

The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

HAPPENING

Happening – is a Christian renewal weekend lead by teenagers for the young people of the Episcopal Church. The weekend centers on the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, which are discussed in an atmosphere of joy and happiness, in a way that relates to the lives of today’s young people.

Happening Steering Committee – is the design team responsible for developing, maintaining, evaluating and supporting the Happening experience for youth in Atlanta in order to encourage and support their participation in the mission of the Church as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rector of Happening – is the teenager who leads the weekend. This individual is responsible for planning and leading the weekend with the participation of the Observing Rector and Head Gopher..

Happening Advisors – are the two adults who work directly with the Rector and staff of the weekend. The advisors support and empower the Rector and youth leadership of the weekend and provide continuity between Rectors.

Observing Rector – is the teenager who will be the Rector of the next Happening. This individual should be involved in all of the planning and leadership for the weekend.

Head Gopher – is the teenager who leads the Gophers. This individual should be involved in all of the planning and leadership for the weekend.

Head Family Group Leader – is the teenager who leads the Family Group Leaders. This individual should be involved in all of the planning and leadership for the weekend.

Head of Prayer – is the teenager who leads the Prayer Team. This individual should be involved in all of the planning and leadership for the weekend.

Head of Music – is the teenager who leads the Music Team. This individual should be involved in all of the planning and leadership for the weekend.

Celebration – is the behind the scenes support group for each Happening, supporting the Staff and Happeners as they journey together in their faith.

Spiritual Directors – serve as spiritual advisors for the weekend and are responsible for all worship services, sacraments and pastoral support to the Happeners and staff.

STEERING COMMITTEE

I Membership:

Membership of the Steering Committee shall consist of: Chair of the Committee, Secretary, Priest, Weekend Advisors, Rector, Observing Rector, (prefer) three youth representatives from each grade (10th, 11th, and 12th) and up to two at-large adult members and three at-large youth members. The Bishop is an ex-officio member of the Steering Committee.

Chair of the Committee: is responsible for the operation of the Steering Committee. This person will run all meetings, stay in close contact with the Advisors, act as a liaison to the Bishop, and insure that all the rules are followed.

Secretary: is responsible for maintaining Steering Committee communication. This person will keep minutes of each meeting and keep accurate records of the committee's membership and decisions.

Priest: is responsible for the spiritual guidance of the Happening weekend and the Steering Committee. This person will assist the rectors in finding Spiritual Directors for the weekends and will maintain regular outreach to the clergy of the diocese to keep them engaged and involved. This person will have staffed a Happening in the Diocese of Atlanta before serving on the Steering Committee, if possible.

Adult and Youth Members: attend Steering Committee meetings, serve as representatives of Happening, and bring their unique perspective to Steering Committee discussions and decision. If possible, youth members must have staffed a weekend before being chosen as youth representatives and past Rectors remain active members of the Committee until they leave for college. Adult members are encouraged to go through Happening if they have not already done so.

Members shall serve terms of three years. Those terms shall be staggered to prevent a total turnover in leadership.

STEERING COMMITTEE

II. Conduct for Members of the Steering Committee:

Committee members should support and promote Happening at all times and set a good example in their respective communities.

Committee members should be leaders in building community.

Committee members are to remember at all times that issues covered in meeting are strictly confidential.

Committee members must maintain impartiality in all Steering Committee decisions.

If two consecutive committee meetings are missed without accepted cause and written notice given to the Chair of the Committee, a member is then removed from the committee.

III. Selection of Members:

Members shall be selected by the Steering Committee and then appointed by the Bishop.

The Steering Committee will strive to maintain diversity when selecting new members.

IV. Meetings for the Steering Committee:

There must be at least four meetings a year for the Steering Committee:

One meeting before each Happening to select Staff, including Observing Rector, Head Gopher, Celebration Staff Coordinator and adults, and prepare for the next Happening, and one directly after each Happening to review the previous weekend and begin preparations for the next Happening, including determining location, spiritual directors and staff training dates.

A meeting may be called by any member of the Steering Committee should another meeting be deemed necessary.

STEERING COMMITTEE

V. Responsibilities of the Steering Committee:

Provide the vision and direction for the Happening community through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit

Empower and support Happening leadership and hold the movement accountable

Decide the location and dates of each Happening

Choose the Rector, Observing Rector, Head Gopher, Head for Prayer, Family Group Leader and Music, Weekend Staff and Celebration Staff from applications

Choose the two Weekend Advisors

Oversee all of the finances regarding Happening

Addresses Happening-related concerns

Be ready and willing to replace people for staff positions when needed

Revise the weekend experience as needed

Keep manuals up to date and revise as needed

Set community standards of appropriate behavior

Promote Happening within the Diocese of Atlanta

Shall provide a Steering Committee roster to the Bishop, members of the Steering Committee, and the Staff of Happening

Act as a liaison to the Bishop regarding the weekends

STAFF SELECTION

The following factors should be used as guidelines when the Steering Committee is making staff selections. Whenever possible:

- Priority should be given to Episcopalians.
- Church diversity should be taken into consideration when making staff selections.
- Strive to maintain gender balance between male and female youth staff members.
- Maintain balance between experienced and new staff members.

ADVISORS

I. Responsibilities:

Shall work with the Rector, Observing Rector, Head Gopher, Weekend Staff and Celebration Staff of Happening to ensure the continued success of the weekend.

