

St. John's Episcopal Church

Mutual Ministry Review

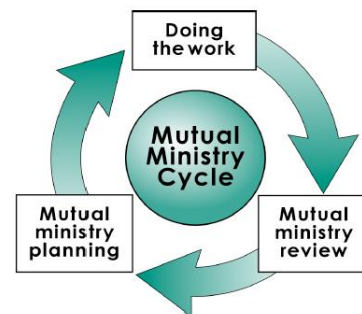
October 28, 2018 Following the 10 am Service

What is Mutual Ministry?

The ministry of the church is not solely the responsibility of the designated leaders (rector, vestry and others leading programs). Rather, it is joint effort, that is a **mutual ministry**, made up of three elements -- the community working together as a whole, individual Christians practicing their faith, and the designated leaders. Thus St. John's overall ministry is the mutual responsibility of us all, not just that of our designated leaders.

What is the Mutual Ministry Cycle?

The mutual ministry cycle consists of three phases which together help a parish provide each ministry as well as it can. The cycle begins with **planning** for what the ministry is to accomplish and how it will be carried out. The second phase is **doing the work** of the ministry.



At St. John's most of our ministries were initially planned many years ago and have been operating ever since. At the end of this paper is a listing of St. John's ministries grouped by area. Many of these ministries involve the participation of a number of parishioners working together. (Talking point only - Over time there have been changes to help these ministries be more effective as both the makeup of St. John's and the outside world change.)

The third phase of the cycle is the **Mutual Ministry Review** (MMR) where we reflect on what we have done and are currently doing. It includes asking "What has gone well?" and acknowledging those who have been instrumental in this. It also asks "Is there something we could have done better?" or "Is there something that we should have been doing?" This regular review/reflection phase is important for continued improvements in the functioning of the parish.

Why is it Important for You to Participate?

Since each of us is a part of the community which makes up the mutual ministry, it is important for all voices to be heard in the discussion of our ministries. Without broad participation we can miss including great ideas which can help us better our parish.

What is the Focus of This Review?

St. John's implementation of MMRs are very focused to allow us to be able to have a fairly complete discussion **within an hour**. Two years ago the congregation met together in a MMR which focused on how we welcome visitors and newcomers to our congregation. This resulted in several suggestions which have been implemented. (e.g. welcome bags with information and a St. John's mug, ensuring members of the congregation sit with the guest at fellowship.)

In planning for this year's MMR, the Vestry discussed several areas which the focus could possibly be. Most of our ministries are doing well and can wait until some future date for a MMR. We have three components within our Outreach Ministries -- Mutual Caring, Social Justice in the Community and Community Outreach. The Vestry thought that the area which would benefit from a MMR most at this time is the ministry of **Mutual Caring**.

Currently St. John's the Mutual Caring Ministry includes:

- Visits and calls from Rector
- Card Ministry
- Visits and calls from members of the parish (informally – especially to those who can use some help)
- Transportation, errands, or other assistance from members of the parish (same as above)

Situation at St. John's

An increasingly large percentage of St. John's congregation is reaching a point where it is becoming more difficult for them to get around. Others may have an illness, injury or other event for which additional help may be needed.

Vestry's Proposal for Consideration

Expand the Mutual Care Ministry to include members of the parish who would be willing to occasionally participate as a volunteer in providing support for members who could use some help. This support could include activities such as getting to church and doctor's appointments, friendly visits, grocery shopping, bringing an occasional meal or possibly other activities.

This process could be structured so the person needing the service or the rector would contact the "coordinator" a few days before the service is needed; the coordinator would reach out to volunteers to see who may be willing to provide the service. (This would help spread the work among more volunteers and prevent volunteer burnout).

Possible Discussion Topics For the MMR

- Are the current activities in the Mutual Care Ministry sufficient for what we as a Christian community should be doing?
- Is what is being proposed a real need for St. John's to undertake? Are other similar resources available?
- Are there some other ideas which are better suited for St. John's at this time? If so what might that be?
- Will we have enough volunteers at St. John's to be able to support the need? In the short term and long term? How can we improve the likelihood of success?
- How would this service be accepted by those who would benefit from it? Will they be reluctant to use it? If we were to do it, how could we help people be comfortable with periodically asking for help?

Recommendation

Near the end of the meeting, based on the discussion of the group, do we have enough interest to recommend proceeding with some type of enhancement of the Mutual Care Ministry?

Follow-up

If there is agreement on some enhancement, a committee of the Vestry will develop some specifics on how to implement it. Anyone who is interested is more than welcome to be part of that committee's discussion. The proposal will be shared with the congregation for comment prior to implementation.

If you have any questions before or after the discussion feel free to contact either Ann Barker or Peter Olivere (703-626-2520 or polivere@aol.com)

Current Ministries of St. John's Church

- Outreach
 - Mutual Caring
 - Visits and calls from Rector
 - Card Ministry
 - Visits and calls from members of the parish (informally – especially to those who can use some help)
 - Transportation, errands, or other assistance from members of the parish (same as above)
 - Intercessory Prayer
 - Social Justice in the Community
 - Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)
 - Food and money donations
 - Monthly bagging of groceries
 - Bailey's Crossroads' Shelter bagged lunches monthly
 - Salvation Army Angel Tree
 - School Supplies for Needy Kids at Neighborhood Elementary School
 - Community Involvement
 - Vacation Bible School
 - Annual Tea
 - Spaghetti Supper
 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
 - Book Club - monthly
 - Bingo night
 - Glencarlyn Day Hot Dogs
 - Family Game Night
- Worship
 - Music
 - Acolytes
 - Chalice
 - Healing
 - Other participation in worship service (ushers, tellers, readers)
 - Veterans
- Education
 - Adult Seminar
 - Education of Children (Sunday school) and participation in worship (pageant)
 - Education for Ministry
- Support of St. John's operation
 - Clean-up spring and fall
 - Maintenance
 - Office operations support
 - Vestry duties
- Fellowship
 - Sunday fellowship after service
 - Thanksgiving meal
 - Build your own sub
 - Birthdays