



Ministry Development Team: Living for God

This document contains information for the priest and AMD Advisor (or other facilitator) to help with the Ministry Development for the Living for God theme.

Date, location and participants

Ideally, the Ministry Development Team should take place about two weeks after the Clergy College. It lasts about *90 minutes* and should be held in a comfortable environment.

The Ministry Development Team involves a core group of between six and 12 people. The priest identifies and invites participants. They can include clergy, Readers, Local Worship Leaders and Pastoral Workers, and Church Wardens.

Aims of the Ministry Development Team

The aims of the Ministry Development Team are:

- to form a bridge between the learning that takes place during the Clergy College and Ministry Development; and
- to form a group that is aware of and understands the theme of the Ministry Development and can help support the priest in its delivery.

Ministry Development will also be a chance to remind people about how AMD works, to talk about the Clergy College and to help build a common understanding of what you're trying to achieve. Creating an AMD team is important.

Content of the Ministry Development Team

The structure of the Ministry Development Team will usually be as follows (timings are a guide only, but try not to run over unless you aim to reduce another section in advance):

- A Welcome and Prayer led by priest, facilitator or others: *5 minutes*
- B Outline of Ministry Development and discussion led by priest or facilitator: *25 minutes*
- C Input by priest on a topic from the Clergy College and discussion: *25 minutes*
- D Appreciative Inquiry of the church exploring 'Living for God' led by facilitator: *25 minutes*
- E Summary of discussions and Concluding Prayers: *5 minutes*

The following pages contain further resources for each of these sections.

- Depending upon the time of day it may be good to provide suitable refreshments.
- Arrange the room so that everyone can participate in the conversations.
- If you are using Powerpoint, or other visual aids, ensure everyone can see properly and prepare the equipment (laptop and projector) in advance.

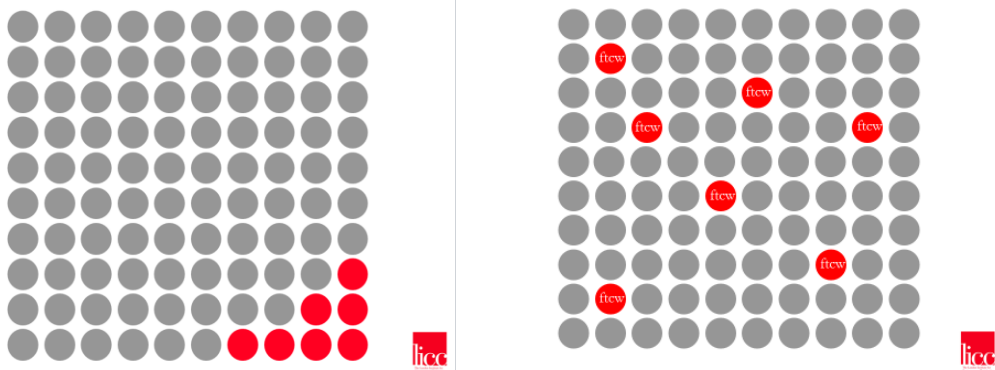
A: Welcome & Prayer

- Welcome:
 - ❖ explain that this is the third of several Parish Programme Launches
 - ❖ check that everyone knows each other – especially important if churches have recently started working together and/or new people are involved
 - ❖ outline the aims of the Ministry Development Team (see Aims above)
 - ❖ outline what will happen during the session (see Content above)
- Prayer:
 - ❖ use an appropriate form of prayer, focussing on Living for God. *5 minutes for both*

B: Outline of the Parish Programme

[NOTE – it would be possible to spend much more than 25 minutes on this theme and you may decide to reduce one of the other sections, e.g. the priest’s input, in order to allow this to happen]

- State the theme: ‘Living for God.’
- Present the following two diagrams (available in a PowerPoint presentation from the AMD office – amd@truro.anglican.org; produced by LICC and used with permission).
 - ❖ Say that the red dots indicate church goers and the grey dots non-church goers.



- ❖ Ask participants what they think is indicated by the positioning of the dots.
 - ‘The Church gathered’ – in a corner and under pressure, or simply the place where all the action takes place, a limited connectedness with the wider world.
 - ‘The Church scattered’ – ‘out’ in the world, scattered from one another, but relating to many more people.
- ❖ Discuss what difference it makes to the church’s mission to think not of the church as being in the corner – either only engaged in mission together to people we don’t know or somewhat defensive – but also as scattered.
- ❖ Ask what it might mean to ‘make a difference’ in the place where group members live their lives (including their life at work, where relevant).



