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## I. Story-telling

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***Story-telling creates communities and builds relationships. It is how we make and share meaning with one another. It is the foundation of any deeply cooperative enterprise. It is where ministry development begins.***

Resources and ideas for story-telling include:

- “Gospel-Based Discipleship” Bible study
- Create a timeline for your congregation as a group exercise
- Begin any church meeting with a “check-in”
- Learn how to tell your faith story or spiritual autobiography
- Examine Percept (demographic) material describing your community

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## II. What is Ministry

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***We used to think that “ministers” were people who wore funny collars and got paid by the church. The Church is returning to biblical understandings about ministry. In this time of transition, pay attention to whether everybody is talking about the same thing.***

Resources and ideas for biblical understanding of ministry include:

- Study the Baptismal Covenant and Catechism from the perspective of ministry
- The Ministries Retreat Track “Full Immersion”
- Field trips to other congregations engaged in baptismal ministry, e.g. The Visitor’s Weekend to the Diocese of Northern Michigan
- Workshops planned for your congregation
- Ministry in Daily Life, available from Episcopal Parish Services is a collection of lots of ideas

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## III. Owing Our Future

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***You are the stewards of your resources, and are responsible for your future. The Diocese can help connect you to the wider Body. Your future can include the resources of other members of the Body, or you may be called upon to participate and share your resources with others.***

Resources and ideas for owning your future include:

- Create a Rule of Life based on the Baptismal Covenant
- Processes for Mutual Ministry Reviews
- The Annual Ministries Retreat Track “Synagogy: Where Learners Teach and Teachers Learn”
- Leadership Academy for New Directions
- Life Cycles of Congregations

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## IV. Working From Our Strengths

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***You already have everything you need to do what God is calling you to do. Figuring out what your resources are is a positive approach to discerning what God might be yearning for you.***

Resources and ideas for taking stock of your strengths include:

- Appreciative Inquiry
- Asset Based Community Development
- Processes for gifts discernment:
  - Haldane (story-telling) method
  - Gifts and Passions inventories

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## V. How It Works

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***Steps II through IV are about reflecting on and learning from your stories. However, the most wonderful insights and learnings can be dead ends, until they are applied to future action.***

Resources and ideas for translating all this into action include:

- Consultants for goal-setting and stewardship
- Groundworks – an evangelism program
- Congregational Ministry Development Teams and the Iowa Curriculum
- Training for a variety of ministries
- Start Up/Start Over – a national conference for teams from your congregation

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## VI. Commendation

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***Commendation celebrates the commitments you have made, and authorizes the work to begin. Some liturgies have to be creative in order to express the community’s intentions adequately.***

Examples of commendation include:

- Commissioning of specialized ministries
- Ordinations
- Celebrations of new ministries
- Ground-breakings
- Plain old parties

These resources are part of a growing list of ideas and resources used successfully around the Diocese of Iowa. **Please, tell your story and help us add to this list with your own ideas and resources.**

And the Ministry Development Wheel turns again.

**Thanks be to God!**



**The Ministry Development Wheel**  
is a tool to help your congregation grow in faith  
and in support of each other.

**For further information, contact:**

Episcopal Diocese of Iowa  
225 37th St  
Des Moines, IA 50312  
515-277-6165      diocese@iowaepiscopal.org



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diocese@iowaepiscopal.org  
www.iowaepiscopal.org

## Ministry Development in Iowa

*All ministry is the life of Jesus lived through  
His people. Into His life we are baptized.  
Out of His life within us, we all have  
ministry and gifts. All we ever seek to be is  
His life for our generation.*



**Figuring out what Christ can do  
in you and through you.**

The Ministry Development Team of the Diocese of Iowa uses a six-stage process to help build lively and life-giving congregations. We call it a wheel, because each stage leads into the next and moves your ministry into the future.

The Ministry Development process is intended to spark ideas, not to dictate a procedure. We hope this brochure will help you connect to resources that you can use to “be His life for our generation.”