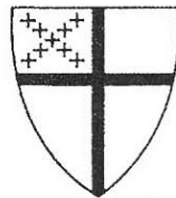

Implementing a

**CHILDREN'S
CHARTER**

FOR THE CHURCH

**A Study Guide
for
Congregations**



IMPLEMENTING A CHILDREN'S CHARTER FOR THE CHURCH

Welcome to this educational journey through *The Children's Charter for the Church*. We encourage you to read through the materials with special attention to the three content categories of the Charter:

1. Nurture of the Child
2. Ministry to the Child
3. Ministry of the Child

You might wonder, "what is a Children's Charter for the Church and where did it come from?"

A Brief History

The Children's Charter for the Church is a call to the church to respond in new and intentional ways to Christ's mandate to care for, bless, and bring all children close to him.

This study guide is designed to engage us deeply into Christ's mandate. It includes serious study of Jesus' interactions with children, which leads the church to conclude that children are central in the life of the church. While the church teaches that the Sacrament of Baptism is the rite which affirms us as members of the body of Christ, rarely has the church openly and deliberately planned its space, worship and congregational activities to encourage in children their genuine sense of belonging.

Why have a Children's Charter?

For the last 200 years the predominant model of children's ministries has been the Sunday school. Its original purpose was to provide a setting for literacy and then to use that opportunity to help children "know about God and the Bible." Today, more and more congregations are becoming concerned that children know God as well as they know about God and learn to live Christian lives in a culture that is rapidly changing.

Since the beginning of Christianity, and long before Sunday schools were established, children were nurtured in their faith formation. They came to know God and learned to be ministers of the Gospel, even as children.

This model of Christian nurture reflects the ancient approach to child rearing in which a whole community took upon the task of initiating children into its customs, beliefs and way of life.

It is reasonable to expect that children in the Early Church learned how to be followers of Christ in the same way, by actively participating in the Christian community, by hearing and saying prayers, by helping prepare meals for the community and by

listening to the teaching and preaching. In fact, we read in several places in the Scripture that children were present as the followers of Jesus.

We commend this resource to you because we know that for too long children have been excluded from active participation in the life of the church. Many have been sent to Sunday School while the adults began worship. They have been told to wait until they "understand" and can listen, before they could be present for all of worship and even receive communion. They have been told to be seen and not heard. For the most part the curriculum materials and our approach have been fundamentally one of teaching them about God rather than demonstrating God's hospitality and love in the midst of the congregation.

If we consider today's world, we know that children are not always safe in the streets, in their homes, or even in the "household of God." Children are subject to abuse, neglect and danger. Jesus reminds us that adults are called to stand between children and danger. The Baptismal Covenant reminds us to "strive for justice and peace among all people," which includes children.

WHERE DID THE CHARTER COME FROM?

Model Dioceses Project

Between 1991 and 1997 a group of dioceses were called together by the Office of Children's Ministries (OCM) to discern how our church might help children become the persons they are called to be as full members of the baptized community. The OCM wanted to build a new vision of children's ministries working with local congregations which reflected the diversity of the church.

The quest was to discover new ways that congregations, dioceses and the Church Center could work together on behalf of children. Twelve bishops responded to an invitation to send representatives to a meeting to discuss The Model Dioceses Project. Each diocese that participated named a coordinator for the project.

The bishops were truly committed to the idea and gave full support: financial, motivational and spiritual. Each bishop appointed a coordinator who worked closely with congregations as a resource sharing information with the Bishop and the OCM.

Model Dioceses Working Together

Early work for the diocesan coordinators, with the staff from the OCM, included the writing of a vision and goals statement. Participating congregations were asked to affirm them as guiding principles for their own activities. In 1995 several new dioceses joined the project and their coordinators became members of the National Task Force. This group functioned as a network for sharing ideas, developing proposals, policies and a plan of action for sharing new initiatives.

