

**Colleague covenant groups** are meetings of ministerial colleagues designed to help participants to strengthen their resources for ministry by creating a safe space for prayerful, mutual support, faith development and learning. They give ministers the opportunity:

- to tell it like it is
- to gain perspective on how it is and how it might be
- to experience gentle accountability
- to receive support
- to engage in theological reflection and dialogue
- to learn
- to deepen Christian faith
- to pray together
- to offer these opportunities to one another.

To learn more about colleague covenant groups and to apply for a grant to help you start one, see the enclosed brochure.



# A Cord of Three Strands Is Not Quickly Broken

## Introducing Colleague Covenant Groups

Perhaps you've made it through Advent and Christmas, the confidence-eroding Annual Meeting (where will the money to meet the budget come from?) in the dead of winter, lent and the whirlwind of Holy Week and Easter . . .

OR

Perhaps you love ministry with all the opportunities to interact with people – listening, talking, sharing their joys and sorrows, working on committees, developing new programs – if only there were more hours in the day or the sermon ideas fell into place before the wee hours on Sunday mornings . . .

OR then again,

Perhaps ministry's endless small details and administrative matters put you to sleep, so that you lose sight of the bigger picture – your mind and spirit become too dull to wrestle meaningfully with the biblical text when at long last you can turn your attention to preparing the sermon and prayers . . .

And you wonder . . . . .

where on earth are you going to find . . . . .

**encouragement and perspective?** . . . because there's only so much you can take home before your spouse feels as discouraged as you do.

**gentle accountability and coaching towards a more balanced life?** . . . because if you could achieve a healthy balance on your own you'd have done so already.

**sustained, in-depth theological reflection and discourse?** . . . because without growth in understanding your faith lacks the vibrancy you need to minister joyfully, with conviction.