

DIOCESAN CONSULTATION TEAM REPORT to the 2010 Diocese of Pennsylvania Convention

The Diocesan Consultation Team was created in December 2008 to serve in an advisory capacity to the governing bodies of the Diocese. Comprised of members of the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Finance and Property Committee, and the Commission on Clergy Salaries and Pensions, and Deans, it receives matters recommended by the Bishops or any of these bodies. The Team explores the matters, consults with the relevant bodies and resources, and develops recommendations, reporting them back to the referring body for decision.

The Team, then known as the Mission Strategy Committee, initiated the resolution adopted unanimously at the 2009 Diocesan Convention, creating the Diocesan Mission Planning Commission to begin a more long range diocesan planning effort. The name "Diocesan Consultation Team" was then selected for this work, which is designed to assist the decision-making of governing bodies facing more immediate questions.

The Consultation Team worked closely through 2009 with St. Augustine's Church of the Covenant and Calvary Church, Northern Liberties, in their decision to merge, and endorsed the merger of Resurrection, Mayfair and Emmanuel, Holmesburg

In the past year the Team has worked with St. James', Green Ridge, the Church of the Advocate, the Church of the Crucifixion, and (very recently) Grace Epiphany in the development of their Strategic Plans. The Team was involved with the initial explorations of the now imminent move of All Saints', Darby, to the site of the former Trinity, Collingdale.

Members of the Team discussed with St. Martin's, Radnor, and All Saints, Rhawnhurst, their requests for permission to sell land or endowment and recommended approval. Recommendations concerning financial needs were also developed for Emmanuel, Quakertown, and St. James', Prospect Park.

The Consultation Team is currently in conversation with leadership at the House of Prayer, St. Simon the Cyrenian, Holy Trinity, Lansdale, and Redemption, Southampton, regarding their various situations. At St. Augustine of Hippo the conversation about the future has been broadened to include the other Norristown churches, All Saints' and St. John's.

An important work now in process is the articulation of a diocesan policy relating to how the substantial proceeds from the sale of closed churches should be allocated. The goal is a transparent, widely-understood policy furthering the mission of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted,
Allen Bartlett, Chair

Team members

The Rev. W. Franklin Allen

The Rev. Dr. C. Reed Brinkman

Ms. Debora Brown

The Rev. Sherry Crompton

The Very Rev. Alexander Graham IV

The Rev. Ledlie Laughlin

Mr. R. Alan Lindsay

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The Very Rev. Renee McKenzie-Hayward

The Rev. Isaac Miller

Mr. Jeffrey Moretzsohn

Mr. Robert Rogers, Jr.

The Rev. D. Joy Segal

The Rev. Thomas Wand

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