Evaluation instruments were developed based on the categories of Service, Worship, Education, Evangelism, Pastoral Care, and Stewardship. Early in the project, a voice from Alaska shared an ancient model of nurture of children, "It takes a whole village to raise a child." This led to an examination of children's faith formation, the creation of new models with an emphasis upon honoring children, advocating for children and recognizing their full and complete ministry within the community.

Within two years after the initial gathering of Model Dioceses, the project blossomed and a new name was sought that would convey the goal of the project. The new name was TREASURE KIDS!

The new name was based on two understandings of the word treasure:

1. In the Biblical sense, treasure is a gift from God to be accepted with care and gratitude and dedicated to the reign of God.
2. In common usage, treasure is an active verb meaning to value something.

TREASURE KIDS! was a call for adults and children to accept children as a sign of the reign of God, to value them as God's gifts, and to invite them to carry out God's promise to the world.

You might recognize the slogan, "In the Episcopal Church, We Treasure Kids."

The National Task Force selected as a symbol Treasure Bear, who has an interesting history. When the Episcopal Church invited children from Japan to participate in the making of a magazine for the Church School Missionary Offering, a young girl sent a beautiful painting called "My Treasure," which was used on the cover. The magazine was named *Treasure*, after her painting.

Because a child friendly symbol was needed to guide children through the magazine, a young American affirmed the idea of a bear, and so Treasure Bear was born. Treasure Bear began to take on a life of its own as children started to wait and watch for new issues of *Treasure Magazine* to join the mission ventures of Treasure Bear throughout the Anglican Communion and the world.

VISION AND CHANGE

The vision statement which evolved from Treasure Kids is called *The Children's Charter for the Church*. The Charter sets forth the call to nurture children, to minister to children, and to minister with children.

As the project progressed, we documented many of the changes that occurred in dioceses, congregations and the National Church Center. General Convention 1997 accepted a resolution for all congregations to consider their ministry with children through the mandate of *The Children's Charter for the Church*. For the first time a children's center was developed and centrally placed in the exhibit hall, symbolizing the

centrality of children in the life of the church. This Children's Center engaged thousands of attendees in the importance of ministry with children. A 1998 children's ministry conference, *Charting A Course for Children in The Church*, integrated education, advocacy and liturgy that continues to impact the church in new and powerful ways. General Convention 2000 passed a resolution that encouraged all committees and commissions to evaluate its decisions on the impact it has with children by using the *Children's Charter for the Church* as an evaluation tool.

Many dioceses continue to pass resolutions and impact their life-long formation ministry through the theological implications of *The Children's Charter*.

As you proceed through this study guide you will discover what others have discovered. As congregations and dioceses begin to work with the vision and goals of the *Children's Charter for the Church* it becomes apparent that there are a number of benefits to participants and non-participants:

- Teams of local congregations begin sharing ideas, advocacy and ministry
- Christian educators work with child advocates in new ways
- The whole worshipping community becomes committed to accepting children as members and participants in the body of Christ
- Dioceses and congregations develop Diocesan and General Convention Resolutions to incorporate the *Children's Charter for the Church* into their legislation
- Attention and action to the needs of the children in the community surrounding the congregation

We pray blessings upon your ministry with children that go beyond your expectations as you journey through this study guide for congregations.

IMPLEMENTING A CHILDREN'S CHARTER FOR THE CHURCH

A STUDY GUIDE FOR CONGREGATIONS

Session 1: Nurture of the Child

Prominently display the scripture, Psalm 127:3.

Have copies of *The Children's Charter for the Church* to distribute.

Objectives:

- To affirm our identity as the people of God
- To compare our nurture as children in the church with that of children today
- To identify ways that we are currently nurturing children and possible changes
- To explore ways of enhancing worship and Christian education for children

1. Who are we? Remembering Our Baptism

Distribute the Baptismal Liturgy (found on pages 299-314 of the *Book of Common Prayer*). Depending on the size of the group, organize into smaller, intimate groups which can gather about a table. Each table should have access to a small pitcher of water and a fairly large shell or a bowl shaped like a shell.

The designated leader reads the scripture aloud (Mark 1:4-11) and allows a few moments for silent reflection.

