

MULTIPOINT PARISH

Definition: A multipoint parish is any two or more congregations (can be ecumenical in nature) that share staff.

Types are:

- Two or more congregations sharing a staff person.
- Two or more congregations sharing a staff person and some programming.
- Two or more congregations sharing a common vision, plan, and staff person.
- Two or more congregations sharing a common vision, plan, and more than one staff person.

Degrees of sharing defined as:

- **Cooperation** - characterized by informal relationships that exist without any commonly defined mission, structure or planning effort. Information is shared as needed, and authority is retained by each congregation so there is virtually no risk.
- **Coordination** - characterized by more formal relationships and understanding of compatible missions. Some planning and division of roles are required, and communication channels are established. Authority still rests with the individual congregations, but there is some increased risk to all participants.
- **Collaboration** - characterized by previously separated congregations forming into a new structure with full commitment to a common mission. Such relationships require comprehensive planning and well defined communication channels operating on many levels. Authority is determined by the collaborative structure. Risk is much greater because each member of the collaboration contribute its own resources and reputation.

Effective when:

- They are spiritually alert, regular and intentional in their prayer life and activity, seek power, guidance and direction from Jesus in their planning and ministry.
- They provide vital and vibrant worship experiences that celebrate the mystery of the extraordinary in the midst of the ordinary, cast a vision of hope and meaningful discipleship, sometimes even in the face of hopelessness, and build a sense of family and community in places where there can be loneliness and isolation.
- They excite their people to the adventure and journey of discipleship by creating a culture in which Bible study and devotional reflection is central. Learning to follow Jesus with one's whole heart, mind and body is the aim. Their teaching focus, while certainly content based, aims more at equipping adults, youth and children to live a lifestyle that is Christ's style.
- They exhibit a holistic approach to evangelism built on relationships, centered around events and focused on meeting the specific needs of people in their community.
- They make Christ known and develop positive, attractive reputations by stepping out into their neighborhood and world through acts of caring service and social ministry. This social outreach is a natural expression of their discipleship and an ingredient within the mix that contributes to their vitality and spiritual energy.
- They model a shared leadership in which the pastor's role is significant, yet not dominant, the role of laity is active rather than passive, and Jesus is seen to be the primary leader for all in the congregation to follow.