

# Small Churches Conference

## March 21-22, 2025

### **Friday, March 21**

*Please arrive at Grace Episcopal Church, 161 E. Peace St., Canton, anytime between 4:00-5:00 PM. Parking in the grass lot to the right of the church may be wet. You can park in the Regions Bank parking lot (to the left of the church) after 5:00 PM, and in the parking lot just north of the Regions Bank lot anytime.*

#### **4:00-5:00 PM Networking with Other Small Church Leaders**

#### **5:00 PM Conference Begins with Evening Prayer in the Church (Jennifer Deaton organizing)**

#### **5:45 PM Dinner in the Parish Hall** *(vegetarian and gluten-free options available)*

#### **6:30 PM-8:00 PM Small Churches, Big Impact**

A word from The Rt. Rev. Dorothy Sanders Wells and conversation with the Rev. Canon Gary Meade, facilitated by Beth Foose

Timekeeper: Andy Andrews, Note taker: Elisabeth

- What needs to be clarified?
- What excites you about what the Bishop shared?
- How do you see your church living into the vision that the Bishop described?
- What are some of the challenges to living into this vision?

### **Saturday, March 22**

*Please arrive at Grace Episcopal Church between 8:00-8:30 AM for coffee & breakfast snacks.*

#### **8:30-9:30 AM Morning Prayer & Reflection on Vibrant Worship in Small Churches**

Jennifer Deaton & Jane Bearden

#### **9:30-10:00 AM Workshops**

- **Small Church Music** with James Anderson and Doyle Tubbs (maybe sanctuary?)
- **Keeping Our Leaders from Burning Out: Stewardship of Volunteers** with Elisabeth Malphurs and Carolyn Gent Burton
- **Stewardship of Creation** with Beth Foose & Tracy Stebbins

- **Congregational Thriving in 21st Century Mississippi** with Andy Andrews
- **Drop-in Time with Canon to the Ordinary Gary Meade** (sign up ahead of time for a 15-minute spot to have a conversation with Gary about anything particular to your church: a total of 4 slots are available) (perhaps in Beth's office?)

### **10:00-10:15 AM Break**

### **10:15-10:45 AM Round Two of Workshops**

- **Small Church Music** with James Anderson and Doyle Tubbs
- **Keeping Our Leaders from Burning Out: Stewardship of Volunteers** with Elisabeth Malphurs and Carolyn Gent Burton
- **Stewardship of Creation** with Beth Foose & Tracey Stebbins
- **Congregational Thriving in 21st Century Mississippi** with Andy Andrews
- **Drop-in Time with Canon to the Ordinary Gary Meade** (sign up ahead of time for a 15-minute spot to have a conversation with Gary about anything particular to your church)

### **10:45-11:00 AM Break with Gentle Stretching led by Tracy Stebbins**

### **11:00 AM-12:15 PM Where do we go from here? Facilitators: Andy Andrews, Elisabeth Malphurs & Rev. Canon Gary Meade, Notetaker: Beth Foose**

- What have you learned? What are your take-aways?
- What's the one thing you want to learn more about?
- What are you planning to try in your congregation? What is your vision for your church?
- How can the Small Church Collaborative or the Diocese empower you to make that happen?
- Who else wants to help lead this effort?

### **12:15-1:00 PM Lunch**

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!*