

Vitalization Cohort Project

The purpose of being part of the Vitalization Cohort Project is to facilitate Christ the King meeting the ‘markers of a thriving parish’. To understand how family systems theory impacts the dynamics of a church and to understand how, in our church’s case, we work together for ministry in a multi-cultural parish. This is a 3-year project and we are now a year and a half into the program.

The Cohort Team has been meeting monthly with the Rev Amy Chambers Cortright to set annual goals and quarterly initiatives that Christ the King has been working towards during the pandemic this past year. Having to do everything virtually for months during the pandemic has impacted our ability to communicate what the Cohort team has been doing.

The Cohort team has also had the opportunity to meet via zoom with the other 4 churches who are part of the Vitalization Cohort Project during seminars conducted by Rev Amy Chambers Cortright.

The Bishop’s Committee has been meeting monthly with the Diocesan Multi-Cultural Missioner, Denise Trevino-Gomez to learn how to develop leadership skills in a multi-cultural parish. They have also been learning healthy ways to address conflicts in the church.

The Cohort team has stated that what we hope the church will get out of our time in the Vitalization Cohort Project is:

1. Learn from other churches in Cohort
2. Grow and increase members participation in church.
3. Learn about financial stewardship
4. Become more cohesive & feel like a family as a church
5. Be more energized as a church

What are your church’s core values?

1. *uniqueness*: cultural dress, diversity of people, different national foods, Thanksgiving event
2. *friendship*: passing the peace, calling in to check on each other, drive by birthdays during pandemic
3. *empathy*: support of family members when someone dies, encouraging children through attending their events at church and schools. touching base with each other being available to listen and support each other.

What are your annual goals (goals that take you to the end of 2021)?

1. Maintain online presence through FB live & zoom Bible study classes even after the pandemic.
2. Partner with ReVision Houston (Men’s Group had discussed this prior to the pandemic)
3. Reorganizing of church’s finances to build trust, transparency and financial stewardship through having new Treasurer and Book keeper providing monthly financial reports to congregation through email in conjunction with monthly Bishop’s Committee report to congregation.
4. Be COVID testing or vaccination site for City of Houston Health Dept.

5. Increase partnership with Mission Bell Food Pantry through volunteers, paying utilities and providing storage space.

Our quarterly goals for this second quarter of 2021 are:

1. Form an *Innovation Team* from a cross section of the church which will meet monthly for 6 months starting in June to assess strengths, opportunities for ministries, what people are curious about right now and what weaknesses presented themselves during the pandemic. Noticing what is most important to the church right now and then developing a vital learning agenda for the church. This team will work with the Cohort Team.
2. Prepare to have Children's Christian Formation in person starting in September rather than via zoom.
3. Address the multi-cultural issues that the IDI survey results present. These will first be discussed by the Bishop's Committee in a retreat format before engaging the congregation.
4. Have a regathering celebration in September as we regather in person in the fall. Ask ECW and the Men's Group to organize a reception (picnic) on the lawn after a Sunday Eucharist.
5. Form Stewardship Committee to begin looking at ways to encourage church members to pledge for 2022.
6. Maintain online presence through continuing to use FB live for Friday Evening Prayer at 5:00pm, Sat Morning Devotions & Meditation on Scripture at 9:00am, Sunday Eucharist at 10:30am and zoom for Wednesday Evening Bible study at 6:30pm even when pandemic is over.
7. Weekly email from Vicar on Tuesdays to the church group email about church's weekly schedule, Bishop Committee updates, concerns or opportunities for ministry even after church can regather fully.

Previous goals included:

1. Monthly Sunday meetings at 12:30pm via zoom with Bishop's Committee and Denise Trevino-Gomez to learn leadership skills and how to work as a team. They will also learn healthy ways to address conflicts in the church.
2. Bringing in an outside team from another church to conduct the 2020 financial review to help build trust in church financial practices. (Ongoing with Team from Epiphany)
3. Train and have book keeper doing weekly financial duties as described in job description to assist Treasurer and increase transparency in finances.
4. Continue offering Children's Christian Formation classes via zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:30am during the pandemic.
5. Maintain online presence through continuing to use FB live for Friday Evening Prayer at 5:00pm, Sat Morning Devotions & Meditation on Scripture at 9:00am, Sunday Eucharist at 10:30am and zoom for Wednesday Evening Bible study at 6:30pm even when pandemic is over.

6. Jerry Parrish will update the website on Wednesdays with current sermon and any additional information regarding the church's weekly schedule. It will be available online the next day at the latest.

7. Weekly email from Vicar on Tuesdays to the church group email about church's weekly schedule, Bishop Committee updates, concerns or opportunities for ministry even after church can regather fully.