

St Ambrose is grateful for our 2022 grant to fund a consultant's guidance in a congregational process to gain clarity and traction for determining, crafting, and then engaging in an action plan for St. Ambrose's future. We hired the Rev. Elizabeth Thompson of Eremos Consulting.

The stated goal for the process was to discern, clarify, renew, and even reinvent St. Ambrose for sustainability and vitality, by

- Engaging the entire congregation,
- Looking for “the page” that allows us to all be on it together,
- Creating consensus,
- Naming out loud the congregation's best hopes and worst fears, and
- Creating traction for moving forward.

Over a six month period we engaged in innumerable individual conversations, many small and large group meetings, targeted research by Vestry members and parishioners and outreach to community and neighborhood organizations. Much information was collected, discussed and presented for a final series of voting to determine the two strongest areas of concentration moving forward.

Through this process, we identified a fresh vision in keeping with the historic DNA of St. Ambrose. We named four core values: Seeking guidance of the Holy Spirit; Healing through Community; Hospitality; and Homecoming for All. We also decided on two major foci for our work in the community: Creation Care and LGBTQ+ inclusion. The parish is now working to embed these two areas more clearly and publicly into the life, worship, activities, outreach, staff time, education, and financial stewardship of the church over the coming year or two.