Then one person at each table reads the section titled "Remembering Our Own Baptism." Allow time for participants to form their memories. Ask each person to pour water from the pitcher into the shell as the memory is shared.

2. Stories of Being Nurtured

Read aloud the section of the charter, NURTURE OF THE CHILD.

Ask participants to recall their earliest memory of church or of being aware of God. Select a word or phrase which describes this memory to share with the group. Record on newsprint.

What would you like children in our congregation to remember about their experiences here? Using words or phrases, list on newsprint.

3. Helping Children Worship and Come to Know God

Identify how, where, and with whom children presently worship. Are those services "child friendly" and accessible to children?

How do we identify, prepare and support those who teach and lead worship for children?

How do we help parents prepare children for worship and receiving communion?

In the Sunday School or Children's Chapel, do children come to "know God" or do they learn "about God"? What is the difference between these two?

From these discussions, identify what is being done to foster children's worship and experience of God's love within the congregation. Record on newsprint.

What things need to be changed or initiated to bring present worship practices into harmony with the Charter's vision? Record.

Save this on other newsprint.

4. Fulfilling Our Congregational Vision

Compare what is already being done with the new ideas for an expanded ministry. What things would need to be changed or initiated in order to enhance our ministry with children? Record as "Moving On."

Close with the final prayer on the baptismal liturgy sheet.

Session 2: Ministry to the Child

Prominently display the scripture Mark 10:16.

Objectives:

- To remember our Baptismal Covenant
- To examine how we fulfill our obligation as a congregation to the children we baptize and their families
- To assess our outreach and advocacy for all children in the community, especially those at risk

1. Remembering our Baptismal Covenant

Provide copies of the Covenant and the Welcome to The Newly Baptized for the group (pp. 304-305 and p. 308 at the bottom, *Book of Common Prayer*). Read together, picturing children as members of the baptized community.

Discuss what it means for children to be full members of the Eucharistic community.

2. Ministries to Children and their Families

Read aloud the section of the charter MINISTRY TO THE CHILD.

As a group/s consider specific ways the covenant calls us to assist the newly baptized children and their families. What are we presently doing well? Record.

What more could be done? List specific ideas. What is required to carry out the things we could/should be doing? Identify leaders in the parish who could make it happen.

3. Reaching Out

Identify the "unjust and adverse circumstances" of children in the community.

How are these different from our childhood experiences? List. What are we doing to identify and assist children who are at risk? What more could we be doing? Record these ideas.

Are we reaching out to children in the community who are not experiencing Christ's love in a church setting? How could we do that? Record.

What is required to be a Christian advocate for children? Do we consider advocacy part of our mission? Identify ways in which we could become better

advocates for all children, e.g., agencies and organizations with whom we could cooperate. Record.

Summarize what we have learned about our congregation's ministry to children through its support of families, its reaching out into the community, and its role as advocate. Summarize those areas and actions which have been identified as new initiatives for ministry to children. Record and save.

Closing Prayer:

Into your hands, O God, we place ourselves, the guardians of your children. Support and strengthen us as we seek to make the world a more welcoming place for them. Unify us in our concern and respect for them.

Into your hands also we place the children of our homes, our cities and the world. Support them in their joys and sorrows, strengthen their families, enlighten their governments, and shelter them from evil. Through your guidance, may we respond to their needs that they may discover the joy of your creation and know the bounty of your unending love. All this we ask in your name. AMEN.

(From *Recognizing and Celebrating Children*. Congregations Concerned for Children, Minneapolis. Reprinted in *Welcome The Child, A Child Advocacy Guide for Churches*. Shannon P. Daley and Kathleen A. Guy, Friendship Press and Children's Defense Fund, p. 22.)

Session 3: Ministry of The Child

Prominently Display the scripture passage: Isaiah 11:6.

Objectives:

- To understand the gifts children bring to the church
- To examine how the congregation presently supports children in their ministry within the church
- To explore new ways of receiving the gifts of children and encouraging and enabling them to live out their baptismal covenant

1. Children's Gifts

Read aloud the section of the Charter MINISTRY OF THE CHILD.

