The Episcopal Church in the

Diocese of Western North Carolina

THE RT. REV. G. PORTER TAYLOR

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Dear Fellow Sojourners:

Thomas Merton once said, "In one sense we are always traveling.... In another sense, we have already arrived." That is, in one sense God's love for us is already given, yet in another sense we are always growing into an awareness of this mystery. We are always journeying to Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ.

The Sojourners in Christ program is a means to help you on your way. It may be used to prepare for baptism, confirmation, reception or renewal of baptismal vows. However, please know that we are always in formation. The Christian life is one of continuous transformation.

My prayer for you is that you find the time to engage this program faithfully, so that God might re-engage you in your call to serve God in the church and the world. I hope you hear God's voice calling you to go deeper in your relation to Christ and your commitment to be an instrument for God's will.

May God bless you in this endeavor.

In Christ,

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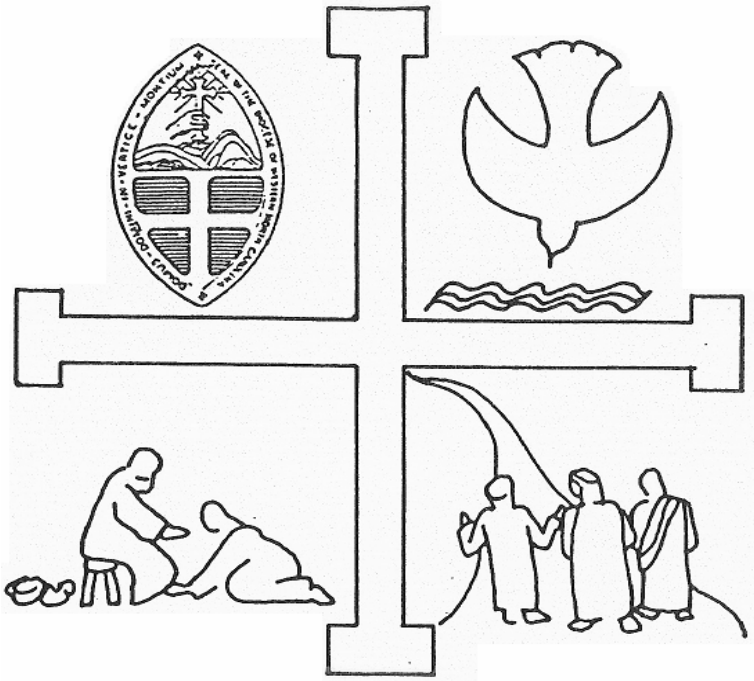
SOJOURNERS IN CHRIST



THE CATECHUMENAL PROCESS

Handbook on Christian Formation and Parish Team Training

The Centers for Christian Studies

The Diocese of Western North Carolina

OVERVIEW OF SOJOURNERS IN CHRIST

Sojourners in Christ is a process of Christian Formation characterized by reflection on scripture, Christian prayer, worship, and discovery of spiritual gifts for ministry and social justice. Reflection on the scripture reading assigned for each Sunday (lectionary Gospel reading) serves as the principal curriculum for each weekly session to illumine the faith journey of the Sojourners, their sponsors, and their instructors.

The Catechumenate is the process of Christian Formation to prepare unbaptized adults (Catachumens) for the reception of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism and Eucharist).

Continuing Conversion parallels the Catechumenate. It is a similar series of rites and stages to prepare baptized adults for confirmation, reception or reaffirmation of their baptismal vows.

In both cases, Sojourners seek Life in Christ.

SOJOURNERS IN CHRIST HAS FIVE KEY STAGES:

1) GATHERING
2) INQUIRY
3) FORMATION IN CHRIST
4) INTENSIVE PREPARATION
5) FORMATION IN MINISTRY

These are described in more detail on the pages of this booklet. The Time Table for the Long Method is found on page 9 and the Time Table for the Short Method is found on page 10. We have provided two timetables. We suggest using the long method for a fuller process of forming Christian community. We realize that parishioners schedules are very full in this day and age so we have also provided a short method.

