

Purpose. Fresh Start supports clergy and congregations in navigating the critical period of transition in clergy leadership. Program content and the promotion of collegial relationships among clergy, their congregations and diocesan leadership contribute to this goal.

Benefits. Recognizing that the early years of a new relationship are formational opportunities, Fresh Start equips diocesan staff to guide clergy and lay leaders in the critical periods of calling new clergy leadership. Fresh Start:

- Creates a safe environment for clergy and lay leaders to address transition issues
- Strengthens relationship bonds so that ministry together is a Fresh Start
- Honors the ministry of all leaders, lay and ordained



Fresh Start training session at St. Christopher's Conference Center, SC

Underlying Principles. Fresh Start's content is based on three key principles: the theory of transition; the importance of relationship-building; and the need for self-care. Modules are clustered around these principles and the general area of leadership.

Program Structure and Standards.

As a diocesan-led program for clergy in new positions and the congregations they serve, the national-level Fresh Start program is designed to be adapted to the needs of each diocese within the following standards:

- Be supported by the Bishop
- Be delivered and overseen by an individual trained at the national level
- Maintain an ongoing relationship with the national program
- Use Fresh Start material and methods
- Offer the four core modules
- Offer as a series of periodic sessions over the course of at least one year
- Include, as a minimum:
 - ◊ the newly ordained,
 - ◊ clergy new to the diocese,
 - ◊ first-time rectors and assistants

Fresh Start is best delivered by a team of at least two facilitators that includes a diocesan officer in congregational development, deployment or Christian formation.



"Probably the most well-run conference I have ever attended."

— Facilitator training conference participant

Fresh Start™ is a collaborative effort of:

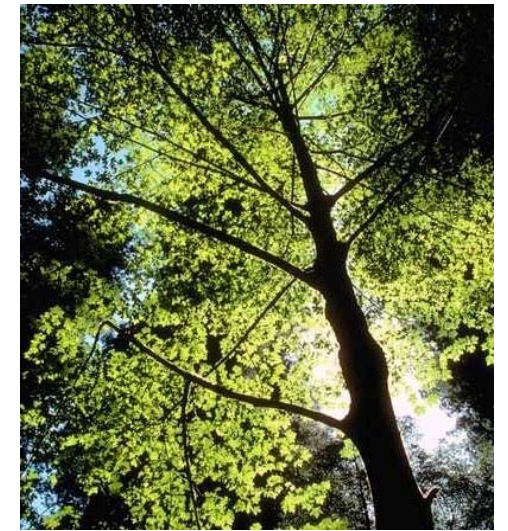
*The Episcopal Church Center
The Episcopal Church Foundation
CREDO Institute, Inc.*

Please visit our website to learn more about how Fresh Start can assist the clergy and congregations of your diocese during times of transition:

www.episcopalfreshstart.org



266 South Front Street, Suite 204
Memphis, Tennessee 38103
Phone: 901.275.3125 | Fax: 901.275.3126
E-mail: info@episcopalfreshstart.org
Website: www.episcopalfreshstart.org



*A Resource for Clergy
and Congregations
in Transition*

www.episcopalfreshstart.org



Target Audience

- Clergy. Fresh Start creates a safe place for clergy to examine their new ministries and build a strong sense of collegiality across the diocese.
- Lay leadership in congregations during times of transition. Fresh Start modules can be used to explore topics of transition from the time the previous clergyperson announces the intention to leave through the interim period and into the new call.



Participants in the Diocese of Washington

Delivery Methods

- Periodic gatherings of clergy (which is the most common method)
- Congregational meetings of sub groups or the entire congregation with Fresh Start facilitators
- Diocesan meetings of all lay and ordained leaders in transition with Fresh Start facilitators

"Fresh Start helps clergy and congregations get in touch with many of the aspects that are happening during transitions."

— Diocesan Facilitator

"We have a clericus now that is much more collegial in doing ministry because of the gift of Fresh Start."

— Bishop



Participant in the Diocese of Oregon

"This is well thought-out material, written at a high level and has potential to help people in the church."

— Participant

"Fresh Start is one of the most hopeful things going on in the American Church today!"

— Diocesan Facilitator



Training event faculty

The Modules

Fresh Start consists of a series of modules, which are constantly being updated and expanded. Each has a resource section of background material, model agenda, talking points, graphics, and handouts. All modules are available in print and electronic formats for easy adaptation.

The four core modules are:

- *Entering a New System*
- *Family & Friends: Leading an Integrated Life*
- *History-Sharing and Understanding*
- *Transition*



Celebrating Holy Eucharist at a training conference

The remaining modules offer a broad array of topics. Some are theory-based. Others focus on establishing relationships or self-care.

All modules are designed as a launching pad for conversation among the participants. A complete listing of modules can be found on the Fresh Start website:

www.episcopalfreshstart.org.

"Fresh Start really is a way of transforming the clergy/church culture."

— Participant

FAQs

How can my diocese participate?

To offer Fresh Start in your diocese, you must have at least one facilitator (and preferably a team of them) trained through the national Fresh Start training program. Upon successful completion of the program, the facilitator will have access to all Fresh Start program materials and have gained an understanding of how to design and deliver the program in your diocese. Check our website for dates and registration information for up-coming training events.

What will it cost?

The training event registration fee and travel to the event are the only costs for program access. Everything you need to launch and maintain Fresh Start is provided at the training.

Is there ongoing support?

Fresh Start national-level staff members are available for consultation. The material is continuously updated and available for immediate download from a password protected website. All diocesan facilitators are invited to periodic national gatherings for ongoing training and networking with fellow diocesan facilitators and national facilitator and staff.