Invite members of the group to think of a time when a child has ministered to them. Describe the special gifts of children. What are some of the gifts you discern in the children in the congregation?

2. Children as Ministers

Discuss how the congregation accepts children in its midst. Are efforts being made to reconcile those who prefer that children are not present in the service and those who believe children belong in the service?

Are children taken seriously as lay leaders? Identify, and list on newsprint, the roles children have in the liturgy and at parish events such as festive dinners, work days, outreach, pastoral care. Do adults and children participate together in these activities?

Do children have opportunities to offer their gifts in ministry to adults? Do adults and children know each other's names? To what extent is the parish an extended family? What opportunities are being missed by our failure to expand the roles of children? Brainstorm new ways of helping children participate more fully in parish life as both givers and receivers of ministry. Record these comments and ideas as desired.

What will be required to bring this about?

Identify present parish leaders in all aspects of ministry who can help bring this new vision about.

3. Review from Sessions 1, 2, and 3.

What is already being done in children's ministries?

Review lists of possible new initiatives for children's ministries.

Identify three to five ideas/goals which seem to be more important or energizing for enhanced children's ministries.

Discuss how to begin the process of working on these goals, a timeline may be helpful.

Plan how to invite others in the congregation to become involved in implementing the goals.

Concluding Collects:

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

BAPTISMAL LITURGY

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

A reading from Scripture:

John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me: I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

(Mark 1:4-11)

Remembering our own Baptism

Symbols: Water, a symbol of our own Baptism
 The Shell, a symbol of the Baptismal Community

Each of us was baptized at a special time and place in the context of a baptism community—just the way Jesus was. We may not have many memories of our own baptism because many of us were undoubtedly baptized as infants; but perhaps we know a story about it, or perhaps we know some bit of information about where or when or by whom we were baptized.

Take a few minutes to call up your memories; and when you are ready, pour some water from the pitcher into the shell and briefly share something about your baptism with the rest of the group.

A Final Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon us your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised us to the new life of grace. Sustain us, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give us an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. AMEN.

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 308)

APPENDIX I

A Few Examples of New Models for Children's Ministries

The Children's Charter lives on in the Diocese of Bethlehem

When a small group of individuals from the Diocese of Bethlehem were asked to participate in the Model Dioceses Project with eleven other dioceses and the Office of Children's Ministries that led to the development of the *Children's Charter for the Church* in the 1990s, they had no idea they were planting seeds that would sprout forth countless children's ministries let alone a full-time diocesan staff position dedicated solely to the ministry of children!

In May of 2001, the Rev. Debra J. Kissinger was called to serve as the Missioner to Children and Child Advocate for the diocese for a period of five years to help the diocesan community live more fully into the Children's Charter. Kissinger regularly consults with parishes about their Christian formation offerings and challenges parishes to seriously look at how they welcome and include children in worship. The new piece for the Diocese of Bethlehem is their focus on child advocacy.

"For a small diocese (60+ parishes) we are rich in the depth of our ministry for, to and with children" stated Kissinger. "Close to twenty of our parishes are using *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* and/or *Godly Play* for early Christian formation. Over twenty of our parishes sponsor a Day Care Center, Nursery School or After-School program on or off site – three getting their start just this past year!" Kissinger also noted that additional parishes offer parenting programs or tutoring services.

In 2001, Diocesan Convention passed two resolutions to embrace the national movement *To Leave No Child Behind* and the statewide grassroots movement *Good Schools Pennsylvania*. Bishop Paul Marshall committed the Diocese to starting seventeen parish-centered child advocacy groups to the *Good Schools* movement – to date twelve are up and running. Many of the participants have also attended a monthly Prayer Vigil held in Harrisburg with legislative visits following. Kissinger has also set up a listserv of Parish Child Advocates. "Ideally we have one contact per parish" said Kissinger. "I pass on information and action requests to the Parish Child Advocates. They in turn take action on behalf of their parish or enlist the help of the parish on a letter writing campaign or petition signing."