An overview may also be found in
The Book of Occasional Services – 1994 Edition
Catechumens – pages 114ff

We acknowledge that we are all Sojourners on a journey but, for the purpose of clarity in this booklet, we will refer only to the catechumens and candidates as “Sojourners”. The term “participants” includes catechumens, candidates, and sponsors (team members when appropriate).

STAGE 1 – GATHERING

The Gathering Stage is that period of time before people commit themselves to Sojourners in Christ. It is characterized by lay people and clergy inviting all people, unbaptized and baptized, who are seeking a deeper faith, to consider intentional Christian formation.

The Gathering Stage should take the same approach as evangelism in the early church when we saw people drawn to baptism by the proclamation of the Gospel, the love manifested in the Christian community, and by the witness of individual Christians discovering the power of God working in their lives and in the world. In a real sense, the Church is always in the Gathering Stage; however, for the purpose of setting out the stages of Sojourners in Christ, this stage must be recognized as a 21st.Century addition to the stages found in the early church.

The shape of this stage will vary according to the parish, the team, the people who choose to be gathered, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The inviters, and/or team, need to be sensitive to and led by the Holy Spirit as they invite and meet with the various people who are seeking God in a new and/or deeper way.

In preparation for this, the team should meet together over a period of time before the Gathering Stage begins for prayer, biblical reflection, sharing faith journeys, for training in evangelism, and an overview of the Sojourners in Christ process.

Leadership Skills

Qualities of a Team Leader:

- Has the ability to listen and maintain confidentiality
- Has previously worked with groups of people
- Is able to speak of his or faith and journey
- Is a team player and values team building
- Is able to accept others where they are on their journey
- Can facilitate the participation of others in the group
- Understands that Sojourners are best able to learn through experience

Qualities that are detrimental for a Team Leader:

- Is only able to teach in the lecture mode
- Has strong control needs
- Has trouble being a leader while being a team player
- Finds it hard to maintain confidentiality
- Projects personal agendas on the group
- Speaks in negative, stereotypical ways about other traditions

GATHERING HIGHLIGHTS

Ongoing invitation to the parish, usually culminating with an orientation meeting in September

Vehicles used could include:

- Letters to newcomers
- Explanation in newsletter
- Article written by Sojourner for newsletter
- Explanation posted on website
- Announcements in bulletins
- Team presentation to Vestry
- Banners and posters promoting Sojourners in Christ
- Advertising in local newspaper

Gathering team identifies potential Sojourners and issues a personal invitation

Team member or Sojourner gives testimony to the parish about the process

Gathering night could consist of worship, speaker, potluck, discussion of the process with dates, expectations and questions and an invitation to participate

STAGE 2 – INQUIRY

Gathering brings people to inquiry, a stage of several weeks, During this stage, team leaders encourage questions about the Christian faith and life as well as the Episcopal expression of it.

Inquiry is a time of exploration of how one lives the Christian life. It is also a time of caring and sharing that will build trust within the forming community.

Inquiry introduces the key facets of biblical reflection and the sharing of faith stories. Through sharing our faith stories, we communicate the connections of our personal story, our encounters with God, and the story of salvation.

Potential sponsors will be invited to participate in the group sessions to allow for a natural pairing of sponsors and Sojourners at the end of the Inquiry Stage.

There are three goals to this stage:

1) The first is to prepare inquirers to make an informed decision as to whether or not they wish to accept the call to discipleship within the Episcopal Church and continue on in the process by becoming Sojourners in Christ
2) The second goal is to bring Sojourners to the point of recognizing their story within the story of scripture.
3) The third is to build community.

