The Framework of NE Diocese of the CEC

“Create the Form, and I will fill it”
“Don’t put new wine in a old wine skin”

NE Diocese Vision

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NE Diocese Vision

1. Where is are Starting

Philosophy

Hear God, Obey, Have Courage, and stay the course.

Always stay on the **mission**: "Live by faith, act with courage, and persevere in your call, never losing sight of your mission."

Always adapt the **method**: "While staying true to our mission, we remain adaptable in our methods"

Form before Filling: "We Prioritize building a solid foundation over seeking immediate results."

The teacher is only one chapter ahead. "We Learn from those who have walked the path before you, but remember they too were once students like yourself."

Remaining **teachable** empowers you to adapt and thrive.

Build Together (NE Leadership Conferences)

Resources

Website: https://www.cecnortheast.org/

Slack: https://cecnortheastdiocese.slack.com

Northeast Leader Conference, Date TBD at Intercessor in Sept.

NE Diocese Vision

CEC NorthEast Diocese Mission (why do we exist?)

Making God's Kingdom visible in Local communities.

1. God's Kingdom
2. Visible
    a. Making visible the void
3. Local Communities

Local/Intercessor Parish Mission

1. Love God
2. Love People
3. Build Disciples

CEC NorthEast Diocese Vision (**Where are you going?**)

Leading in Convergence by Equipping churches for Growth and Renewal, building Unity to Transform the Communities around us.

Local/Intercessor (example) Vision

To be a Christ-Centered, multicultural church, reaching the unchurched where they are, building disciples and impacting our communities

NE Diocese Vision

2. Where we are going

Over this year we are going to dig into each of our own parishes, and work together to become the best version of ourselves. We look forward to walling this out with you.

NE Diocese Priorities / Areas of Focus

Revitalization
Revitalization brings New Life to our churches purpose, reignites our passion, and refreshes plans and strengthens ministries, making them vibrant and engaging once more.

Leadership Development (serve in gifts, share)
Everyone is called to serve, but not everyone is a leader. Leaders are architects of change, builders of teams, and continue to grow.

Vocations: The Pathway for Holy Orders answering God's call in your life.
Discover: We are aware, and alert to those around us who God is calling to Holy Orders.
Discern: We come together as brothers to support those considering the call on their lives.
Development: We come alongside to affirm the call God has on their lives and direct them on the pathway of orders to fulfill God's purpose in their life.

NE Diocese Vision

Unity: Learning to be one in Christ with a common vision as we hear from God, to accomplish his kingdom's purpose for his church.
We are operating in consensus. We gather to strengthen our unity with one another, as we hear from God. It begins with the government of God in place, rectors, and parish council, having a clear vision and mission guiding the church.

Outreach (de-church, unchurch, church, changing the culture inside the church) The inward focused church has no future. A vibrant relationship with Christ compels you to reach those outside the faith. Outreach creates a deliberate, ongoing discipleship pathway.

3. Expectations of the Future

Our First Year Together

I Expect

That each Parish participates
We work together to make out parishes the best version of themselves, by starting with your mission and vision
Each Rector leads
That we meet Monthly
We are honest with each other
We work to create a healthy culture
That we begin to draw our leaders out from the pews into leadership
That we all remain teachable
Attendance at NE Diocese conferences by clergy and lay leaders
Adaptation to modern communication methods of the Diocese (Slack)
Adaptation to modern methods of evangelism.

You Can Expect

A consistent message of hope and a willingness to find answers
A Leader, who leads by mission and vision
A Leader who works collectively with you
Opportunities to share successes and failures (teachable moments) with each other
A Bishop who build teams
Allocates Resources based upon clear priorities
A Bishop who Drives Innovation
Encourages delegation

The Role of Diocesan Bishop

A Diocesan Bishop has four main responsibilities: visionary, leader, teacher, and culture steward. He sets the strategic direction, guides the diocese with clear decision-making, and imparts core beliefs. He also cultivates a healthy environment based on trust, collaboration, and service. To succeed, he empowers and equips his team, ensuring they have the tools and opportunities to contribute effectively. Through open communication and engagement, he listens to all voices and fosters a sense of belonging within the community. In essence, the Bishop acts as a champion for both spiritual development and practical well-being, leaving a lasting impact on the lives, churches, and communities he serves.

NE Diocese Vision

Strengthening Our Identity Together: A Closer Look

Defining Our Core:

- Essential Elements: What are the fundamental principles and practices that unite us as CEC churches? These non-negotiables form the bedrock of our shared identity.
- Unity and Diversity: How do we balance being a cohesive CEC collective while embracing the unique expressions of faith within individual churches? How do we look and act similarly in core aspects while allowing for diversity in style and outreach?

Leadership and Vision:

- Understanding the Rectors Council: Does everyone grasp the council's role in guiding and supporting our churches? Is its authority and purpose clearly defined? What qualities and experiences are crucial for council members?
- Attracting New Believers: Would someone seeking a spiritually fulfilling congregation naturally consider a CEC church first? Why? How prepared are we to welcome and nurture a sudden influx of 25 new adults or children?

Building Community:

- Inward or Outward Focus: Does your church prioritize fostering deep bonds within its existing family, or actively reaching out to newcomers? Do you view yourselves as a close-knit unit or an open community?
- Welcoming Newcomers: How does your church actively make strangers feel comfortable and included? Who shoulders the responsibility of creating a welcoming atmosphere?

Growth and Evaluation:

- Quantifying Success: How do we measure the effectiveness of our efforts in reaching non-believers? While attendance and financial stability are important, are we also considering engagement, spiritual growth, and community impact?

