

As a United Methodist Bishop, the most frequent request I receive from churches is, “Bishop, send us a great pastor!” The second most frequent request I receive from pastors is, “Bishop, send me to a great congregation!”

We all want great pastors, and we all want great congregations. At the core of effectiveness is clergy and congregational health. I'm excited to share a new resource from the Clergy Health Initiative called "Keeping the Faith: Conversations to Strengthen the Bond between Pastors and Church Leaders."

It's created for Pastor-Parish Relations Committees or Staff-Parish Relations Committees to serve as a guide to help congregations navigate tough conversations that play a big role in clergy and congregational health.

The "Keeping The Faith" conversation guide is based on three guiding principles. First, we can't change what we don't face. It's time we start talking about hard things and the realities we're facing individually, denominationally, societally. Second, we will never build trust if we do not learn to be vulnerable with one another. Third, really good questions prompt really great reflection. Change begins with questions as we wrestle together and listen deeply to one another.

The resource begins by helping committees or teams create a conversational covenant for your work together that will last long after you finish these five conversations. "Keeping the Faith" is an excellent resource for congregations and pastors who are rebuilding trust and imagining exciting futures.

Right now, the resource is offered as a digital download from the Clergy Health Initiative website at the link below. If you need a printed booklet, reach out to the Clergy Health Initiative with your request.

Let's move forward with intentionality. Let's keep the faith and do this work together.