

MAP principles

change

how will the church respond to God's call?

local engagement

every parish member is called to be part of dreaming the future

partnership

we can achieve more together than apart

flexibility

the process can be adapted to the particular needs of each parish

prayer

MAP is carried out in a setting of prayer, worship and discernment

Reshape us,
O Holy God,
until in generosity, in faith,
and in expectation
that the best is yet to come,
we are rendered truly Christ-like.
Make us passionate followers of Jesus
rather than passive supporters.
Make our hearts
as well as our churches
places of radical discipleship
and signposts to heaven,
then, in us, through us,
and--if need be--despite us,
let your dream for Earth
come quickly.

Amen

Wee Worship Book

Contact information

Tasha Carrothers, M.A.P. Resource Associate
604-684-6306 ext 227 or 1-800-665-1105
tcarrothers@vancouver.anglican.ca

Paul Borthistle, Director for
Parish Support Ministries
604-684-6306 ext 219
pborthistle@vancouver.anglican.ca

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Diocese of New Westminster

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
#580 – 401 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 5A1

What is MAP?



Making Spirit-led decisions

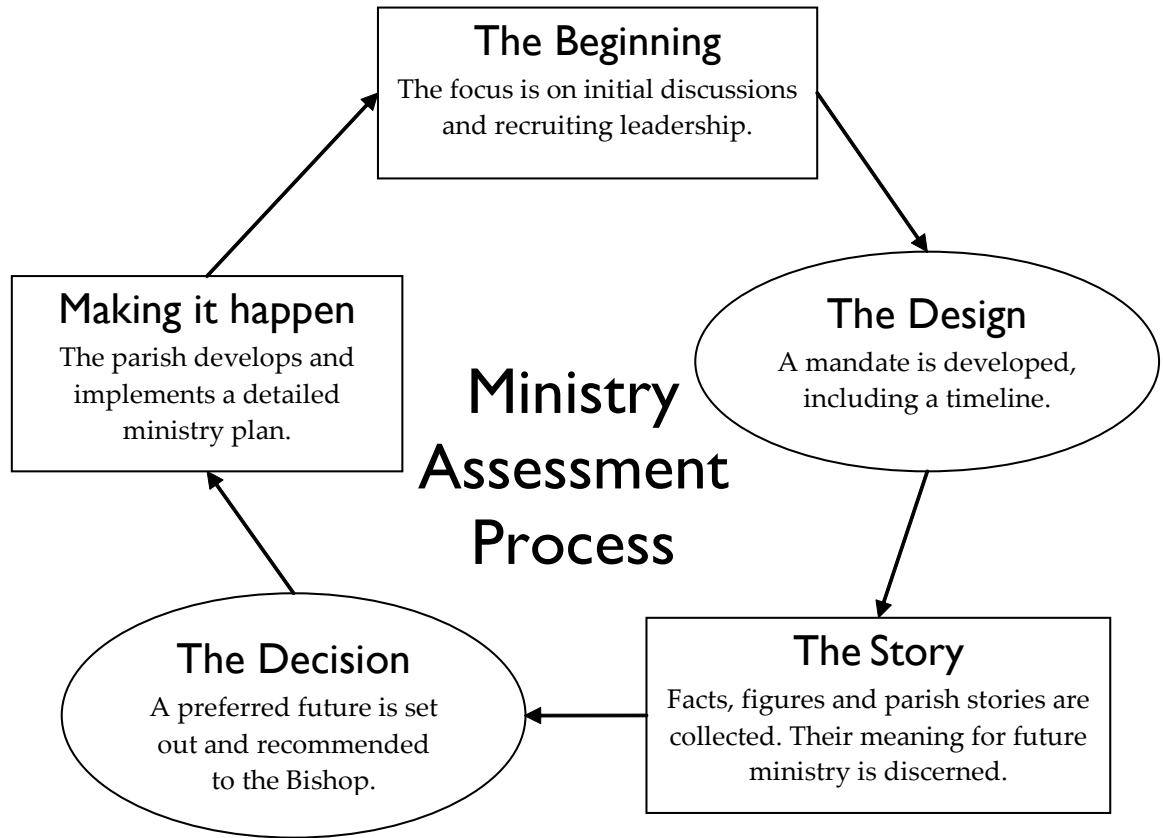
The Ministry Assessment Process is an initiative of the Diocese to help parishes make informed, Spirit-led decisions about mission, ministry and resources, including land and buildings.

Will my parish continue?

Every faith community has a life-cycle, and we fully expect that some congregations will choose to amalgamate or close as a result of doing MAP. The call is to vital and sustainable ministry, not merely survival. When parishes decide to close, the focus is on transplanting ministry gifts—releasing resources for vital ministry. Not an end, but a new beginning.

God’s mission has a church

How are we doing God’s work in the world? MAP invites parishes to thoroughly examine their values and hopes, make a realistic assessment of their strengths and challenges, and dream a future where we live out God’s call in community.



Stage 1

The Beginning
MAP can be set in motion by the parish or the bishop when they recognize a need in ministry. Local leaders and the mentor are appointed and trained.

Stage 2

The Design
The parish identifies their mandate: the issues they want to consider through MAP, potential partners, and a timeline for completing the process.

Stage 3

The Story
Two large story telling events bookend this stage, gathering parishioners to remember the best of what has been and imagine what could be. A smaller group carries out a detailed study of ministry, buildings and finances.

Stage 4

The Decision
Through discernment and prayer, the MAP team recommends options for future ministry. This could include closing a parish, adopting a new model, sharing a building or staff, or any number of possibilities.

Stage 5

Making it happen
Parishes craft a ministry plan and implementation begins. People give life to the vision, mission and ministry... making Christ’s work in the world happen.