Shall keep the Steering Committee informed on the planning of the weekend and report to the Steering Committee on the success of the weekend.

II. Selection:

The candidate for Advisor shall be recommended by the Steering Committee to the Bishop.

The Bishop selects the final choice for Advisor.

Advisor shall be chosen for staggered three-year terms.

RECTOR

I. Responsibilities

Shall be responsible for all of the leadership of Happening.

Plan the schedule and agenda of the weekend and all preparatory meetings.

Lead all staff training meetings.

Work with Celebration Staff coordinator to ensure weekend continuity.

Plan and lead Post-Happ.

II. Selection

The Rector is the Observing Rector from the previous Happening.

The Rector shall serve for one Happening.

Once completing a term as Rector, the Rector cannot serve on Weekend Staff again as a youth.

OBSERVING RECTOR

I. Responsibilities:

Shall assist the Rector in the leadership of the Happening weekend and all preparatory meetings prior to it.

II. Selection:

The Observing Rector is chosen by the Steering Committee.

The Observing Rector shall serve for one Happening.

HEAD GOPHER

I. Responsibilities:

Shall assist the Rector and Observing Rector in the leadership of the weekend and all preparatory meetings.

Shall be responsible for leading the Gophers' ministry during the Happening weekend.

Work with the Caritas Gopher to ensure effective coordination and distribution of Caritas.

II. Selection:

The Head Gopher is chosen by the Steering Committee.

HEAD FAMILY GROUP LEADER

I. Responsibilities:

Shall assist the Rector and Observing Rector in the leadership of the weekend and all preparatory meetings.

Shall be responsible for leading the FGLs' ministry during the Happening weekend.

Work with the leadership team to ensure effective communication throughout the weekend.

II. Selection:

The Head Family Group Leader is chosen by the Steering Committee.

HEAD of PRAYER

I. Responsibilities:

Shall assist the Rector and Observing Rector in the leadership of the weekend and all preparatory meetings.

Shall be responsible for leading the Prayer Teams' ministry during the Happening weekend.

Work with the leadership team to ensure effective communication throughout the weekend.

II. Selection:

The Head of Prayer is chosen by the Steering Committee.

HEAD of MUSIC

I. Responsibilities:

Shall assist the Rector and Observing Rector in the leadership of the weekend and all preparatory meetings.

Shall be responsible for leading the Music Teams' ministry during the Happening weekend.

Work with the leadership team to ensure effective communication throughout the weekend.

II. Selection:

The Head of Music is chosen by the Steering Committee.

ADULTS FOR THE WEEKEND

I. Responsibilities:

Shall serve as chaperones for the event.

Shall assist the Advisor and Rector in any way possible.

Shall support the Rector and allow that individual to run the weekend.

II. Members:

Adults on the weekend will comply with the diocesan “Safeguarding God’s Children” policies and maintain the appropriate adult-youth ratio. Adults may include: Moms, Dads, Kitchen Mom or Dad, Big Brother or Big Sister, Two Spiritual Directors, and an Adult Group Leader (if and only if there is an adult small group.)

Weekend Advisors will assume two of these roles.

III. Selection:

The adults for the weekend will be chosen by the Rector and the Weekend Advisors and approved by the Steering Committee.

It is strongly encouraged that the adults have participated as a candidate in Happening, Vocare, Crusillo or other related renewal weekend.

If possible no adult may serve on a Happening weekend if his or her child is a Happening candidate on the weekend.

No youth can serve as an adult advisor until two years after High School graduation.

PRIESTS FOR THE WEEKEND

I. Responsibilities:

Shall serve as the Spiritual Advisors for the weekend.

Shall be responsible for assigned talks.

Shall be responsible for all sacramental and liturgical decisions for the weekend.

Shall receive a schedule of all staff meetings and expected to attend all meetings.

Are required to attend Team Training/Pre-Happ, unless a compromise is worked out.

At least one Spiritual Advisor must be on premises at all times during the weekend.

II. Selection:

Shall be chosen by the Steering Committee, with suggestions from the Rector of the weekend.

Prefer that at least one priest have been involved with Happening, Vocare, Cursillo, or other related renewal weekend.

CELEBRATION STAFF

I. Responsibilities:

Shall support the weekend through their service.

Shall spend time in prayer for the Happeners and staff.

Shall be responsible for the Daisy Wake-up.

Shall prepare the room for the closing Eucharist.

II. Membership:

Everyone on Celebration Staff must have gone through the weekend.

III. Adult Leadership for Celebration Staff:

There will be a minimum of two adults present at Celebration Staff.

Must be at least 22 years old to serve as Celebration Staff adult leadership for the weekend.

Must attend Pre-Happ and preparatory meetings.

IV. Priest for Celebration Staff:

Will serve as the spiritual advisor for Celebration Staff.

Shall be responsible for all sacramental and liturgical decisions of Celebration Staff.

Shall receive a schedule of all staff meetings and expected to attend all meetings.

V. Selection of the Celebration Staff Leadership:

Shall be made by the Steering Committee

HOW TO AMEND THE BYLAWS

The bylaws shall be amended by majority vote of the Steering Committee.

These bylaws shall only take effect with the approval of both the Steering Committee and the Bishop.