Since Kissinger has come on board, the Children's Ministries Committee has sponsored a Curriculum Fair and a Teacher Training & Nurture Day as well as two all-day events for Diocesan children grades one through six. The days were themed after the popular Harry Potter children's books. "We explored the Awe & Mysteries of God comparing and contrasting what was awesome and mysterious in Harry's world with what is even more awesome and mysterious in the life of the Church. I knew we had a hit when I overheard the kids talking about 'next year' before the day was even over," said Kissinger.

At the heart of the Children's Charter is the understanding that children are central in the life of the church and that it is the responsibility of all of us to help children learn how to live Christian lives in a culture that is rapidly changing. Kissinger believes the next stretch for us will be to explore what changes need to be made in our worship life and to examine how we carry out faith formation as a result of the changes in culture. She sees inclusion and participation of children in worship leadership and equipping families for more faith formation in family settings as being the cutting edge of nurturing children and families.

The new position is fully funded by the Talbot Hall Fund whose Mission Statement is "to provide spiritual, emotional, educational, cultural, physical and social opportunities for children who may not have experienced these blessings." Kissinger brought to the position experience as a parish priest and a background in congregational systems theory as well as organizational skills and years of working with children both in the parish and as a professional entertainer. "I was blessed to be led to this position at this time in my life. It has allowed me to combine my passion for children and congregational development to challenge parishes to understand children as central to their mission and ministry," stated Kissinger.

**Diocese of Atlanta
Children's Council Education Task Force
And Parent/Child Nurturing Center Meeting
Implementing the Children's Charter
May 9, 2000**

5:45	Opening Prayer Introductions	
5:55	Children's Charter	The Children's Councils will lead the Cathedral of St. Philip to reaffirm its commitment to the children in our midst and intensify our advocacy on behalf of them and all children through implementation of the Children's Charter.
6:00	<p>Nurture of the Child Psalm 127:4</p> <p><i>THE CHURCH IS CALLED</i> Laura Iarocci Conversation Canon Williamson</p> <p>Ministry to the Child Mark 10:16</p> <p><i>THE CHURCH IS CALLED</i> Stephanie Delk Conversation Canon Williamson</p> <p>Ministry of the Child Isaiah 11:6 <i>THE CHURCH IS CALLED</i> Lauri Childs Conversation Canon Williamson</p>	<p>Children are a heritage from the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is a gift.</p> <p>Then Jesus took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them and blessed them.</p> <p>A child shall lead them.</p>
7:15	Looking to the Future Committees	Where do we go from here? How are we going to get there?
7:45	Closing Prayer	

**Diocese of Atlanta
Children's Council Education Task Force
And Parent/Child Nurturing Center Meeting
Implementing the Children's Charter
May 9, 2000**

7:00	Opening Prayer Introductions	
7:10	Children's Charter	The Children's Councils will lead the Cathedral of St. Philip to reaffirm its commitment to the children in our midst and intensify our advocacy on behalf of them and all children through implementation of the Children's Charter.
7:15	Nurture of the Child Psalm 127:4 <i>THE CHURCH IS CALLED</i> Laura Iarocci Conversation Canon Williamson	Children are a heritage from the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is a gift. Using words or phrases, what would you like children in our congregation to remember of their experiences here at the Cathedral? Identify how, where, and with whom children presently worship. Are these services child friendly and accessible to children? In our church school and children's worship do the children come to know God or do they learn about God? What is the difference?
	Ministry to the Child Mark 10:16	Then Jesus took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them and blessed them.

THE CHURCH IS CALLED

Stephanie Delk

Conversation

Canon Williamson

As the Baptismal Covenant calls us --
we are to assist the newly baptized
children and their families. What are we
doing well?

What could we be doing?

Identify leaders who could help.

What are we doing to identify children
who are at risk?

What more could we be doing?

At the Cathedral?

In the city of Atlanta?

