



Year Two Renewal from the Heartland

Renewal from the Heartland is a pastoral planning process designed to foster a culture of accountability and co-responsibility across the Archdiocese. By leveraging our deanery structures, utilizing the synodal discernment method, and leaning on the co-responsibilities of pastors and lay parish councils, year two of this initiative directly responds to the community input gathered during the *Listening with the Heart* sessions and surveys conducted April-June 2026.

By responding directly to the overarching theme of “a desire to belong” voiced by our community, we will be forming communities that are centers of charity and sanctuaries of mercy, fulfilling the vision launched by Archbishop McKnight.

This proposal outlines a sequence of activities comprised of formation, small group faith-sharing, and visioning sessions to help the people of God pray, reflect on Church teachings, and address critical "matters of the heart." These begin formally with the archdiocesan convocation set for Sept. 12, 2026, at Savior Pastoral Central.

Key Stakeholder Endorsement Required: Enthusiastic buy-in and active participation from pastors, parish pastoral and finance councils, the Archdiocesan Finance Council, Pastoral Council, and Presbyteral Council remain the ultimate prerequisites for the success of this pastoral plan.

Sequence of Activities (2026–2027)

Date	Activity
Sept. 12, 2026, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Convocation – Official launch of the pastoral planning process
Sept. 15, 2026, 6:30-8 pm	Deanery Parish Leadership Meeting
Sept / Oct	Training of facilitators for listening sessions
Oct / Nov	Order and delivery of Advent small group resources
Nov. 10, 2026, 6:30 – 8 pm	Deanery Parish Leadership Meeting
Fall / Advent	Deanery listening sessions
Advent 2026	Parish small group faith-sharing
Jan / Feb 2027	Deanery CARA survey deployment
Feb. 2, 2027, 6:30-8 pm)	Deanery Parish Leadership Meeting
Lent 2027	Parish small group faith-sharing
After Easter	Deanery visioning and planning sessions
Summer 2027	Archdiocese reviews deanery plans and adjusts overall pastoral planning
Fall 2027	Convocation

Details of Activities

1. Launch Convocation (Sept. 12, 2026)

- **Keynote Address:** Archbishop McKnight introduces the Archdiocesan pastoral planning process.
- **Data Presentation:** Review of the Archdiocesan-wide listening session responses and surveys. Reports and reflection questions will be distributed to participants in advance.
- **Deanery Collaboration:** Breakout discussions where deaneries reflect on the reports and present findings back to the full assembly.
- **Leadership Development:** * A panel presentation on how pastoral councils shape the spiritual well-being and culture of their parishes.
- **Resource Overview:** Handouts detailing small group programs, listening sessions and visioning & planning sessions.

Attendance: Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, archdiocesan synodal team, all clergy, parish pastoral and finance council chairs or their representatives, key parish staff or ministry leads (principal, business manager, etc.).

2. Small Group Faith-Sharing Programs

- **Advent 2026:** Four-part series focused on the theme of belonging and *Magnifica Humanitas*
- **Lent 2027:** Four- or five-part series focused on the importance of the Eucharist and Reconciliation.
- **Format:** The themes are lifted from the results of the *Listening with the Heart* activities. Like Lent 2026, parishes have the discretion to determine scheduling and promotion of these programs.

3. Deanery Listening Sessions (Sept. 15, 2026, Nov. 10, 2026 and Feb. 2, 2027)

- **Format:** A prayerful event utilizing curated reflection questions stemming from the 2026 *Listening with the Heart* data, run by trained facilitators.
- **Frequency:** To ensure deep engagement without repetition, deaneries are encouraged to host more than three sessions. Each session will consider distinct

thematic tracks (e.g., liturgical, communal outreach, evangelization) as determined by the themes surfaced in the listening sessions and survey.

- **Attendance:** Open to the public; attendance by pastors and parish leadership (active clergy and laity) is strongly encouraged.

3. CARA online surveys

- In consultation with each deanery leadership team CARA will develop a survey instrument in a three-step iterative process for each of the eight deaneries.
- Each survey will have 25 to 30 questions, many will be the same for each deanery while others will be for specific topics identified for that deanery. The questions will focus on deanery collaboration and issues of concern arising from the deanery's leadership review of parishioners' responses. The survey will be available in both English and Spanish and provided through CARA's secure online system, ensuring anonymity and confidentiality.
- Catholics will be invited to respond to the online survey by parishes in each deanery. CARA will provide the archdiocese with a shortened link and a QR code to the online surveys, which can be emailed or shared via social media to all deanery parishes.
- CARA will analyze the survey data and write an individual report for each deanery.

4. Visioning and Planning Sessions

The deanery quantitative CARA surveys and qualitative listening session results will form the explicit foundation for tailored pastoral plans for each deanery, with the parishes implementing the plans. These plans will, in turn, inform the archdiocesan pastoral planning process and the central offices' priorities.

