RECLAIMING MISSION · NEMA SYNOD · NOVEMBER 5–6, 2026

Going & Gathering — Start Here

Welcome. These are the materials from the Rev. Canon Michael D. Vinson's two Synod teachings, together with a workbook to help your parish turn them into a plan. Everything here may be printed, copied, and adapted for use in your parish.

WHAT'S IN THIS FOLDER

0. Going & Gathering- Start Here	One-page guide to the documents provided in this folder, how to begin the planning process, and downloading instructions.
1. Going & Gathering (PDF book)	Start here. Both teachings with their slides, the Parish Workbook as Part III, and the handout and worksheets at the back. Bookmarked for easy navigation.
2. Part I – Reclaiming Mission (PowerPoint)	Editable slides for teaching Part I in your parish. The speaker notes hold the full text.
3. Part II – The Small (Effective) Church (PowerPoint)	Editable slides for the Part II workshop, with the full text in the speaker notes.
4. Going & Gathering Parish Workbook (PDF)	The workbook on its own, for printing one copy per team member.

HOW TO BEGIN THE PLANNING PROCESS

1. Read or teach. Read Parts I and II of the book. To bring the vision to your congregation, teach them using the slides.

2. Form a Going & Gathering Team. Gather a small group of parishioners to work with the rector and vestry.

3. Work through the Workbook. Meet for seven sessions of 60–75 minutes. Each session ends with one decision, and by Session 7 those decisions form your parish's 90-day plan. Advent is a good time to begin.

4. Carry it out and review it. Use the 30-Day Check-In and 90-Day Review pages to look back on what God has done and choose your next step.

5. Tell the story. Come back to next year's Synod ready to share what has happened: friendships begun, neighbors met, and souls brought to the Supper of the Lamb.

DOWNLOADING AND PRINTING

To download: open a file and click the download arrow at the top right, or right-click it in the folder and choose *Download*. You don't need a Google account.

Slides: open them in PowerPoint, Keynote, or Google Slides. They are set in Garamond; if a computer doesn't have it, another serif font will be substituted and some text may shift slightly.

Printing: print on US Letter paper, double-sided. Copy the Workbook for each team member. The Part II worksheets (the last four pages of the book) can be photocopied freely for group work.

Gathered by grace. Sent in love.