An Inquiry meeting could contain the following elements:

- Worship
- Study and discussion of specified topics (See appendix A)
- Questions about the faith from candidates
- Small group Biblical reflection
- Prayer

INQUIRY HIGHLIGHTS

A Time for exploring Christianity, examining the Anglican tradition and raising questions

Biblical reflection

Small group introduction

Study and discussion of:

- Outline of the Faith (Catechism)
- Books to open discussion (See appendix A)
- Sharing of a faith story by team member or others invited
- Sojourners begin to develop their own faith stories

Stage 3 – FORMATION IN CHRIST

Sponsors will have been chosen to accompany the Sojourners during this time of continued exploration of faith. The title, Sojourners in Christ, attempts to capture the feeling that it is a pilgrimage that we all must live for our entire lives. It is deeply personal but also communal; we cannot make a pilgrimage alone. We need another person to be with us on the journey. Sponsors fill this need in this process. While not members of the team, sponsors are special people who aid in the nurture of Sojourners.

This is a more intentional time of inquiry. The primary focus of this stage is to discuss:

- The Episcopal Church's understanding of Holy Baptism, as expressed in the Baptismal Covenant
- Engaging the implications of these promises is foundational to each participant's understanding of what it means to live out a Christian life

These small groups utilize the elements of the inquiry state such as biblical reflection and faith sharing. The Gospel for each Sunday is used as the subject for biblical reflection. It is within these smaller groups that participants are encourage to share more deeply their lives of faith. These groups provide a trusting forum for reflection in which people are able to make connections between their faith journey and God's involvement in their lives and the lives of others.

People who have made the commitment to the Formation in Christ stage are generally those who wish to be baptized, confirmed, received, or those planning to make a reaffirmation of their baptismal vows.

FORMATION IN CHRIST HIGHLIGHTS

Pairing with a sponsor

Explore issues of belief and personal commitment to Jesus Christ

Small group Biblical reflection (Lectio Divina model)

Candidates continue to prepare and share their faith stories

Study and discussion of:

- Our Baptismal Covenant and Outline of the Faith
- Creeds, Doctrine, Sacraments, Salvation History, Stewardship, Evangelism, Service, etc.
- Discussion of questions brought up during Inquiry Stage or by questions

Stage 4 – INTENSIVE PREPARATION

As the name of this stage implies, this is a period of more intensive preparation for those wishing to be baptized. This period focuses on the requirements for living a deeper life in Christ and the necessary commitment to that life.

Those who will be seeking confirmation, reaffirmation or reception will also find this a time of more intensive preparation. Involvement of all participants (baptized and unbaptized) is encouraged in the liturgies of Holy Week.

Key topics for discussion during this stage include prayer, piety, practice of the faith (especially the promises made at Baptism), and biblical reflection, continuing to use the Sunday Lectionary.

*Special note about Confirmations, Reaffirmations and Receptions of Sojourners:
As the Bishop can only be at one parish for the Easter Vigil, other services for the pilgrims should be scheduled by their Rector to be held during Eastertide. In such cases, a prayer (text included in Appendix B) is said during the Great Vigil for these persons.

INTENSIVE PREPARATION HIGHLIGHTS

Exploration of personal spirituality

Preparation begins for Easter or Confirmation commitment (depending on the Bishop's visitation

Small group Biblical reflection (Lectio Divina begins here if not earlier)

Day with the Bishop – The Centers for Christian Education has scheduled 3 days with the Bishop in 2007: February 10 at Grace, Asheville; April 14 at St. Agnes, Franklin; December 8 at St. James, Lenoir.

Focus is on:

- A deeper commitment
- Spiritual disciplines
- Prayer and meditation
- Piety and the practice of the faith
- Rule of Life
- Role of Spiritual Directors
- Liturgies of Holy Week and the Great Vigil of Easter
  - Ash Wednesday, BOS, pages 142 and 143
  - Maundy Thursday, BOS, page 144
  - Readers at the Easter Vigil

STAGE 5 – FORMATION ON MINISTRY

Formation in Ministry is the last of the five stages in Sojourners in Christ.

