

**Invite
Welcome
Connect**



Invite
Welcome
Connect®

A Ministry of Evangelism, Hospitality, & Belonging

A Framework for Belonging and Transformation

What is Invite Welcome Connect?

A framework for cultivating evangelism, hospitality, and belonging.

Designed to be adaptable to any context.

Helps church communities discover their unique gifts and calling.

Not a church growth program *per se*—church growth is the side effect

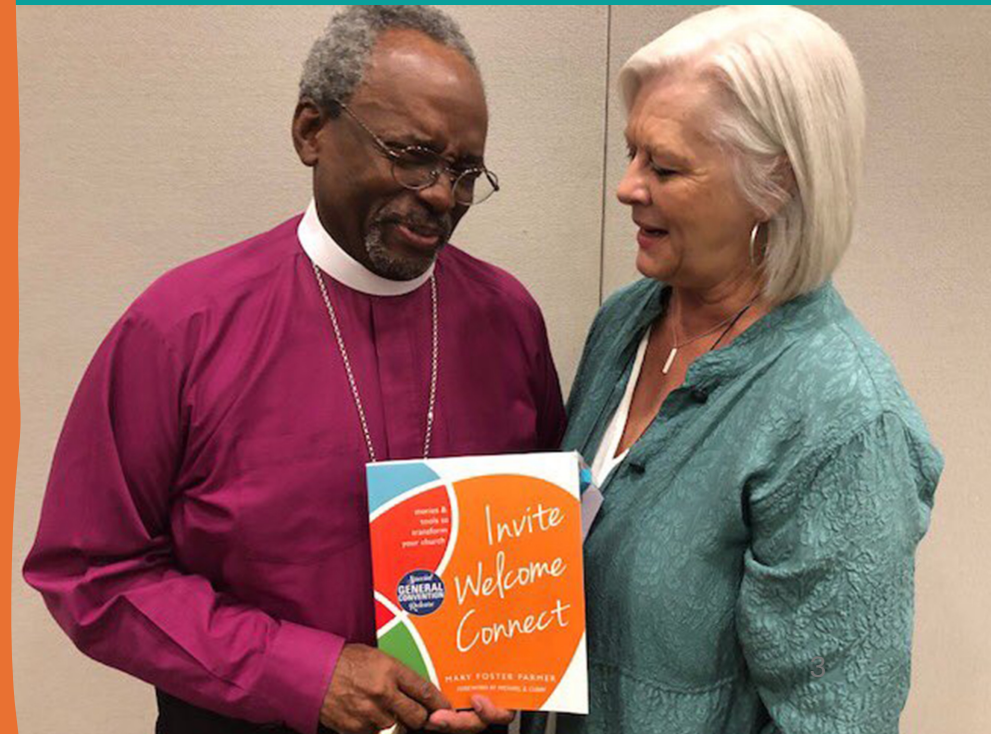
Origins

- Founded by Mary Foster Parmer more than 15 years ago:
- Came up out of the Diocese of Texas and was later based at The University of the South (Sewanee)
- Began with live workshops presented churches, dioceses, conferences, and seminaries around the country and the world
- Added coaching services a few years ago as well as online webinars and summits
- In 2024, became an independent 501(c)3 charitable organization
- In 2025 added “Invite Welcome Connect - On Demand” online training to expand availability to dioceses and individual churches

Invite · Welcome · Connect

ON

DEMAND

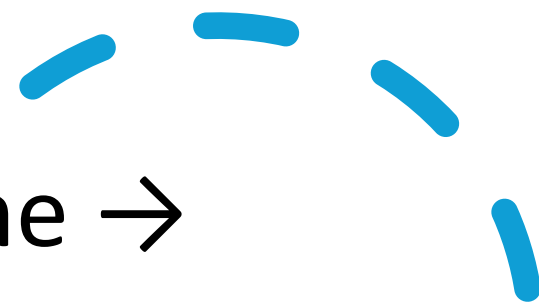


Core Values





Three Essentials Overview

- Invite → Welcome →
Connect
- 

Invite



- INVITATION = CREATING SPACE FOR ENCOUNTER (NOT MARKETING).



- PERSONAL STORIES AND RELATIONAL INVITATIONS MATTER MOST.



- ROMANS 15:7 — “WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, THEREFORE, JUST AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU, FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.”

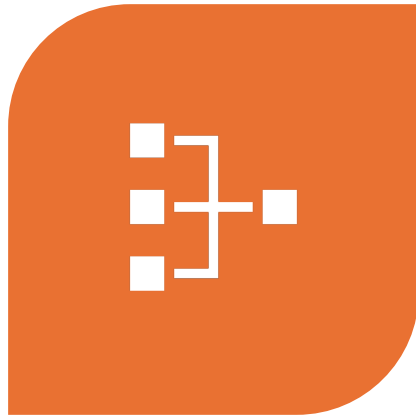
Welcome

- Hospitality is about truly seeing and honoring the other.

