

Recovering-Restoring-Reconnecting in Middletown *The Story of a New Live Journey*

By Rev. Phil Bjornberg, Missional Priest-in-Charge, Trinity, Portland
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On January 19, the attendance at the launch of New Life Journey was remarkable. Clergy from more than a dozen churches throughout Connecticut were present, and four of six ECCT Region Missionaries participated. Our missionary, Erin Flinn, offered a Holy Spirit impassioned affirmation for the Christ witness this ministry. Erin's Spirited words evoked a sustained ovation with numerous exuberant alleluia's and AMENs:

This group, I have come to believe through observations, truly embodies the Kingdom in that they are not only willing but able to work together across differences, not melding into uniformity, but rather acknowledging their differences and more importantly their various and diverse gifts as an asset to their mission... I believe [New Life Journey] is a testimony to the fact that the Kingdom is not just something that is far off, but it is something that is right here among us, in Middletown, Connecticut.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut [...] we have as a whole renewed our baptismal promise to love our neighbor. And we have acknowledged that to truly love our neighbor we must be willing to get to know our neighbors, respect our neighbors, and support our neighbors. We also acknowledged that the Episcopal Church is not the sole proprietor of God's mission; rather, all people regardless of faith or creed have a role to play in healing and restoring creation. There is not "us" and "them" but rather "all of us" in it together. We must therefore be willing to, and actively seeking to, reach out and work with all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. For it is only in community that we will make this world a better, more loving, most Christ like place.

To read the entire account of the launch of New Life Journey by Rev. Phil Bjornberg [click here](#).