Ministry of the Child

Isaiah 11:6

THE CHURCH IS CALLED

Lauri Childs

Conversation

Canon Williamson

A child shall lead them.

Are children taken seriously as leaders?

Identify the roles children have

in the Liturgy

at Parish Events

work days

outreach

pastoral care

Do adults and children participate in
these activities together?

Do children have opportunities to offer
their gifts in ministry to adults?

Brainstorm new ways of helping children
participate more fully in parish life as
both givers and receivers of ministry.

8:30 Looking to the Future
Committees

Where do we go from here?

How are we going to get there?

8:45 Closing Prayer

plan of action

name three things you will do when you return to your church to nurture children

- _____
- _____
- _____

name three things you will do when you return to your church to minister to children

- _____
- _____
- _____

name three things you will do when you return to your church to support the ministry of children

- _____
- _____
- _____

what are some ways your church is ministering to children

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

notes notes.... notes notes

Ministry of the child

"a child shall lead them"
Isaiah 11:6

name some ways in which we support the ministry of the children.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

what are some ways your church supports the ministry of children?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

notes notes.... notes notes

page six

APPENDIX 2

Contact Information

For more information about the development of children's ministries in relationship to life long learning, contact the person closest to you or the National Office.

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APPENDIX 3

Original Statement of Vision and Goals

Vision

- There is a place for each child in God's creation.
- Christian formation begins in the earliest stages of childhood.
- Children are continually being formed and transformed through the power of Christ. Children are Christ's representatives in the world. Children are ministers of the Gospel who bear witness to Christ.
- An important ministry of adult Christians is to honor children and to provide a safe and loving environment where adults and children together relate to God, share in Christ's teaching and fellowship, seek and serve Christ in all persons, and are partners in building God's reign.
- Therefore, our task is to assist dioceses, congregations, and schools in the spiritual formation of children; honoring and receiving the gifts children offer, removing barriers for witness and ministry through experience and instruction in community.

Goals

- Help parents, members of the fellowship of faith and the church recognize, honor and accept children as members and full participants of the Eucharistic community, and to nurture children's spirituality.
- Identify ways for the church to equip children for ministries in and with the Church in a pluralistic world.
- Identify ways to help families nurture children in their Christian formation.
- Organize and support instructional activities for children so that they may fully participate in the Christian way of life as described in the baptismal covenant.
- Urge Episcopalians to make their relationships, churches, schools and homes hospitable and safe for children.
- Urge our congregations to be advocates for the integrity of childhood and the dignity of all children.
- Make available to the Episcopal Church, through the Office of Children's Ministries, all project resources developed in the TREASURE KIDS! Project.

APPENDIX 4

Children's Charter for the Church Evaluation Tool

	Nurture of the Child	Ministry to the Child	Ministry of the Child
Church School			
Worship			
Outreach			
Stewardship			
Evangelism			
Hospitality			

APPENDIX 5

Resources for Children's Ministries and Christian Education

Called to Teach and Learn

A catechetical guide which is foundational for resource development, curriculum choices, and visioning Christian education, spiritual formation and any learning opportunity in the Episcopal Church. This document is designed as a theological reflection on the importance of identity, authority, and mission for congregations, dioceses, provinces and all learning institutions. Available in English and Spanish.

Available from Episcopal Parish Services no. 56-9031-1 English
800-903-5544 no. 56-9404 Spanish
www.episcopalparishservices.org

Or online at <http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/myp/>

Discovering Called to Teach and Learn

A process to explore the Episcopal Church's primary guide *Called to Teach and Learn*. This resource is reproducible and contains sessions on baptism, confirmation and call to ministry.

Available from Episcopal Parish Services no. 56-9702 English
800-903-5544 no. 56-9806 Spanish
www.episcopalparishservices.org

Or download your own copy online at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/myp/>

Children: A Heritage from the Lord

This three-part video visually explores the Children's Charter for The Church. In the first part, "Children: A Heritage from the Lord," the three aspects of the Children's Charter are shown in action in congregations across the United States. The second part, "Come Party with God," is from the Diocese of Central New York. The third part depicts programs and services in the Diocese of Bethlehem.

