Ideas for Getting Started with Priesthood

**Priesthood Gatherings** – Consider coming together as priesthood once a month to share in fellowship, worship, and missional practice. Consider using the *Connecting, Centering, and Dwelling in the Word* practice. Specifically, spend time with the *connecting* part of this practice. Your priesthood have concerns, struggles, and hopes and very much need to experience loving community. **As a PLT your first priority is to demonstrate your genuine love for them as individuals.** Model authenticity in your sharing as a way to open the pathway for others to share. Remember there are twelve months of Dwelling in the Word with questions provided for your use on [www.missionalleaders.org](http://www.missionalleaders.org) or in your binder.

Consider utilizing the LCM videos and engaging priesthood in conversation and reflection about the ideas conveyed. Begin to engage the priesthood in discerning and discussing essential questions about the congregation’s future in mission. Be patient. The tendency will be to focus on more tactical concerns. As you spend time together in prayer, missional practice, and conversation the priesthood will begin to engage in deeper and more meaningful conversation and questions about mission.

**Priesthood as Missional Order** – Consider inviting the priesthood to experiment with one or all three shared practices. It may be beneficial for priesthood to have a partner that will prayerfully support them in the practices. Share in conversation about what supportive and loving community looks like. What are some practices that could strengthen the relationships between priesthood (i.e. Sharing in the Round)? How can this extend into the congregation? How can priesthood model the way? When priesthood commit to share practices that begin to define their experience together they become a missional order.

**Exploring Giftedness** – In your *Getting Started with the PLT Resource* from Retreat 1 there are three exercises related to exploring giftedness. Consider choosing one of these exercises to explore the gifts of each priesthood member. Allow time for discussion of how each individual feels called to provide ministry. Be sure to follow up with an opportunity to explore how individuals gifts can connect with needs and opportunities in the congregation and neighborhood.

**Study and Reflection** – Consider inviting the priesthood to come together as a small group to study *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. How does this book invite the priesthood and congregation into a deeper way of being disciples in the world today? How could the book be utilized in the congregation?

**Relational Connections** – From the beginning we have emphasized the deeply relational nature of mission. Explore with the priesthood ways to extend the radical invitation and hospitality of Christ to the congregation and neighborhood.

**Begin with the congregation** – how do we as priesthood convey to each person how deeply they are loved and appreciated? Consider asking priesthood to prayerfully remember specific individuals and connect with them weekly. Also discuss how the radical invitation and hospitality of Christ can be extended to the neighborhood? Consider studying *Practicing Hospitality: A Study Guide* by Alan Roxburgh provided at Retreat 5.

*Receive, Embody, and Share Christ’s Peace*