



Connect

IDEAS & RESOURCES

Connecting

FLOW CHARTS of Invite-Welcome-Connect newcomer process [TOOLKIT](#)

INTENTIONAL CONVERSATIONS

(Hearing the newcomer's soul story, an intentional conversation of the head & heart)

Initial Conversation

- Where did you grow up?
- Did you grow up in another church tradition? If so, which one?
- If Episcopalian now...when were you confirmed/received?
- If you've been away from church for a long time, what or who brought you back?
- How did you find your way to this church? Did someone invite you?

Going Deeper

- Have you ever felt God's call in your life?
- Do you feel called to a particular ministry now?
- What do you love doing? What gives you life? Joy? What makes your heart sing?

CONNECTORS

(Shepherds, Mentors, Sponsors)

- These are people who might be in the same age range and/or particular life stage as the newcomer, i.e. parents of pre-schoolers or teenagers; dealing with elderly parents; recently divorced, etc.

LISTENING Skills Development

- [The Power of Listening: Building Skills for Mission and Ministry](#), Lynne Baab
- [Holy Listening: The Art of Spiritual Direction](#), Margaret Guenther
- [The Art of Listening – A Reading List](#) – excellent extensive listing from [Godspace](#)
- [Community of Hope International](#) - lay chaplain course with listening skills component

Clear Pathways to Belonging

Clear Membership Pathway

- Newcomer's Café – provides first opportunity to hear newcomer story (how and/or why they came to church)
- Liturgy of Belonging - new member welcome – an interim step prior to confirmation, reception [TOOLKIT](#)
- Seekers Forum – forum for connection that combines in-person and online community [TOOLKIT](#)
- Confirmation class models: [The Discovery Series: A Christian Journey](#)

INTENTIONAL Entry Points/Doorways for Spiritual Nurture/Discipleship

- ✚ Outreach Teams, e.g. local soup kitchen, fundraisers for local non-profits, [Habitat for Humanity](#)
- ✚ Retreats (women, men, youth, couples retreats)
- ✚ Pastoral care:
 - ✚ [Community of Hope](#), [Stephen Ministries](#), [Daughters of the King](#), [Brotherhood of St. Andrew](#), [Christ Church Cares](#)
- ✚ Divorce recovery
 - ✚ [EPEC \(Exceptional Parents of Exceptional Children\)](#)
- ✚ Grief groups, e.g. [Mourners Path](#)
 - ✚ [Caring for the Caregiver](#)
- ✚ 12 Step Groups (AA, Al-Anon)
- ✚ [Thom's Helpers](#) (ministry for young adults with special needs)
- ✚ Marriage enrichment
- ✚ Expectant parents support group
- ✚ New mother ministry
- ✚ Mothers Day Out
 - ✚ [MOPS](#) (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers)
- ✚ Teacher appreciation (private & public school teachers)
- ✚ Fellowship groups (Foyers, dinner groups, 50+/seniors group)
- ✚ Interest groups, e.g. Prayer Shawl Ministry (knitters), fellowships of runners, bikers, softball team, etc.
- ✚ Spiritual Nurture ~ Discipleship groups (Bible study, book study, topical studies)
- ✚ [Education for Ministry](#); [Forward Movement](#), [FORMA](#), [RenewalWorks](#)

Closing the Connection Loops-Empowering Laity for Ministry

Gifts Discernment

- ✚ [Discovering Your Motivational Spiritual Gifts TOOLKIT](#)
- ✚ [Life in the Spirit Workbook TOOLKIT](#)
- ✚ [Opening Your Spiritual Gifts – ELCA Women TOOLKIT](#)
- ✚ [Discovering your Purpose through S.H.A.P.E. TOOLKIT](#)

Further Discernment

- ✚ [Strengths Finder](#), Tom Rath
- ✚ [Living your Strengths](#), Albert Winseman & Donald O. Clifton
- ✚ [Gifts Differing: Understanding Personality Types](#), Isabel Briggs Myers, Peter B. Myers
- ✚ [The Enneagram: A Christian Perspective](#), Richard Rohr
- ✚ [The Wisdom of the Enneagram](#), Don Richard Riso, Russ Hudson
- ✚ [Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation](#), Parker Palmer

Recommended Books, Articles, Videos, Websites

- ✚ [The Discovery Series: A Christian Journey](#)
- ✚ [Vital Practices for Leading Congregations](#)
- ✚ [Foundations of Discipleship](#), The Rev. Patrick Gahan
- ✚ [The Cause Within You](#), Matthew Barnett & George Barna
- ✚ [Everyone Communicates Few Connect](#), John C. Maxwell
- ✚ [Equipping Church Guidebook](#), Sue Mallory
- ✚ [“Assimilating New People in the Church”](#) David Drury, evangelical & mainline publications cited.