Available from Episcopal Parish Services no. 56-0103
800-903-5544
www.episcopalparishservices.org

In Dialogue with Scripture

This Episcopal guide for Bible study is very popular because it includes a variety of articles, approaches to Scripture, and reviews of resources on Bible study and preparing meditations. This resource also includes multicultural perspectives, Scriptural conversation approaches, resources for Spanish, Japanese, and Korean languages, as well as developmental perspectives for sharing Scripture. Whether you are developing a Sunday Forum, preparing for a retreat or youth group meeting, or designing your own curriculum, this document is essential.

Available from Episcopal Parish Services
800-903-5544
www.episcopalparishservices.org

no. 56-9201

Authority of Generations

A process for spiritual formation for small groups that is a viable option for congregation decision making and program development. It is a process that is inclusive of all ages and may replace the typical congregational meeting, or almost any church decision-making process. Through its design, specific prayers, Scripture, stories and songs become the foundation for making decisions to set goals, form timelines, and define roles and responsibilities for the mission of the congregation.

Available from Episcopal Parish Services
800-903-5544
www.episcopalparishservices.org

no. 56-0011

Or online at <http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/myp/>

Awake My Soul: A Liturgical Resource for Children and Adults

This resource is a collection of stories, litanies, and prayers shared at the fall 1998 Children's Ministries Conference: Charting a Course for Children and the Church. It includes theological assumptions and tools for the design of liturgy for the full inclusion of all in the community of faith. This resource is placed in the context of theological reflections on the Children's Charter and is intended to be a starting place, a spark for your own creativity and liturgical work and expression.

Available from Episcopal Parish Services
800-903-5544
www.episcopalparishservices.org

no. 56-0010

No Longer Strangers

This anti-racism training video is based on the National Anti-Racism Dialogue Resource featuring young people as they experience the model. The video is interspersed with breaks for viewers to interact and then compare notes with the video participants. A user guide is included. The resource is suitable for adults as well as youth.

Available from Episcopal Parish Services
800-903-5544
www.episcopalparishservices.org

no. 56-9906

Appreciative Inquiry

The major assumption of Appreciative Inquiry is that in every organization something works and change can be managed through the identification of what works. Through a generative process a series of statements are made that describe where an organization wants to be, based on the high moments of where they have been. *The Thin Book of Appreciative Inquiry* is written by Sue Annis Hammond and based on the work of David Cooperrider and his associates at Case Western Reserve University.

Available from Thin Book Publishing Co.
888-316-9544
www.thinbook.com

Educational Inquiry

A planning resource that will support the development of a clear identity and mission in your Christian Formation opportunities with the youngest to the oldest in your congregation or in your diocese. This process will facilitate curriculum change, teacher training, event planning, worship, time and schedule needs as well as Christian Formation in relationship to all areas of parish life. It includes the use of *Appreciative Inquiry* and *Awake My Soul*.

Available from Episcopal Parish Services
800-903-5544
www.episcopalparishservices.org

no. 55-0102

Or download your own copy online at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/myp/>

APPENDIX 6

General Convention actions regarding the Children's Charter

Resolution Number: 2000-D045
Title: Affirm and Urge Consideration of the Centrality of Children to the Ministry of the Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

(D045)

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention affirm that children are central to the mission of the Episcopal Church and ask each committee, commission, and program of the Episcopal Church, as it plans for the future, to consider how its ministry will positively impact the lives of children in the church and in the world, how it will be impacted by children, and how it will encourage children's full participation in the worship and mission of the church; and be it further

*Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention affirm and lift up **A Children's Charter for the Church** as a continuing vision of The Episcopal Church's ministry in nurturing children, ministering to and advocating on behalf of children, and supporting children in their ministries, remembering that "it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs" (Mark 10:14 NRSV); and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention ask each diocese to continue to build awareness and increase implementation of **A Children's Charter for the Church**, and live out its vision locally.*

Citation: General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000 (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 297.

