

## Take the Pressure Off Planning

There are so many moving parts in any organization. There's the bread and butter of what you do, and then there are all of the extra pieces that can elevate your institution's positive effect on your community (and even the world). That may mean special missions, projects, or extracurriculars.

Add in the holidays, and there's even more going on: more well-attended services, more events, more outreach—more everything! No one wants to feel stress around this happy time. That's why it's so important that leaders can feel confident, knowing that everything is organized, and nothing will be missed.

### Rites and Rituals

*Planning for Rites and Rituals: A Resource for Episcopal Worship* is a resource that **Church Publishing Incorporated** makes available annually, which can help you feel prepared. It's the perfect support for presiders and preachers, worship team leaders, musicians, Christian educators, sacristans, and altar guilds.

Seasonal and weekly entries provide guidance and ideas, so your organization's atmosphere suits every occasion. *Planning for Rites and Rituals* follows the church calendar, acting as a companion for worship planning.

### Warm Holiday Memories

*Planning for Rites and Rituals* can help leaders make interesting and fitting choices around Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year. And, if you're looking for specific ways in which your institution can make this year's holidays memorable, consider planning 12 days of environmental advocacy.

Each day can center around something small; remember, small changes can add up to a big difference! Here are a few examples you can use to jumpstart your own brainstorming:

- *Christmas decoration making*: Upcycle clean recyclable material with a craft project; make ornaments that can be displayed for visitors.
- *Cookie exchange with a twist*: Community members bring and share their favorite Christmas cookies. Make sure everyone stores their confections in reusable containers, and share any leftovers with the local homeless shelter.
- *Charity over possessions*: Instead of giving people something you don't know if they need or could use, consider making a charitable donation in their name. Your organization might make suggestions for nonprofits seeking donations on your social media pages.

These examples are simply options meant to spur your thinking. There are so many kinds of activities you could do that involve all members of your organization's community.

Planning can seem like a burden if you don't have resources to help you make choices and come up with new ideas. Let *Planning for Rites and Rituals* be your guide.