



## What is a Community of Practice?

A group of people with a common interest

A group of people with a common goal of improving

A group of people who share experiences

Domain • Community • Practice



## CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE:

### What Can I Expect If I Join A CoP?

- \* **Sharing** information, insight and advice around case studies or situations in your own setting
- \* Ponder common issues, **explore** ideas and act as sounding boards to colleagues
- \* Feel a **bond** in learning and spiritual support together
- \* Create environments for intentional learning where each perspective can be **heard and valued**
- \* Develop a common body of knowledge, practices, and approaches
- \* Develop personal **relationships** with colleagues
- \* Provide **spiritual discernment** and prayerful **support** to one another
- \* A **WORSHIP** experience for **YOU!!!**

*Did you know; you don't have to already know it all??*

Great JOYS,  
New Ideas,  
1<sup>st</sup> time, or  
troubled  
waters  
?

The truth is that everything you face as a clergy leader is unique and familiar at the same time. While each situation involves different people, settings and nuances; there are similarities, correlations, and experiences to which others can connect. Sometimes, it is the testimony of the magnificence of God and how divine revelation shows up right on time. Sometimes, it is a challenge that seems to have no end to the web of confluences. Then there are other times where it's the first time for something or someone. And still there are also the difficult decisions or issues facing any clergy, congregation, or community at any given time. A Community of Practice can be a source of support, a lightning rod, weigh station, and/or sacred space where you can get feedback, encouragement, and constructive critique to help you navigate the ebbs and flows of ministry. Hey, the CoP might just be a place where you can prevent a major issue before it happens. This is the kind of support and network you need, right?

Often Clergy are expected to know it all, be super human, perfect, and without fault. Even with the best education and years of experience there is no way we can always live up to either our own expectations or those of our congregation. But we keep trying, don't we? That can be exhausting!!

So where do you go to get replenished and rejuvenated? Where do you go to get answers to difficult situations without fear of being criticized or looked down upon or thought lesser of? The good news: the answer is Community of Practice. This is the place to get clergy support before you "neeeed" clergy support, get it?



Dean, Communities of Practice-

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