- **Format:** A five-to-six-hour session (completed in one day or over two parts) facilitated by trained archdiocesan personnel..
- **Johnson County specific:** The deanery will develop two plans for the two areas of the deanery.
- **Attendance:** Required of parish leadership in the deanery (clergy, councils, key ministry leads).

The Role of the Archdiocese

Archdiocesan structures, led and coordinated by the cabinet, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, and the synodal team, will act as a comprehensive support system. They will supply program templates, personnel, and

communication frameworks to ensure local findings effectively inform high-level archdiocesan work.

Leadership Formation

- **Archdiocesan Pastoral Council:** Provided targeted formation regarding members' operational functions within their respective deaneries.
- **Pastors and Parish Pastoral Councils:** Formation and guidance will be given "in real-time" during the Sept. 12 convocation panel and throughout the pastoral planning process' listening and visioning sessions.

Communication and Feedback Systems

- Standardized protocols for creating deanery-specific CARA surveys.
- A centralized calendar system for managing invitations, agendas, and RSVPs for leadership bodies.
- Deanery-level infrastructure management (coordinating facilitator pools, agenda templates, email distribution lists, and shared Zoom accounts), with ownership boundaries to be determined.
- An integrated feedback loop ensures the synodal team and cabinet receive ground-level data to allocate resources where they are most urgently needed.

Deliverables

1. Reports: 1) Comprehensive archdiocesan report of the Listening with the Heart sessions, June CARA survey and fall 2026 listening sessions; 2) deanery-specific report of the Listening with the Heart sessions, June CARA survey and fall 2026 listening sessions.
2. Turnkey small group faith-sharing programs for Advent 2026 and Lent 2027, including booklets, promotional assets and a print fulfillment process. Parishes and individuals will pay for any printed booklets when they place orders. Booklets will also be available online for free downloading and printing locally.
3. Program templates, manuals, and a deployment network of trained facilitators for listening and visioning sessions.
4. Standardized promotional materials, online registration tools, and programs/manuals for small group faith sharing, listening sessions and visioning sessions.

The Role of the Deanery

The dean and the members of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council will be the “bridge” between the archdiocesan structures listed above and the parish leadership, including the pastors, other active clergy, pastoral and finance council chairs and key parish personnel, such as principals and business managers.

The deaneries will be the focus of the pastoral planning process, which includes listening sessions, a survey and a visioning process. This will culminate in a pastoral plan for each deanery.

Deanery Parish Leadership Meetings

- Provide locations and hospitality for deanery parish leadership meetings (September, November and February).
- Provide locations and hospitality for deanery listening sessions and visioning sessions (number to be determined in each deanery).
- Ensure the archdiocese has a full list of individuals who should be invited to the deanery parish leadership meetings and visioning sessions.
- Ensure the agenda for each deanery parish leadership meeting is distributed digitally in advance, with any other resources particular to that agenda.

Listening sessions

- Establish the locations for listening sessions to be held in the fall/Advent in the deanery. Ensure there is a host coordinator for each session, similar to the process used for Listening with the Heart in spring 2026. The archdiocese will provide trained facilitators, online registration, and the program for the listening sessions. The host coordinator will be responsible for logistics onsite and the printing of the program.
- Deaneries are encouraged to consider listening sessions for those who may not be able to attend a typical listening session: e.g., the homebound, the imprisoned, the deaf community, etc.

CARA online surveys

- In consultation with each deanery leadership team CARA will develop a survey instrument in a three-step iterative process for each deanery. Each survey will have

25 to 30 questions; many will be the same for each deanery while others will be for specific topics identified for that deanery. The questions will focus on deanery collaboration and issues of concern arising from the deanery's leadership review of parishioners' responses to the two listening sessions (spring and fall 2026) and the archdiocesan-wide online survey.

- The survey will be available in both English and Spanish. The survey will be programmed into an online format. The survey will be anonymous and confidential, and no respondent will be identified.
- Deanery leadership will encourage parishes to share information on the survey with their parishioners to ensure a robust response.

Visioning sessions

- Establish the location for the visioning sessions in the deanery. The Archdiocese will provide trained facilitators and programming. The deanery will be responsible for logistics onsite, including hospitality and printing of resources.
- Ensure the participation of leadership (clergy and laity) from each parish in the visioning sessions.
- Provide the results of the visioning sessions (pastoral plans) as soon as possible to the archdiocesan synodal team.

Budgetary Considerations

- **Convocation:** Attendees will be asked to pay a nominal fee to cover cost of lunch being provided.
- **Survey:** Archdiocese will absorb costs for deanery reports. Parishes may request a subset of their deanery survey results, if there are a minimum of 75 parishioner responses. Cost per parish subset report is estimated at \$2,250.
- **Small Group Booklets:** Parishes/parishioners pay for physical copies, supported by a direct-to-parish shipping fulfillment system.
- **Listening sessions and Visioning sessions:** Archdiocese will provide all resources and personnel. Host sites are asked to provide simple hospitality.

Contact

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