Moving Forward:

- These prompts invite self-reflection and open dialogue, leading to a stronger, more vibrant CEC community. By examining our core values, leadership structures, and outreach strategies, we can ensure that every CEC church is a welcoming haven for spiritual seekers and a beacon of faith in the world.

NE Diocese Vision

Empowering a Thriving Lay Leadership Culture:

Cultivating and Engaging Our Teams:

- **Identifying and Encouraging Potential:** How do we actively seek out individuals with leadership potential from all walks of church life? Do we focus solely on their willingness to serve, or prioritize aligning their individual gifts with ministry needs?
- **Inviting Collaboration, Not Obligation:** Instead of simply stating our needs, do we first approach potential volunteers with an open heart, asking about their passions and skills? Can someone be a valued member of our community without formal leadership roles?
- **Building Healthy, Supportive Teams:** To ensure a positive and productive environment, do we prioritize team building and conflict resolution? How do we address disagreements constructively and swiftly?
- **Empowering and Celebrating:** How do we invest in training and development for our ministry teams? How do we empower them to own their roles and make decisions? Do we actively celebrate their achievements and contributions?
- **Bridging the Gaps:** How do teams communicate effectively within themselves and across different ministries? Are there silos hindering collaboration and hindering potential volunteers from engaging meaningfully?

Breaking Down Silos:

- **Beyond "Inside Groups":** Are we willing to re-evaluate existing structures and practices that might create exclusivity or limit access to leadership opportunities? Are we committed to ensuring a welcoming and inclusive environment for all potential volunteers?

NE Diocese Vision

Year 1: Building a Healthy Church Foundation

Focus:

- **Leadership:**
  - Concept (servant, not solo, unifies)
  - Assessment - strengths, weaknesses, pitfalls (self-care, focus)
  - Action plans to strengthen and leverage
  - Vision & Communication
  - Infrastructure - assessment & plan
  - Developing and aligning leaders
- **Mission & Vision:**
  - Clarify purpose and direction
  - Define key terms (discipleship)
  - Communicate mission effectively
  - Develop community-based vision
  - Craft strategy (adaptable, learn from failure)
- **Assessment & Improvement:**
  - Analyze strengths and weaknesses
  - Align roles and callings
  - Develop leadership team
  - Address the need for more leaders
- **NE Leadership Conferences**: Youth, Young Adults, Lay Leadership, Social media, Finance, Websites, Worship, AV, message planning (No more than just clergy conferences)

Outcome:

- Lay a foundation for a healthy church with strong leadership, clear direction, and a plan for continuous improvement.

NE Diocese Vision

Year 2: Cultivating Potential

Focus:

- **Revitalization:**
  - Honest assessment with shared vision
  - Prioritize and let some areas rest (fallow)
  - Build the foundation for God's work
  - Set clear goals
- **Teaching & Learning:**
  - Continuous learning and improvement
  - Adapt methods, not mission
  - Utilize modern tools for spreading the Gospel
- **Mentorship & Collaboration:**
  - Share knowledge, victories, and defeats
  - Learn from each other
  - Disseminate insights through various media
  - Stay informed about trends

Outcome:

- Develop individuals and teams to fulfill their potential and achieve the mission.

Year 3: Navigating Success - Small Church, Big Impact

Focus:

- **Performance Assessment:**
  - Analyze effectiveness - what works, what doesn't
  - Reallocate resources for maximum impact
  - Prioritize alignment with the overall mission
- **Strategic Initiatives:**
  - Initiate outreach efforts
  - Centralize planning and execution for focus
- **Goal Alignment:**
  - Define clear, measurable objectives
  - Ensure everyone operates towards common goals

Outcome:

- Optimize performance, maximize impact, and ensure everyone contributes to achieving collective goals.
  a.
  b. Develop an effective communication plan

Year 4-6: Build upon success: 1) Solidity Foundations for sustained Growth 2) Broaden Outreach 3) Elevate our community visible and impact

NE Diocese Vision

Intercessor Mission and Vision statement

MISSION: (What are we here to do?)
The mission is a statement of why the organization exists. It answers the question.

Love God, Love People, Build Disciples

VISION: (What do we want to achieve?)
The vision is a statement of what the organization aspires to be. It answers the question

To be a Christ-centered, multicultural church, reaching people where they are, building disciples, and impacting our communities.

ANCHORS: (How will we Succeed)
Strategic anchors are the top core values of Intercessor Church that help with decision-making. They act as tie-breakers when making a decision, anchors that are used as lenses through which every decision must be viewed.

Excellent Weekend Experience: (LAUNCHING) A great Service experience takes people deeper in their faith and brings them back to your parish next week; it includes engaging worship music, energy, and fellowship driven by servant ministers, great kid/student programs, messages which speak into people's lives, all done with excellence.

Grow Wider: (LOVING) Build a culture that strives to serve those who have never come to church (unchurched) and those who have not been to church in a long time (de-churched). That begins with hospitality and calling upon parishioners already coming to get up out of the pews and start serving.

Grow Deeper:(LEARNING) Encourage parishioners to go deeper in their faith by providing the ministries and systems to do so. Communicate clearly how to take those next steps. Pathway to Discipleship.

Leadership: (LEADING) Our parish needs a cohesive leadership team at all parish levels to achieve our goals.

HOW WE BEHAVE

Simple (we work harder to create simplicity)

Adaptable (We learn, Adopt new only when it is better) Willingness to change and not be stuck in the status quo

Excellence (God deserves our best)

Welcoming / Inviting (We work hard to make the pathway to church obstacle-free, not seeker-friendly) Welcome the outsider and build the insider