This stage is most important because this is when the Sojourners intentionally and actively respond to Jesus Christ and choose by what means they each will go forth to love and serve the Lord.

The goal for this stage is for the Sojourners to discover how to live out what they have promised in the Baptismal Covenant. This is when faith is integrated into daily life and ministry.

Discernment workshops through The Centers for Christian Studies should be taken.

Sojourners, who have completed the program, should be encouraged to take an active role during the Gathering Stage as they can speak personally of the effect the process had and continues to have on their lives.

FORMATION IN MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

A time of discovery of spiritual gifts for ministry and social justice

Small group Biblical reflection and sharing

Book of Common Prayer: Ministry of the Laity (page 855)

THE AUTHORITY OF THE LAITY: Verna Dozier

Asset Mapping – a method of discovering spiritual gifts and talents given by The Centers for Christian Studies

Presentation by individual Sojourners of their gifts for service at Pentecost/ Trinity Sunday or other appropriate Sunday and when they are commissioned for Christian service

Small group covenant begins – to affirm and sustain the ministries and journey of each Sojourner on a continuing basis

A BASIC TIMETABLE FOR LONG METHOD

July	Team Formation and Training
August/September	Stage 1: Gathering
September-November	Stage 2: Inquiry
December-February	Stage 3: Formation in Christ
Advent I	Admission of Catechumens (Book of Occasional Services, BOS, page 117)
Advent II	Welcome of the Baptized Candidates
February-March	Stage 4: Intensive Preparation
Ash Wednesday	Call to Continuing Conversion (BOS, page 137) (for baptized candidates)
Lent I	Enrollment of the Catechumens (BOS, page 122)
Lent 3,4,5 or M.T.W. of Holy Week	Prayers for the Catechumens (BOS, page 126)
Maundy Thursday	Preparation for Paschal Holy Days (BOS, page 124 (for baptized candidates)
The Great Vigil Of Easter	Baptism of the Catechumens and Prayer over those awaiting confirmation, etc. Public reaffirmation of Baptismal promises
Eastertide	Reaffirmation of Vows and Laying on of Hands (for catechumens and candidates)
April-May	Stage 5: Formation in Ministry (Great 50 Days of Easter)
Pentecost	Offering of gifts/talents and commissioning for service

TIMETABLE FOR SHORT METHOD

July or October	Team Formation and Training
August or November	Stage 1: Gathering
September or December	Advent through Easter

A typical evening would begin with light refreshments, short worship BCP page 139,109, 115, 127, 137, 138 so that they become familiar with other parts of the prayer book than what we use on Sunday mornings. First reading of the Gospel for the next Sunday happens then.

Then comes a teaching...20 minutes at the most, Rector may be there for questions and answers session.

Group then breaks into small groups for Lectio Divina Method of Bible study ending with each person praying silently or out loud for the one on his/her right.

After the first 3 or 4 sessions, group begin with short (10 min) sharing of spiritual autobiography by one of the leaders and ask each participant to write out one according to one of the various methods in the booklet. (see pages 13 and 14)

Week #1 Introduction of group members to each other and to Lectio Divina Method of Bible Study done in the large group.

Week # 2 Teaching on the lectionary & Church Calendar (using Godly Play chart)

Weeks # 3-10 Teaching on one or two sections of the Catechism with Rector choosing which he/she wishes to present and choosing others to present the remaining sections.

Last two sessions on Baptismal Covenant and Confirmation Service and questions and answers.

Formation in Ministry can be done at anytime during the year. The Centers for Christian Studies can provide leadership for this stage.

A TYPICAL SESSION MIGHT LOOK LIKE THIS

6:00 P.M.	Simple Supper (maybe a bag lunch)
6:30	Short worship (first reading of Gospel occurs here)
6:35	Teaching and Spiritual Autobiographies
7:00	Small group Biblical reflection
8:00	End with prayer in small groups

SPONSOR – COMPANION

The title, Sojourners in Christ, attempts to capture the feeling that it is a pilgrimage that we all must live for our entire lives. It is deeply personal but also communal; we cannot make a pilgrimage alone. We need another person to be with us on the journey. Sponsors fill this need in this process. While not members of the team, sponsors are special people who aid in the nurture of Sojourners.

