

If We Can Live Through This:

Exploring Congregational Identity and Purpose in an Emerging World

Religious practice is changing dramatically here in 21st century America. Average church attendance is declining, and membership in the institutional church is no longer a social norm. In the face of such challenges, dioceses and congregations have an opportunity to redefine their identity and purpose as they seek to further God's mission in a changing culture. During this seminar, the Rev. John Denson offers a snapshot of religious practice in the United States and introduces strategies and processes that encourage new life, vitality, and mission to emerge. He will share the story of one congregation's continuing journey to redefine its identity and purpose as a new commons – a faith community that is diverse, inclusive, interdependent, broadly connected beyond its walls, and focused on working for the common good.

SEMINAR LEADER: The Rev. John Denson, D.Min., is the Rector of Christ Church in Exeter, New Hampshire where he has served since 1999. John earned his Master of Divinity Degree and Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Development from Seabury Western Theological Seminary. His doctoral thesis, *Redefining Congregational Identity and Purpose: Initial Steps Toward Becoming a New Commons*, explores the opportunities and challenges for the church in a postmodern and emerging world. He articulates a new vision for congregational identity and illustrates congregational practices that create opportunities for transformation. John has served as co-chair of the Diocesan Re-imagining Committee, as the clergy convener of the Seacoast Convocation and as a strategic planning consultant for congregations.

Let **new life, vitality,**
and **mission** emerge in
your congregation from
the ancient tradition
of reflection

DATE: Friday, September 17

TIME: 12:00 - 2:00 pm

LOCATION: Weatherly Hall, Brite Divinity School,
2855 South University Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76129

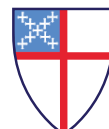
COST: \$10, payable at the door.
(Free to pre-registered Brite / TCU students with ID)

TO REGISTER: <http://tinyurl.com/27xrneh>
For parking information, see registration website or
call 817-921-4533 (Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth).

DEADLINE: September 10

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact
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