

## What are Vital Teams?

Vital Teams training is a new initiative which equips congregations, regardless of size or budget, with highly effective team leadership skills tailored to their specific situation. In partnership with the Episcopal Church Foundation, the Diocese of Atlanta provides training of vestries and their clergy to become Vital Teams and build strong group structure so that the team can effectively carry out the congregation's purpose and mission.

**Vital Teams training** invites lay members of a congregation to partner with their clergy in **visioning and decision-making**. The aim of Vital Teams training is to provide participants with the training curriculum as well as tool kit for assisting congregations in developing a strong focus on collaborative leadership teams.

**The Office of Congregational Vitality provides this training over a day and a half. Training begins on Friday night (6-9pm) and ends on Saturday (9am-3pm). It is a perfect tool for a vestry retreat.**

**PURPOSE:** A primary purpose of Vital Teams is to teach how to **gather a diverse team around a shared sense of purpose to accomplish tasks**. This is done through an extensive curriculum created by the Episcopal Church Foundation.

Vital Teams training focuses on four main criteria of team development:

- 1) **Clarity of Team's purpose**
- 2) **Building strong relationships**
- 3) **Developing clear processes**
- 4) **Focusing on results (achievable goals)**

**Purpose:** How congregational leaders create a shared sense of purpose to effect change.

**Relationships:** How to build stronger relationships through spiritual practices, communications styles, retreats and fellowship.

**Process:** Running efficient meetings; Building the vestry agenda; Consensus decision making; Mastering facilitation skills.

**Results:** Creating SMART goals; Establishing accountability; Creating feedback loops.

More information about Vital Teams can be found at  
<http://www.episcopalfoundation.org/programs/vital-teams>.

The Diocese of Atlanta has trained Consultants who can provide Vital Teams training. Please contact Canon John Thompson-Quartey, Canon for Ministry Development if you would like to schedule a training for your vestry. He can be reached at [jthompsonquartey@episcopalatlanta.org](mailto:jthompsonquartey@episcopalatlanta.org) or by phone: 404-601-5353.