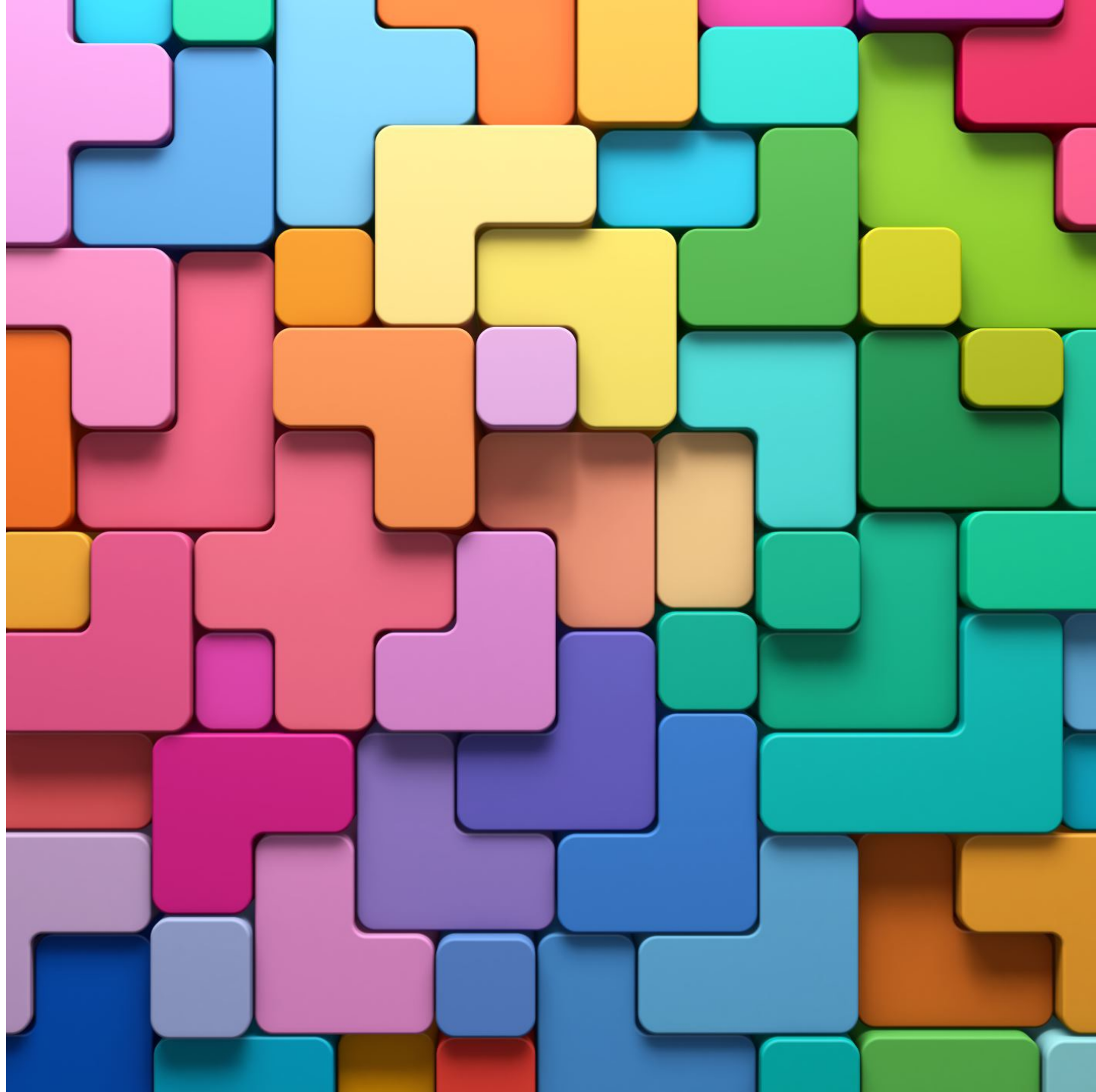


# Forward Together

Finding ways of connecting  
and collaborating,  
particularly in smaller  
parishes that don't have  
resident clergy.



# **outline**

Learning from each other

Defining the terms

Background

Encouragement

Small Groups

Reporting

Visioning

# Learning from each other

- + Active listening
- + Be curious
- + Be respectful
- + Be open to new ideas

# collaboration

- + the action of working with someone to produce or create something (Oxford dictionary)
- + Why collaborate?

# background

- + "Share how small parish leaders can network with other small parishes, large parishes, and parishes of other denominations so that their church attracts membership to foster growth and sustainability."

# encouragement

- + "It was not because you were more in numbers than any other people that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you - for you were the fewest of all peoples. It was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors." (Deuteronomy 7:7-8a, NRSV)

# encouragement

- + "God wasn't attracted to you and didn't choose you because you were big and important - the fact is, there was almost nothing to you. He did it out of sheer love, keeping the promise he made to your ancestors."  
(Deuteronomy 7:7-8a, The Message)

# congregational size dynamics

Arlin Rothauge, *Sizing Up the Congregation*, refined by Kevin Martin

- + Family      5-75 average Sunday attendance
- + Typically located in smaller towns
- + Usually a few interrelated families make up leadership
- + Not everyone is a member
- + Its strength is its stability



# challenges

- + 80/20 rule
- + Mission vs. survival
- + Can feel like there are never enough resources
- + intimacy

# The blessings of “small church”

- + Capable of adapting quickly
- + Sense of mission
- + Relational
- + We live in hope and anticipation
- + We understand humility
- + Agents of change

# small group work

- + Share our success stories
- + Where can you imagine the kingdom flourishing in your community? Start imagining.

**reporting**

# Visioning

+ How do you want to collaborate going forward?

# Some resources

+ Email me! [tdrake@diocese-eastcarolina.org](mailto:tdrake@diocese-eastcarolina.org)