

**Minister for Discipleship and Discernment**  
**Draft of Proposed Position Description**  
**St. Michael's Episcopal Church**

*St. Michael's is a Christ-centered community of practice  
awakening to the abiding presence of God.*

The Minister for Discipleship and Discernment at St. Michael's Episcopal Church would be a newly created half-time position. We recognize that as part of our ongoing discernment of the Spirit, the responsibilities and "position description" will evolve and unfold over time. Current responsibilities would include:

- Equipping parishioners of all ages with tools for discernment, deepening faith, community organizing and missional engagement with our surrounding community.
  - Provide training for small group leaders who would then lead home or community groups in prayer, study, discernment of God's presence in their lives.
  - Provide support for small group ministry through quarterly meetings with small group leaders.
  - Help with organization of small groups, new member integration and ongoing training.
  
- The creation, with the help of a team, a new ways of being the church in the world or "innovations in mission." These innovations would especially engage those who are unaffiliated with a faith tradition. These experiments will align with the passions and ongoing discernment of the priest, the rector and the team.
  - Create a "core team" of adults from St. Michael's and if possible from beyond St. Michael's to meet, pray, study and discern new forms of Christian practice and engagement that could connect with the unaffiliated in our community.
  - Meet with core team twice a month and retreats twice a year.
  - Create 4-6 experiments per year.
  - Give bi-monthly progress reports to the Vestry
  - Meet weekly with the Rector
  - Meet quarterly with an advisory team
  - Write quarterly articles in the newsletter
  
- Assistance with liturgical and sacramental duties as needed in the life of St. Michael's.
  - Assist with Sunday liturgies.
  - Preach every 4-6 weeks
  - Help create new forms of worship that may take place outside of St. Michael's building

Guiding quotes:

*Leaders across churches today face massive challenges on two fronts: understanding a pluralist culture that no longer supports Christian identity and practice; and leading faith communities through processes of learning, adaptation and innovation in mission. – Dwight Zscheile*

*Writing is like driving at night in the fog. You can only see as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way. —E.L. Doctorow*

*In a cultural context that is rapidly becoming more secular, how does St. Michael's deepen its identity of practicing the way of Jesus? – Adaptive Challenge from Mary's Missional Leadership Cohort*