- Practical pieces: signage, greeters, first-time visitor follow-up.

- Scripture: Hebrews 13:2 — “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Connect



- MOVE PEOPLE FROM GUEST → PARTICIPANT → CO-CREATOR.



- DISCOVER AND EMPOWER GIFTS (SMALL GROUPS, SERVICE ROLES, MENTORING).



- CONNECTION DEEPENS BELONGING AND SUSTAINS GROWTH.

Practical Applications

1

Invite: personal invitations, meetups, event outreach, social media clips

2

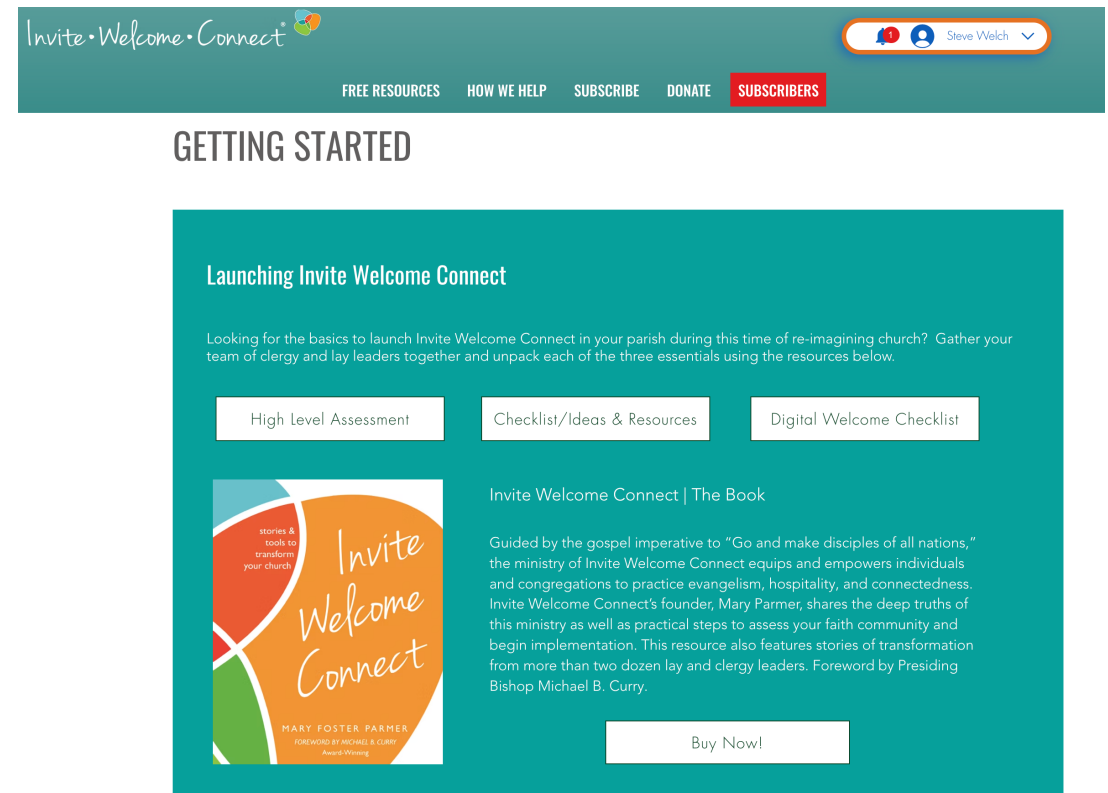
Welcome: signage refresh, plan-your-visit pages, greeter training, newcomer follow-up

3

Connect: small groups, mentoring, service pathways, skill-sharing, “next steps”

Starting an Invite Welcome Connect Ministry

- **Buy-In** from Key Stakeholders: Clergy, Vestry, Lay Leadership
- **Watch the Video:** *"Are You Ready for the Training?"* at invitewelcomeconnect.com
- **Recruit** your IWC Team



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Invite Welcome Connect website. The logo "Invite • Welcome • Connect" is on the left, and a user profile "Steve Welch" is on the right. The navigation menu includes "FREE RESOURCES", "HOW WE HELP", "SUBSCRIBE", "DONATE", and "SUBSCRIBERS". Below the navigation bar, the "GETTING STARTED" section is displayed. It features a teal background with the heading "Launching Invite Welcome Connect". A paragraph of text explains the purpose of the resources. Below the text are three buttons: "High Level Assessment", "Checklist/Ideas & Resources", and "Digital Welcome Checklist". To the left of the text is a book cover for "Invite Welcome Connect" by Mary Foster Parmer. To the right of the text is a "Buy Now!" button.

