

DIOCESAN CONSULTATION TEAM

Report to 227th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania

The Diocesan Consultation Team, created in 2008, serves in an advisory capacity to the various governing bodies of the Diocese. Comprised of members of the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Finance and Property Committee, Clergy Salaries and Pensions, the Deans, and members of diocesan staff, it explores matters referred to it by the Bishops or these bodies. Such matters are typically but not always related to congregations with concerns. The purpose is to enable the governing bodies to respond in a more informed way to situations requiring immediate attention.

This group was originally designated the Mission Strategy Committee, with an intentionally short to medium range time horizon. Recognizing the need for long range planning as well, the Committee recommended to the 2009 the resolution creating the Diocesan Mission Planning Commission. Upon the unanimous passage of that resolution, the Committee changed its name to the Diocesan Consultation Team, to avoid any confusion with the new entity.

Typically, a congregation or an issue needing special attention is referred to the Consultation Team, which discusses the matter. A sub-team of two to four, sometimes adding a person outside the DCT such as a Dean or a consultant, is formed to meet with the congregation or others involved. In concert with them, a recommendation for next steps or action is developed and discussed by the full DCT, with the final recommendation going to the body which originally referred the matter.

The Consultation Team has worked with matters relating to parish mergers, relocations, and closures, strategic planning, stewardship, sale of property, use of endowments, emergency repairs, and congregational revitalization. The DCT makes neither decisions nor grants but seeks to help those bodies which do, and to give advice and encouragement to congregations seeking direction.

The present membership includes the Rev. Clergy Frank Allen, Reed Brinkman, Sherry Crompton, Alexander Graham, Ledlie Laughlin, Renee McKenzie Heyward, Isaac Miller, Joy Segal, Tom Wand, and James Wynn; Debora Brown, Alan Lindsay, Jill Mathis, Jeff Moretzsohn, and Rob Rogers.

Allen Bartlett
Chair