CHARACTERISTICS of a sponsor/companion:

- They are faithful, active members of the church who have had some time and experience living the Christian life.
- They are persons who are willing to risk vulnerability, share their faith journey with others and articulate their faith in appropriate ways.
- They are good listeners, have a sense of hospitality and are able to affirm and care for others.
- They are clear about their own convictions but can accept others where they are on their journey.
- They are persons who believe that God is present and active in all human history.

REQUIREMENTS of a Sponsor/Companion

- Get to know your Sojourner.
- Attend the meetings with him/her.
- Be in touch when there is an absence and inform your Sojourner about the meeting and assignments.
- Stand with him/her at all liturgical rites.
- Serve as a confidential spiritual friend.
- Assist him/her in discerning when she/he should move on to the next stage of the journey.
- Pray for him/her daily.
- Offer hospitality at worship (sit with your candidate). Introduce her/him to people on Sunday morning and at parish functions and activities. Make sure he/she is not standing alone.
- Keep the clergy and staff aware of any special needs or situations.
- Help guide your candidate into ministry.

HINT: To create a list of potential sponsors, try asking your congregation: “Who comes to your mind as an adult in this parish who would be especially good at helping others deepen their faith?

SHARING OUR SPIRITUAL STORY

All persons have a faith story to tell although many have not yet reflected upon their own story. As Christians, we recognize the profound truth that God has been and is active today in the lives of men and women. Story telling is a technique to aid journeyers as they make connections between their own personal stories and the story of salvation.

Telling our stories makes connections between God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ, God's abundant love for us, and our recognition of this revelation and love through the circumstances of our lives: we need to take the time to see the connections.

Below is an example of how one person used the technique of a Time Line to discern how God has been and is active in her life. As a team member for your parish, begin to reflect on your own faith story and think of how you might tell someone else about God's activity in your life.

Birth	Bible Basics (Mom)	Bible Camp 16	Marriage 20	Career Change	Moved to new Parish

*X*_____X_____X_____X_____X_____X

Baptism	1st felt God's love	Received in church	Chalice Bearer	Began to understand Ministry

Exercise 1 – Time Line

In the form of a Time Line, depict your Journey in Faith from the development of your earliest recollection up to the present moment. Place an X at the points where God was the most real to you. In the space above the X, record the event. In the space below the X, briefly write the mean of the event.

OR

Exercise 2 – Stepping Stones/Significant People
(developed by Dr. Ira Progoff)

These are meaningful events/people that mark off the movement of a person's life, secular or spiritual from that person's point of view.

To use this method, record events (Stepping Stones) in your life in short phrases similar to chapter titles. Limit Stepping Stones to 5/6. This allows a framework to be set that is not overburdened with details. Reading and re-reading the listing allows you to sense the continuous flow of your life.

A METHOD OF BIBLICAL REFLECTION

Reflection on Scripture is an enjoyable and essential part of the Sojourners experience. As a team member, become familiar with the Lectio Divina method:

Sojourners has successfully used Lection Divina but there is no one method for reflecting on scripture. Each parish should choose the model that works best for them. As in all learning, the key to building enthusiasm is being flexible. Whatever method you choose, you should guard against lecturing or teaching. This is a time primarily for sharing, which allows people to explore, discover, and deepen their faith.

A PERSONAL APPROACH TO BIBLE STUDY

Before you find yourself called to facilitate a group Bible study, take a look at your own Bible study discipline. Ask yourself the following questions:

1) How often do I read the Bible?
2) What type of personal Bible study discipline do I have?