Invite • Welcome • Connect

FREE RESOURCES HOW WE HELP SUBSCRIBE DONATE SUBSCRIBERS

GETTING STARTED

Launching Invite Welcome Connect

Looking for the basics to launch Invite Welcome Connect in your parish during this time of re-imagining church? Gather your team of clergy and lay leaders together and unpack each of the three essentials using the resources below.

High Level Assessment Checklist/Ideas & Resources Digital Welcome Checklist

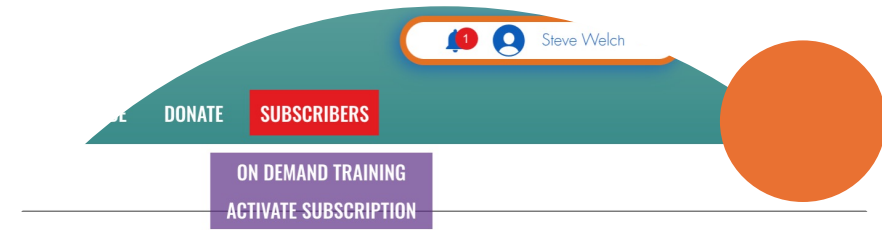
Invite Welcome Connect | The Book

Guided by the gospel imperative to "Go and make disciples of all nations," the ministry of Invite Welcome Connect equips and empowers individuals and congregations to practice evangelism, hospitality, and connectedness. Invite Welcome Connect's founder, Mary Parmer, shares the deep truths of this ministry as well as practical steps to assess your faith community and begin implementation. This resource also features stories of transformation from more than two dozen lay and clergy leaders. Foreword by Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry.

Buy Now!

3 Training Options:

1. **In-Person Workshops:** A Trainer comes to your location for Friday night–Saturday program, followed by capstone sermon at Sunday services
2. **Coaching:** Trained coach meets online every other month with your ministry team to support, encourage, and hold them accountable to envision, plan, and implement the Invite Welcome Connect ministry into the life of that congregation.
3. **OnDemand Training:** Video-based training supported by online resources for use by groups or by individuals. Allows team members to constantly refresh skills and to bring new members on smoothly.



1: Introduction



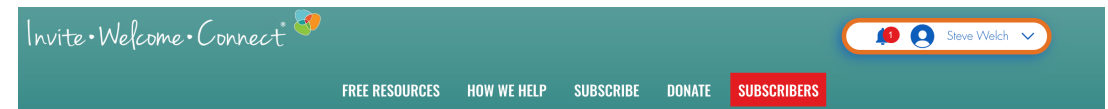
More help

BOOK: *Invite Welcome Connect, Stories & Tools to Transform Your Church* by Mary Foster Parmer. Available from ForwardMovement.com

InviteWelcomeConnect.com: FREE resources available including:

- High-level assessment
- Checklist, Ideas, & Resources
- Digital Welcome Checklist

Join our mailing list: Monthly tips and best practices



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High Level Assessment

Checklist/Ideas & Resources

Digital Welcome Checklist



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Exercise 1: Mapping Invitations

Format: Pairs (in-person or breakout)

Step 1 (3 min): Each partner share briefly a time you felt truly invited into a community — what happened?

Step 2 (3 min): Identify 2 elements that made the invitation authentic (tone, person, follow-up, context).

Step 3 (4 min): Brainstorm 3 practical ways your organization could extend similar invitations this season.

Report out (3 min): Ask 2–3 pairs to share one insight each.

Exercise 2: Hospitality Walkthrough

- Format: Groups of 3–5 (in-person or chat rooms)
- Step 1 (3 min): Imagine you're a first-time visitor. Walk through the experience from street to seat (signs, parking, door, greeters, worship or program, coffee/after-event).
- Step 2 (3 min): Identify 3 obstacles a newcomer might face and 3 quick fixes.
- Step 3 (4 min): Pick one improvement your group could realistically test in the next 60 days.
- Report out (3 min): 2–3 groups share their chosen improvement.



Putting It All Together



- IWC IS A PROVEN FRAMEWORK— BUT NOT A CHECK-BOX PROGRAM.



- ROOTED IN LOVE, HOSPITALITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.



- SMALL EXPERIMENTS + RELATIONAL INVITATION = SUSTAINABLE GROWTH.



GETTING STARTED

On-Demand

All Webinar registrants will receive a link to a free 30-day trial

Live Workshop

Visit InviteWelcomeConnect.com/workshops for options and costs

Coaching

Visit InviteWelcomeConnect.com/bookacoach to meet our coaches and get more info

Free Consultation

Need some help getting started? Have more questions? Not sure what's the best option for your congregation?

Scan the QR code or visit

invitewelcomeconnect.com/LearnMore

to schedule a free 30-minute consultation



**Questions &
Conversation**



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