

Part Time is Plenty Book Club: Vestry Questions for chapters 5 & 6

Collaboration and Making A Plan

So far, in this book club, we have discovered that:

- Parishes with part-time paid clergy leadership are full-time parishes
- Thriving parishes have a specific set of characteristics and differ from declining parishes
- A long-term happy relationship between a healthy ministry and thriving part-time clergy requires a clear articulation of boundaries and job descriptions. The lay leadership understand and agree on who does what, even though that can take a variety of different arrangements.
- Collaboration and partnerships with other organizations or congregations allow for parishes thriving with part-time paid clergy leadership to do more with less.

Exercise One

Consider your community landscape, non-profits, and congregations in your surrounding community, both Episcopal and other denominations.

What are the three organizations or congregations with the most potential for healthy partnerships?

<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>Why?</u>
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Now, consider organizations that you may not have listed, either thoughtfully overlooked or by design. Not every potential partner is a good fit, but consider articulating why a potential collaborator does not make the list, in an effort to re-evaluate communal assumptions and consider what you might learn about your own identity from this exercise.

Exercise Two

Make two lists: one with your needs and one of your yields/assets that could potentially be shared in a collaborative partnership. A key part of a healthy partnership is that leaders are honest about what you bring to the table and what you hope to gain. As we discussed, collaborations do not work when they are not mutually beneficial.

Consider undertaking a more formal Asset Mapping exercise with your whole congregation. See: *The Power of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act on its Gifts* by Luther K. Snow

Exercise Three

What have you learned from this book?

Have every leader list three key highlights or learnings from this book on their own post-it note or on a digital whiteboard (Zoom annotate is a good option). Have members read aloud observations that are not their own.

What are you called to do next?

Have every leader list three key actions you've discovered by participating in this book club on their own post-it note or on a digital whiteboard (Zoom annotate is a good option). Have members read aloud observations that are not their own. Discuss and discern as a group one or two key actions and commit to completing them in the next 3-6 months.