

### **Questions: Partnership between Episcopal Churches Sharing Priest**

What advantages, other than monetary advantages, have you found with this model?

Was this decision a cause of conflict in either or both parishes? If so, how was it resolved?

Did people leave each congregation once you made this decision?

What are the pitfalls have you found with this model? What changes has each congregation made because of sharing a priest?

What is the percentage of time the priest serves in each parish (50/50, 75/25)?

Do you share a vestry with members from both parishes?

Do you meet together for worship, fellowship, or mission?

How did you approach another parish about sharing their priest? How much did you rely on the diocese to help with these conversations?

Our youth are active within our church. How do you incorporate the youth within your churches?

### **Questions: Merging of two Episcopal Churches**

How much time did it take for the transition from first conversations to the actual merger?

Why did you choose one building over the other?

Please describe each process: The process of moving away from a building and joining another congregation, and the process of welcoming a new congregation.

What have been the challenges and the advantages for each congregation?

Did people leave either congregation once you made this decision?

Was the merger because of building issues in one of the churches?

Was the decision a cause of conflict in either parish? If so how was it resolved?

### **Questions: Partnership between Episcopal and Lutheran congregations**

What factors persuaded you to form this partnership? What alternatives did you consider?

What are some of the challenges and benefits in serving, worshipping, and doing mission with a congregation that is another denomination?

What would you say are the duties of a priest who leads and ministers to two different denominations?

What adaptations has each congregation made in order to accommodate the different practices of each denomination?

What are some of the challenges that you have faced in ministering to both the Episcopal and Lutheran congregations?

Our youth are active within our church. How do you incorporate the youth within your churches?

With church numbers in decline, have you found that people are more inclined to join a church with a priest ministering to two denominations or less inclined to do so?

What aspects of ministry are you most passionate about, especially while serving two denominations?

### **Questions: Calling a Bi-Vocational Priest**

What percentage of time does your priest serve? (1/2? 1/3? 1/4?)

What changes have you made in order to accommodate your priest's other work responsibilities?

### **Questions to ask both Profiles**

Has your financial stability improved as a result of this partnership?

Are your churches able to pay their bills on time?

Are your churches deferring maintenance projects?

What does the debt situation look like in your churches?

Has your decision to change your model of ministry allowed your congregations to thrive?