

## Benedictine Promise

As leaders in a rapidly changing context being asked to practice adaptive leadership and develop emergent missional initiatives, we must, more than ever, be grounded in what God is doing and going where God is leading. Living the Benedictine Promise can offer us a model for this kind of grounding.

**Stability:** The vow of stability affirms sameness, the willingness to attend to the present moment, to the reality of this place, of these people, as God's gift to us and the setting where we live out our discipleship.

**Obedience:** The essence of obedience is to be alert to God's presence in our lives and to respond to God's direction, however it comes, with love and compassion.

**Conversion of Life:** This is about being transformed by the Spirit. This is made possible by a quality of openness that enables God to bring about a change of heart in us. We become new creations as we live into the great commandments of loving God and neighbor.

## Coming in 2016

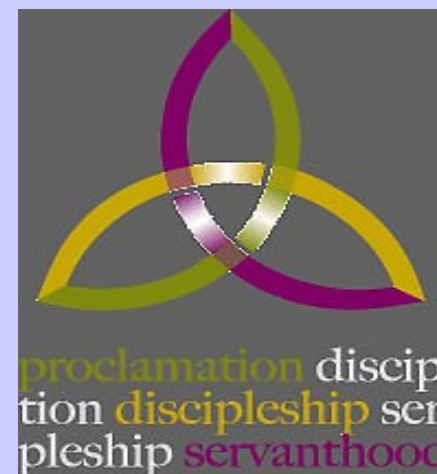
- **Church Development Institute**—TWO tracks in Colorado, including participants from the Rocky Mountain Synod (ELCA) and a CDI in Utah
- **Resort Conference**
- **Transitional Size Conference**
- **Partnership Vicars Retreat**
- **Lay Pastoral Leaders Training Retreat**
- **Empowered Leadership Workshops**—focusing on deepening our relationship with God in Christ through the Benedictine Promise way of knowing



**Diocese of Colorado**

**Congregational Development**

## Report to Diocesan Convention 2015



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## Support for Congregations

- **Church Development Institute**—The two track CDI program continues to help teams of clergy and lay leaders from across the diocese as well as the Rocky Mountain Synod (ELCA) in developing healthy and mission shaped congregations. This year we had over 60 participants representing 24 congregations.
- **Empowered Leadership Workshops**— This year the focus was on becoming renewing leaders featuring a case clinic for participants to consult with one another on developing their congregations as renewing leaders. 62 congregations participated this year.
- **Partnerships for Mission**—The 10 partnership vicars meet quarterly for conference calls and then on retreat at Cathedral Ridge to continue to offer vital ministry in small rural communities and train licensed lay leaders.
- **Lay Pastoral Leaders**—We now have 8 commissioned lay pastoral leaders offering the sacrament in isolated congregations and 8 more who will be commissioned before the end of the year. The LPL's meet quarterly by conference call and with the Bishop on retreat each year for additional formation and support. A big thanks to the Commission on Ministry for their support in re-vamping the Licensed Lay Ministry training and licensing process.

- **Clergy Affinity Groups**—Clergy support is offered for Priests in Charge, Interims, New Rectors and Vicars, Diocesan Institutions, those in Latino Ministry, those in resort ministry. Each group meet about five times each year.
- **Canon Missioner Visitations**—The canon missioner visited more than 30 congregations this year on Sunday mornings preaching and celebrating worship.
- **Working with Regional Missioners**—The Regional Missioners work closely with the Canon Missioner and the Bishop to provide ongoing pastoral support for clergy and congregations throughout the diocese.

### Congregations in Transition

- **Vestries**—The Canon Missioner meets with vestries of congregations in search of a new priest numerous times throughout the process, offering guidance and support.
- **Search Committees**—Interview training is offered to search committees by the Canon Missioner as they interview candidates and discern a good fit for their new priest with their congregation.

- **Potential Clergy Candidates**—Potential candidates work with the Canon Missioner to find a good fit with open parishes.
- **Congregations in Search in 2015**—Congregations now in search include: Our Merciful Savior, Denver; Christ's Church, Castle Rock; St. John's Cathedral; St. John, Breckenridge; St. Barnabas, Glenwood Springs; St. Mark's, Durango; St. James, Lake City; and Grace and St. Stephen's, Colorado Springs
- **Celebrations of New Ministry:** All Saints', Loveland; Transfiguration, Evergreen; Christ the King, Arvada; St. Charles, Ft. Morgan; St. Mary Magdalene, Boulder; St. Andrew's, Manitou Springs; St. Andrew's, Cripple Creek; and St. Philip, Sedalia

