

# FRESH START

*A Program for Clergy Entering New Cures and Lay Leaders in the Congregations they Serve*

**Fresh Start** is a diocesan-led program for clergy in new cures and for lay leaders in the congregations where they serve.

**Fresh Start** is designed to:

- assist with the transition issues inherent in any new ministry;
- sharpen the skills of lay leaders and clergy for congregational development;
- strengthen relationships needed for ministry among the clergy of a diocese;
- deepen the trust and interconnectedness between clergy and the lay leaders of congregations and the bishop and bishop's staff.

**Fresh Start** seeks to strengthen the relationships among Anglican clergy, congregations, and dioceses during critical periods of transition in clergy leadership of the congregation.

## BENEFITS



- Helps to honor the ministry of all leaders, lay and ordained, in the life of the congregation.
- Helps to establish a common language to talk about issues of transition.
- Increases participants' capacity to minister to each other and the wider community.
- Provides an opportunity for leaders, both lay and ordained, to experience each other's openness to God and to deepen their capacity to be ministers of Jesus Christ.

## Q&A

**What is the format?**

**Fresh Start** is a monthly gathering of priests, between September and June. The program takes advantage of theories, practical tools and small group discussions on issues of concern.

**When can a new clergy in the diocese join?**

Transitioning clergy are asked to join the group as soon as the announcement is made that they will be leaving the congregation.

**How are parish lay leaders included?**

Special Saturday sessions are held throughout the year to purposely include Wardens and lay leaders.

### What topics are discussed?

The program is designed to be significant and flexible. A variety of topics are offering including Systems Theory, Understanding Transition and Managing Change. Some subjects addressed are based on theoretical models such as role clarity, decision making, power and influence, conflict awareness and church size. Other modules are more focused on relationships and self care.

Each year the participants contribute to the topics that will be discussed making the program relevant to their new cure.

*“A crucial time in the life of anyone’s ordained ministry is the start of a new call. Times have changed in the church that I knew when I experienced my first call in 1972 as curate in the diocese of Newark. I was blessed to serve on multiple staffs, and with each subsequent call I was mentored by some of the best rectors and deans in the church. But such mentoring is clearly becoming a thing of the past and congregational life is for many cultural, domestic, and global reasons a much greater challenge than it was even a few short years ago.*”

**Fresh Start**, led by nationally trained facilitators, will assist all clergy entering new cures to build relationships necessary for the growth of successful ministry within their congregations, among each other as colleagues, and with the Bishop and diocesan staff.”



### FRESH START

#### Contacts in the Diocese of Montreal

The Ven. Janet Griffith Johnson, Executive Archdeacon  
[executive.archdeacon@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:executive.archdeacon@montreal.anglican.ca)

#### Diocesan Facilitators

Clergy Fresh Start: The Ven. Edward Simonton, The Ven. Janet Griffith-Johnson  
Congregational Fresh Start: The Rev. Michael Johnson, Judy Oatway, The Rev. Mark Rogers, The Ven. Janet Griffith Johnson

*A schedule and course description for Clergy and Congregational Fresh Start is available separately.*

**Fresh Start** is a collaborative effort of The Episcopal Church, sponsored by Cornerstone, a ministry of the Episcopal Church Foundation, the Office for Ministry Development, the Church Deployment Office and now adopted and adapted by the Anglican Church of Canada.

The Anglican Diocese of Montreal  
tel: (514) 843-6577 • (800) 355-3788 • fax: (514) 843-6344  
[www.montreal.anglican.ca/freshstart](http://www.montreal.anglican.ca/freshstart)