There are many publications available to develop an individual discipline of Bible study.
Proper #28
Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scripture to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Lectio Divina Method
A way of reading: not for information but for formation

In solitude

1. Preparation: Select a short reading from scripture. Take a couple of deep breaths and center your self in silence… let the cares and pressures of the day fade away.
2. Lectio (Listen): Read the passage that you have selected very slowly two times, with about a minute of silence in between. Don’t think about it, just read it and be in the presence of the words.
3. Meditatio (Meditate): Read the passage a third time. What word or phrase particularly speaks to you? Ponder that word or phrase. Repeat it gently over and over. As you listen to the word be aware of its gift to you.
4. Oratio (Pray): Silently let a prayer emerge from your heart. Don’t work on the words, just be aware of them as they flow out of your deepest being.
5. Contemplatio (Contemplate): Remain in wordless silence with your prayer, in union with the Holy presence within you.
6. Journal

In community

1. Preparing: Select a short reading from scripture. Take a couple of deep breaths and center yourself in silence…let the cares and pressures of the day fade away.
2. Hearing the word: One person slowly reads the passage twice, followed by silence. As the passage is read a third time, the listeners are attentive for a word or phrase, which attracts them. As an alternative, the reader can pose a question.
3. Meditating: Each person ponders his/her word or phrase in silence: Allow it to unfold and engage your mind…what does it mean to you? What is it saying to you?
4. Responding (without elaboration): "The word or phrase that called me is…"
5. Journaling: An opportunity to more deeply explore your word or phrase: "In it I hear God saying to me…"
6. Sharing aloud: Each person has five minutes to share the wisdom that the word revealed to him or her…"I believe that God is calling me to…" After listening, others respond.

PLANNING YOUR TEAM

When determining how many team members you will need, there are two things you need to consider:

1) In order to meet the needs of small groups, it is best not have say more than 5 to 7 people in each group, including the team facilitator.
2) You will have to estimate the number of potential participants. There is usually a high number of participants the first year.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARISH TEAM

Forming your parish team will be as individual as each parish, depending upon such factors as size, resources, availability of volunteers, etc. The following ideal list of titles and duties is intended to be used only as a guide. Regardless of the size of the team, all the duties of each title will still have to be fulfilled.
The leadership team plans the overall program and may consist of the following people:

ADMINISTRATOR: is a detail person (task oriented), produces the overall plan and weekly sessions on paper.

CONVENER: is a people person, implements the process, leads weekly plenary sessions.

CLERGY/LITURGIST: acts as a rudder to the process, as spiritual director to participants, and plans and presides at all liturgical rites. (see section on Mutual Ministry)

OTHER TEAM MEMBERS:

- Catechists: teach in plenary sessions
- Facilitators: small group leaders
- Evangelist: trains team, gatherers and parish in recognizing seekers and responding to them. Former Sojourners are a natural for this.
- Gatherers: contact others and invite to Inquiry
- Sponsor Coordinator: recruits and trains sponsors
- Hospitality Coordinator: offers refreshments, plans meals, etc.

All team members should be commissioned during Sunday Worship. It is recommended by some that the leadership team have no other ministry.

It has been our observation that careful planning should be done to implement the Gathering Stage. Former Sojourners have all the qualifications to take a large part in this process and should be utilized along with someone from the Newcomers Committee or whoever has privy to your church records of visitors, etc.

BUILDING YOUR TEAM

The team that is first responsible for implementing the catechumenal process in a parish will need to begin working together, ideally, two months prior to the Gathering Stage. Only an experienced team is capable of combining "team building" with the Gathering Stage.

It is essential that the team understands and experiences the dynamics of community building prior to working with the participants. The way in which the team members interact from their learned experience of community building sets the tone for the manner in which the participants interact.

There are two components critical to the success of team building:

1) The team must have the commitment to meet regularly, at the very least once every other week.
2) The team must use and adhere to a good team building plan. This plan should be "owned" by all members of the team.

