

**RESOLUTION FOR THE CONTINUATION OF  
THE DIOCESAN MISSION PLANNING COMMISSION**

**RESOLVED:** That this Convention authorize the continuation of the Diocesan Mission Planning Commission initially authorized at the 226<sup>th</sup> Convention of 2009. That resolution stated that the Commission should be "broadly representative of the diocese" and is to "review Christ's mission and ministry through the people of the Diocese of Pennsylvania; engage and consult diocesan leadership groups in an evaluation of these ministries, make recommendations for the future, and begin a process of reconciliation to help us move forward together in Christ;"

**RESOLVED:** That the core work of the Commission will include, as authorized at the 226<sup>th</sup> Convention in 2009:

1. Continuing a process of Christian reconciliation that would allow all members of the Diocese to move together into a new future;
2. Continuing the process of evaluating current missions and ministries and congregations, with appropriate recommendations for affirmation, reconfiguration or redevelopment;
3. Examining demographic, financial and cultural trends and their potential impact on future congregational mission and sustainability;
4. Envisioning creatively what new structures and ministry models Christ might lead us to in the future, including the establishing of new ministries, missions and congregations;
5. Reporting the preliminary findings and recommendations of the Commission to the 228<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention.

**RESOLVED:** That the Bishop, Standing Committee and the Diocesan Council continue to allocate up to \$50,000 specifically for the work of the Commission. Through 2010, approximately \$20,000 has been spent for consulting services from Kaleidoscope Institute and minor Commission support expenses, leaving about \$30,000 from the original authorization requiring funding until November of 2011. Additional gifts received for the work of the Commission will provide supplemental funds as necessary.

**RESOLVED:** That the membership of the Commission remain as currently constituted. Should a vacancy occur, the Commission will appoint a replacement as deemed appropriate.

**EXPLANATION:** The following three paragraphs are repeated from the Resolution of 2009:

"The Diocese of Pennsylvania has in recent years gone through a difficult time with some internal conflicts and the Inhibition and Trial of the Bishop, a process whose length is proving difficult to predict under canons new to the Episcopal Church. Some relationships have been severely tested, but by and large, congregations and ministries within the Diocese have continued faithfully and in many cases prospered. A number of diocesan groups have sought to give leadership and support to the people of the Diocese during this time, in various ways such as the Standing Committee's hearings, the Council of Deans' retreat for clergy, the Diocesan Convention's small group discussions, the

Urban Strategy Task Force, the 2020 Committee's analysis of trends, and the Mission Strategy Committee's work with congregations facing challenges.

"We, the signatories, as well as many others in Diocesan leadership, believe it best that the Diocese of Pennsylvania move forward together in order to address our needs for reconciliation, strengthening our many fine ministries, and to look with open eyes and hearts to the future toward which Christ calls us. By passing this resolution, Convention will provide the structural mechanism for the consolidation and continuation of the good work and energy which has already begun.

"This resolution is intended to launch a wide-ranging, in depth look at what is going on in this strong diocese, in the Church at large, and in the wider society. The work of this Commission will focus primarily on a process of information gathering and data assessment. The results of this effort will be used to provide a foundation for prayerful vision-casting; dreaming and articulation what might be the Church of the future - grounded in the particular gifts of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Pennsylvania have to offer. It should be noted, this resolution is offered with the expresses intent of providing both findings and recommendations at the 2010 Convention. Finally, and more immediately, the resolution asks the new Commission to oversee and consolidate the continued process of reconciliation within the Diocese, possibly involving other leadership, acknowledging that such reconciliation may not be complete for some years. This major effort, which assumes some large meetings, several consultants, and clear reporting to the Diocese, will need substantial funding as referenced in the resolution."

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On August 4, 2010, the Court of Review issued a Final Judgment in favor of Bishop Bennison reversing the judgment of the Trial Court. Under the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the inhibition imposed by the Presiding Bishop expired upon the entry of the final judgment by the Court of Review. Bishop Bennison returned to Church House on Monday, August 16, 2010. Subsequently, through telephone conversations and a meeting with Commission leadership, Bishop Bennison agreed to continuation of the Commission's work with participation of the Bishop only at the request of the Commission.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Resolution for the Formation of the Diocesan Mission Planning Commission, Resolution R-6-2009, authorized by the 226th Diocesan Convention.
2. Report of the Diocesan Mission Planning Commission to the 227th Diocesan Convention, November, 2010.
3. Two references included in the 2009 resolution referring to formation meetings that led to the resolution submitted in 2009.

**Submitted by:**

**The Steering Committee of the Diocesan Mission Planning Commission:**

**The Rev. John Sorensen**, Chair; Diocesan Council, Rector, Saint John's, Glen Mills  
**Jack Henn**, Diocesan Council, F & P, Lay, St. Christopher's Church, Gladwyne  
**Kathleen Walter**, Rector, St. Jude and the Nativity  
**Emily Wolf**, Vestry, Trinity, Solebury

### **Members of the Diocesan Mission Planning Commission**

Sam Adu-Andoh, Standing Committee, Rector, Church of St. Andre and St. Monica  
Jennie Anderson, Rector, Church of the Epiphany, Royersford  
Kathryn A. Andonian, Diocesan Council, Rector, Church of the Holy Spirit  
Anne H. Bridgers, Rector, St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley  
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Norman McCausland, Standing Committee, Lay, Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli  
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Emily Richards, Rector, St. Peter's Church, Glenside  
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### **Diocesan Council**