships and greater vulnerability with our neighbors.
6. Attend an off-site gathering of the Practicing Community and Wisdom Community in fall 2020 (expenses covered).

Members of the Wisdom Community may choose to offer their gifts in the following capacities:

1. Mentors
  - a. Mentor a Practicing Community as they experiment with how these teachings can be applied in and/or adapted for their local context.
  - b. Meet as needed with other mentors online
2. Curriculum Developers :
  - a. Work with members of the Wisdom Community, staff for this initiative, and members on the Task Force for Church Planting and Redevelopment to co-create resources that will be “tried on” and maybe even altered by participants.
  - b. Meet as needed with other curriculum developers online
3. Co-Facilitators: Coordinate with leadership and other facilitators to produce a compelling and seamless experience for the Practicing Community

If you are interested in accompanying this process as a facilitator, mentor, or curriculum collaborator, please answer [these](#) questions by March 30, 2020.