CREATING A TEAM BUILDING TIMETABLE

Months 1 and 2

1) Begin biblical reflection using the Lectio model. Discuss your reactions and how a facilitator might function within the model.
2) Take turns sharing your faith story.
3) Meet regularly. Develop and begin team responsibilities. Read and discuss resources about the catechumenal process.
4) Plan the Gathering Stage

Month 3

1) Continue biblical reflection.
2) Finish faith stories.
3) Implement the Gathering Stage
4) Leadership team develops skeletal plan for the other four stages (long form) or the 12 weeks in the short form.

After you begin the process in your parish, you will find it necessary to continue the team meetings to discuss the progress of your plans and handle any problems that may arise. HINT: After each session seems a convenient time for a short team meeting, otherwise once a month should suffice.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Qualities of a team leader:

- Has the ability to listen and maintain confidentiality
- Has previously worked with groups of people
- Is able to speak of his or her faith and journey
- Is a team player and values team building
- Is able to accept others where they are on their journey
- Can facilitate the participation of others in the group
- Understands that pilgrims are best able to learn through experience

Qualities that are detrimental for a team leader:

- Is only able to teach in the lecture mode
- Has strong control needs
- Has trouble being a leader which being a team player
- Finds it hard to maintain confidentiality

LEADING SMALL GROUPS

To facilitate means: To make easy, to lighten the work of, to assist.

1) The primary goal of a small group leader (facilitator) is to create an atmosphere in which each person in the group has an equal opportunity to participate and that none dominate. Facilitator goes first to set the tone. Facilitator calls on each in turn.
2) Goals need to be well stated. Confidentiality within the group should be stressed. Facilitator should state that it is okay to pass upon occasion. Try to monitor the flow and keep to the agreed time schedule.
3) Be sensitive to those who may be shy or introverts. They may need encouragement to share.
4) Give appropriate, affirming and caring feedback to those you lead.
5) The use of planned exercises is recommended.
6) Someone has compared the leader of a group to the engineer of a train. He gets the train underway, and then rides along with the rest, while keeping the train on the track and his eyes open for danger signals.
7) Last and most important of all: pray for your group regularly. Ask the Holy Spirit to be the leader and the teacher. Those who lead are on the same journey as those they lead, and they usually receive much more than they give!

SMALL GROUP DYNAMICS

The success of the process depends on the positive dynamics displayed in the small groups. Sojourners, sponsors and the team member become a mini-community, reflecting a small part of the Body of Christ where love and respect for all opinions exist. This group grows to be very intimate and the primary component that allows this growth is the gradual building of trust.

One should remember when forming the group (deciding who is to be included with whom) that a balance of personalities and learning styles should be sought. The book, PLEASE UNDERSTAND ME by Keirsey and Bates, describes the Myers-Briggs sixteen character and temperament types and is a good resource for at least one person on the team to be familiar with when the time comes to form the groups.

As learners we each have our own preferred learning style. The different styles emphasize the value of learning together in a group, in which the different learning style preference of each member can be used to enrich the learning of all.

Sojourners in Christ includes all four approaches to learning: do – look – think – change. Experiencing includes seeing, hearing, thinking and feeling. This experiential process is a cycle with phases in a logical order. Action leads to new consequences and new experience, and the cycle is repeated.

ACTIVE LISTENING

Listening well is not something that comes easily to us. It must be learned and developed through practice. To listen to the life experience of another with the authentic purpose of understanding it, enables us to discern what God has been, and is, doing in that person's life.

As an act of will, you put your entire mind and feelings where the other person is and indicate that you are there. You are in neutral with regard to your own opinions and feelings. You make every effort to suspend personal judgment or to solve problems. They need to solve their problems, not you!

You track the speaker on two levels: content and feeling. This accomplishes several things. It enhances the speaker's image of self because they have been heard, understood and taken seriously. They perceive they are being accepted. Their feelings have been given dignity. You may help clarify content and show your encouragement if there is a pause, by asking, "Is this what you mean?", or by paraphrasing, but be very careful not to interrupt the speaker's train of thought. Listen for and identify the basic general feeling. Communicate support, whatever the feeling.

