



Report to the 2018 Synod of the Diocese of Christ our Hope, ACNA
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Canon Missioner

Church Planting Process Overview

- Manual
- Assessor Manual
- Yearly Assessments for Church Planting Prospects at Synod
- Yearly Training each June for Approved Planters/Spouses

Update on Church Planters

- Nick Lannon
- Jay Traylor
- Steven Breedlove

Regional Retreats

- Purpose
- Attendance requirements
- Who should be there, when, and why

Although this year's Canon Missioner Report is rather short, it reflects plenty of great progress concerning the Church Planting Process and further development of our Regional Retreats.

My main focus this year has been an overhaul of the Diocese of Christ Our Hope Church Planting Process. As you are surely aware, church planting and Gospel expansion are core values of the Diocese. However, up to this point our process for planting churches and expanding the Gospel has been lacking. To remedy this, we have created a robust Church Planter Manual and Church Planter Assessor Manual.

The Church Planter Manual outlines everything necessary for a potential planter to get started. In it you will find guidance for everything from choosing a name and location to sample budgets and growth projections. In particular, we have updated our Church Planter Assessment Process to help identify potential planters and to better-prepare them as they begin to plant. This Assessment Process includes a robust battery of personality, aptitude, and leadership tests that provide a well-rounded picture of who each planter is.

To work in concert with the new Church Planter Manual and Assessment Process we also have identified qualified Church Planter Coaches from within our diocese and created for them a Church Planter Assessor Manual. We will pair each potential planter with a Church Planting Coach to walk with them through both the assessment process and the triumphs and trials of planting a new church.



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To streamline the entire process, we will be holding an assessment event once a year the day before Convocation & Synod. This is when anyone interested in planting can take their assessments, talk with the Canon Missioner, and receive some feedback. In addition, our diocese will be holding a Church Planter Bootcamp each June in conjunction with Always Forward, the church planting arm of the ACNA and the Titus Institute for Church Planting. We held our first Bootcamp this past September with five planters and five coaches. It was an intense, but incredibly fruitful five days of learning, coaching, and supporting one another.

Three church plants are currently active within our diocese. Rev. Jay Traylor is planting in the Triangle of North Carolina, Rev. Steven Breedlove is planting in Richmond, VA, and Rev. Nick Lannon is planting in Louisville, KY.

Finally, we have continued to better-define the purpose and scope of our Regional Retreats. As you know, we host three retreats each year, one in each of our diocesan regions - Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeast. The purpose of these retreats is threefold.

- First - Regional Retreats are an opportunity to create and maintain relationships and collaboration among the people in each region and between each region and the diocese.
- Second - Regional Retreats are an opportunity to continue to explore the central theme of our Convocation and Synod plenaries at a more local, contextual level. If Convocation and Synod is the 30,000 ft. view, Regional Retreats are the 15,000 ft. view.
- Finally, Regional Retreats provide an opportunity for ministry leaders, both lay and clergy, to receive training relevant to their particular ministries and to fellowship with their ministry counterparts from other churches in their region.

There has been some confusion in the past as to who should attend Regional Retreats and when. Hopefully we can mitigate that confusion here:

- **Rectors** - **Thursday** for Strategic Leadership Meetings (noon to noon) through the whole weekend.
- **Ministry leaders (lay and/or clergy)** - **Friday** for workshops for ministry leaders (Rectors, children, youth, prayer, administrators, music, college, etc.) through **Saturday's** main plenary and subsequent workshops related to the plenary theme.
- **Everyone else** - **Saturday** for the main plenary talk and subsequent workshops related to the plenary theme.