Make a difference
where you are



- ❖ Now think about the importance and opportunities for making a difference. One way to do this is to think about the amount of time we typically spend in church and elsewhere. A week lasts for 168 hours. If we sleep for about 7 hours a night we are left with 120 hours in the week when we do something else. If we spend 10 hours doing 'churchy stuff' (and that is many more hours than many of us spend) then there are 110 hours where we live 'outside church.' But not apart from God.



- ❖ Think about what you are doing for much of that time. That is where you are a follower of Jesus.
- ❖ Ask what we can do in the 10 hours, the time we connect in some way to church, that can resource us in the 110 hours.
- ❖ And also ask how the 110 hours shape the experience of our time in church.

FRONTLINE

- ❖ The place where we spend most of our time, or the contexts for which we have most responsibility are our 'frontlines.' God is interested in them. And we are disciples in them.
- ❖ Ask how we can demonstrate the love of God. Why not be very specific and practical.



- ❖ Pray together for our discipleship and witness on our 'frontlines.'
- This should lead nicely to the priest's input.

C: Input by priest

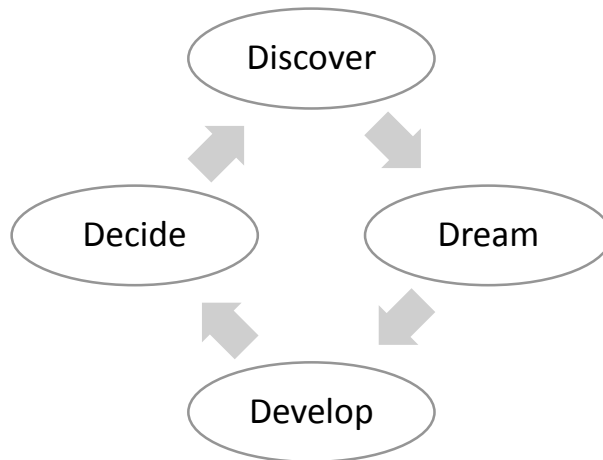
- The priest should select a topic that really interested him/her at the recent Clergy College.
 - ❖ It can be anything from the Clergy College, not necessarily something relevant to the theme of Living for God. As a suggestion, you could discuss what it means to fail in our work or ministry and how we can 'fail well.'
 - ❖ Please provide any learning resources you require; feel free to copy anything provided at the Clergy College if that's helpful to the group or take an idea from the Parish Programme resources, e.g. a video or website story or something that you would wish to do with the youth or children. *maximum of 10 minutes*
- Discuss the topic and its relevance for the church
 - ❖ You may like to suggest questions for the group to discuss or ask them to participate in a creative activity—remember that different people have different learning styles, so even if you decide to focus upon discussion this time, think about another way to present your topic at the next Ministry Development Team. *around 15 minutes.*
- Conclude the discussion
 - ❖ Try and conclude on a positive note, which will lead well into 'Appreciative Enquiry'.

D: Appreciative Inquiry

- Appreciative Inquiry is a way of asking questions that helps people focus upon what has been good about the past and the positive aspects of our present. It leads a group to think about building upon what has worked well rather than becoming preoccupied about what's going wrong.
 - ❖ If you are interested in finding out more about Appreciative Inquiry the Accompanied Ministry Development team can suggest some resources, although the following website: www.clergyleadership.com contains a useful summary
- There are various elements to Appreciative Inquiry. Typically they are:
 - ❖ Discover – Appreciate what is present when things go well
 - ❖ Dream – Imagine the features of a flourishing future
 - ❖ Develop or Design – Identify what you will do
 - ❖ Decide – Create this future



- The cycle looks like this:



- As part of the Ministry Development Team churches will concentrate upon the 'Discover' element of Appreciative Inquiry; the other elements could be very suitable topics for PCC meetings, for example.
- If there are more than six people present, it's best to divide into smaller groups so that everyone has an opportunity to speak. If only a few people are present, stay as one group. The structure of this part of the Ministry Development Team is as follows
 - ❖ Ask people to reflect for two minutes on their experiences of 'Living for God,' both as a church and more widely as individuals. *2 minutes*
 - ❖ Try and think about how the church does or might help all 'Live for God' where they are, whether that be as a retired person, in work or with family. *10 to 12 minutes*
 - ❖ Come together as a whole group and in the light of what has been said, ask everyone to give two hopes for how your church might help people 'Live for God.' *5 to 10 minutes*

E: Summary and Concluding Prayer

- Thank people for coming
- Conclude with prayers for the church and for each other and for any other pressing issues in your community and the wider world. *5 minutes*