When listening is over, your response should meet the speaker's need. Frequently, just taking the time to really listen and care is perceived as enough!

MUTUAL MINISTRY
The Leadership Style for Laity and Clergy

The Rector's role, as a parish becomes involved in the catechumenal process, is crucial but perhaps not in the way one might initially think.

REMEMBER SOJOURNERS IN CHRIST **IS LAY- LED**.

One of the most important concepts within the process is for the Rector to remember that Sojourners in Christ is a LAY-LED enterprise. This means the Rector is not the one who has to run things or always has to be the leader. For the Rector, the task can seem that much harder if the Rector is not accustomed to sharing responsibility with the Laity. Appropriate participation by the Rector with the Laity is essential if Sojourners In Christ is to survive after the Rector leaves.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RECTOR

The Rector needs to be part of the initial decision making as a parish initiates this process of Christian Formation. The Rector needs to be part of the training the first team members receive. As a consequence, the Rector will then get to know the language and understand the flow as the team and the participants move from one phase to another.

Part of being supportive often means being involved in the planning session, the team building, and being visible at the weekly sessions.
From time to time, it is appropriate for the Rector to be involved directly as one who presents a topic or them that involves his or her expertise as a seminary graduate and ordained person. The Rector may be called upon to recommend outside resources such as printed material, video, or personnel. The Rector is usually the officiant at the various liturgies and is often the one who does the preparation and explanation of the liturgies for those involved in the process.

The Rector is the one who helps to keep the Team and participants "on track" as the weeks progress, is encouraging and enthusiastic and open to those who want to talk individually as they encounter obstacles or turning points along the way. Always in the background, the Rector is, nevertheless, clearly identified with the Team and participants as **part of the process**.

For the Rector, to step back is **not** to step out! A good way to think of this is as if the process were a boat and the Rector the rudder!

APPENDIX A

Specific topics about the Episcopal Church could be explored by using the following:

THESE ARE AVAILABLE IN OUR DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTER

ANGLICAN ESSENTIALS: A COURSE OF ADULT CATECHESIS IN THE DIOCESE OF ALABAMA (available in WNC Diocese Resource Center and also contains a computer disk that can be downloaded to a parish computer and is an excellent source for presenters to use in teaching. You can also download this document from the Centers for Christian Studies website: centerforchristianstudies.org. or by emailing The Rev. Charlotte Cleghorn at charlotte@allsoulscathedral.org. It is especially helpful for teaching weeks three-ten.

SHEER CHRISTIANITY: Conjectures on a Catachism by Sam Portaro

WHAT MAKES US EPISCOPALIANS, by John Booty (Morehouse-Barlow Co.)

LOOKING AT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH by William Sydnor (Morehouse-Barlow Co.)

DISCOVERING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH by Charles W.F. Smith (F. M.)

THE LITURGY EXPLAINED by Thomas Howard (Morehouse-Barlow Co.)

The Welcome To … Series (Morehouse-Barlow):

Welcome to the Episcopal Church, Christopher L. Weber (1999)
Welcome to come to the Book of Common Prayer, Vicki C. Black (2003)
Welcome to Sunday: Worship in the Episcopal Church, Christopher L. Webber (2003)
Welcome to the Church Year: Seasons of the Episcopal Church, Vicki C. Black (2004)
Welcome to the Bible, Vicki C. Black & Peter Wenner, (April, 2007)

A User's Guide to the Book of Common Prayer, Christopher L. Weber (2005)

Video Programs:

The Story of Anglicanism (3 parts)
The Story of the Episcopal Church (2 parts)
What Episcopalians Believe (6 sessions)

Additions to Appendix A Sojourners

The Welcome To … Series (Morehouse-Barlow):

Welcome to the Episcopal Church, Christopher L. Weber (1999)
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