

# Mission Action Plan

Our post-covid world has shown us that we won't be going back to "how it was." We have also been given a unique opportunity to listen for God's call to our individual parishes and their ministries going forward.

The church is in a liminal place. *Limen* is Latin for doorway, between places. We know what church was like, but are unsure of what the church could be in the future.

The MAP process was developed to help congregations discern God's plan as it emerges in community exploration. Whether you are a parish with a newly called clergy partner, or a congregation seeking a new chapter, the MAP process can help you see God's vision.



*Faith:  
The capacity  
to take a  
holy risk in  
order to  
follow God.*

## For more information:

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Without  
vision,  
the  
people  
perish.

Proverbs 29:18

Working with a consultant, the MAP process has five primary events which take place over the course of a year:



**The Living History:** Telling our story together, members find the places of power where the Holy Spirit has led them before, and revisit places of difficulty that might entangle God's vision as it emerges.



**The Prayer Walk:** Walking and praying throughout the parish neighborhoods and gathering places, members ask God to bring to their attention what God desires them to see. Using pictures and stories, members debrief together over a meal, learning from their observations; leadings from God begin to appear.



**Community Panel:** A Zoom panel of community leaders is invited to share what their challenges are, where they are seeing health and what they are building on. Listening for alignment, connections to previous discernment, the parish looks for future relationships, mutual blessing, and mission.



**World Café:** A concluding discernment event where the parish gathers, inviting neighbors who are present locally but not represented in the parish, along with community leaders, to explore questions of mutual blessing and ways forward in service.



**Congregational Summit:** Using focused conversations, the congregation gathers to create a basic ten-year plan from its exploration and conversations. The plan grows as the parish lives into and refines their call from the Holy Spirit to ministry in the church and community.