



SHAPED BY **FAITH**

“Pitching a Plan” Exercise West Branch Convocation

Dear West Branch *Shaped by Faith* leaders,

At our first meeting together, we grounded this ministry initiative in the four guiding values of **Discovery, Experimentation, Creativity and Collaboration**.

Much of the work you have engaged in through ***Shaped by Faith*** has invited you to explore more deeply the identity, strengths and growth edges of your individual parish. You have come to know your own context more fully, and have heard the reality of other parishes in your region.

You are now invited to build a new potential reconfiguration for the fulfillment of God’s mission in the West Branch. Using the tools we have gathered throughout this process, and looking beyond the geographical boundaries of one particular parish, you will create a new shape for the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement in your Convocation.

During our meeting on **Sunday, November 22**, each *Shaped by Faith* team will “pitch” their plan, and hear the spirit-led ideas of others. These pitches will be the critical first fruits that will inform our discernment moving forward. You may choose one of the ministry models we have explored, or build an entirely new shape utilizing components from multiple models.

We strongly encourage you to communicate with other teams/potential partners as you complete this exercise. While your pitch may focus on the needs of your own parish, we encourage pitches to consider the needs of all parishes in the West Branch.

Please use the reflection questions and areas of consideration listed below to aid you in creating and refining your pitch. Be sure to provide responses to each of the questions. This will help ensure a thorough and thoughtful pitch.

Please submit your pitch by November 1st. This will allow our leadership team time to review and offer feedback ahead of the Convocation meeting on November 22. One of our team members will be in touch with you once your pitch has been submitted.

Our prayers are with you as you engage in this holy work. Please reach out to The Rev. Canon Chris Streeter (***cstreeter@diocesecpa.org***) or any member of our leadership team with questions.

Four Guiding Values

Discovery

*What have you **discovered** about yourself, your church, your region, your hopes and your needs that will serve as guideposts as you develop your pitch?*

Experimentation

*What **experiments** would you like to see your parish and others in your region implement? How might your pitch enable and encourage increased experimentation in the West Branch?*

Creativity

*What new opportunities for mission and ministry would you like to **create** in the West Branch? How could a reshaping of your parish and region aid in the creation process?*

Collaboration

*What partners have you identified that could **collaborate** in mission with your parish?*

Values Matrix Exercise

What four areas did you identify in the Values Matrix as core, shared values in your parish?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How will these values be represented in your pitch?

If your pitch includes collaboration with other parishes/organizations, what are their core values?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How will these values be incorporated into your pitch?

Church Behavior & Vitality Survey

*Utilizing the responses from the Church Behavior & Vitality Survey, name **at least** three areas of strength and vitality that were identified.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How will these areas of vitality and strength be represented in your pitch?

*If your pitch includes collaboration with other Episcopal parishes, name **at least** three areas of vitality and strength they identified.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How will their areas of vitality and strength be represented in your pitch?

Financial Vitality Worksheet

After reviewing the data from your financial vitality worksheet, what trends (both positive and negative) do you notice?

What specific financial needs have you identified for the next 5-10 years?

What, if any, additional financial resources do you need to cover the areas identified in Question #2?

How does your pitch impact your current financial reality?

Are additional financial resources needed to execute your pitch?

Other Important Areas of Consideration

Please provide short answers to each of these areas to help inform and focus the shape of your pitch.

1. Worship

How will your pitch provide for the worshipping and sacramental needs of your region?

What liturgical leadership (clergy or lay) needs do you anticipate in this pitch?

2. Clergy/Staffing

What clergy/staffing needs do you anticipate in this pitch?

3. Missional Partnerships

What are the unique missional needs of your region?

How will this pitch encourage increased collaboration to address those needs in your region?

Who are your nearest Episcopal neighbors? What history of partnership, if any, do you have with them?

Who are your nearest ecumenical neighbors (i.e. Lutheran church)? What history of partnership, if any, do you have with them?

The Pitch

In one page or less, pitch to other Shaped by Faith teams your ideas for reconfiguring, reshaping and revitalizing the West Branch to serve God's mission with vitality and strength.

Be sure to include benefits and drawbacks to this pitch, along with next steps needed to implement it.

You should include a written description, and may supplement with a diagram illustrating the shape you are discerning.

Name of West Branch Parish:

Names of Shaped by Faith Team Members: