

Substitute Resolution “D” (2005) From the Evangelism Commission

RESOLVED

This 134th Convention of the Diocese of Bethlehem thanks the many people of this diocese for their hard work in preparing us for the work of restoring mission as our central priority, including the parishes who developed and shared their mission statements, the continued prayers of all the congregations, and the laity, clergy and diocesan staff who took part in joint meetings with the Evangelism Commission in the past year.

This convention accepts the report and recommendations of the Evangelism Commission in their planning to evangelize Northeast Pennsylvania and it is FURTHER RESOLVED

1. This convention continues to reaffirm the central responsibility of every congregation to nurture and equip the followers of Jesus Christ to proclaim in word and deed the Gospel though
 - hospitality and welcome into our parishes
 - witness to our communities.
2. Commends the Evangelism Commission in their planning for evangelizing Northeast Pennsylvania and commends the resources of the Commission and their report to Convention for study and action within each parish.
3. Asks each congregation to identify two or more lay leaders gifted in hospitality and witness to work with their clergy in leading their parishes to become a greater presence and witness in their communities, and that these members take part in regional training events in evangelism to take place before September 1, 2006.
4. Directs the Evangelism Commission to lead regional training sessions around the Diocese for these identified lay leaders and for clergy and to follow up with those same congregations in the next program year.
5. Asks all members of this diocese to undertake serious study in Evangelism, using a variety of resources including these lay leaders after their training, and through other resources of the Church.
6. **This convention directs the Evangelism Commission in concert with other Diocesan Committees and local congregations to create innovative gatherings around the Diocese as a way to foster conversation with people outside the church and to bear witness to the Good News. This convention pledges Diocesan and local support to those communities as they emerge.**
7. Asks that the Evangelism, Communication, Congregational Development and Stewardship Commissions continue to work together throughout the year to develop common strategies.
8. Asks the Bishop to direct that the following collect continue to be included after the Collect for the Day at all services in this Diocese on the first Sunday of each month, and at other times as may be possible:

[Rite II]

“Holy God, your Son called us to wrap the whole world in your saving embrace. By your Holy Spirit give us compassion, purpose and energy to invite into your Church those who do not yet know the transforming power of your love. We ask this through Him who has brought us from darkness to light, your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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OR

[1928/Rite I]

“Holy God, thy Son has called us to wrap the whole world in thy saving embrace. Through the effectual working of thy Spirit, grant unto us compassion, purpose and energy to invite into thy Church those who do not yet know the transforming power of thy love. We ask this through Him who has brought us out of darkness into light, thy Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.”

9. Asks that the Diocesan Council and the Evangelism Commission work together to bring the Diocese together for a common celebration of our identity and mission in 2007.
10. Directs that the narrative of the Diocesan Budget continue to be expressed in terms of mission.
11. Directs that Congregational Development grants to be hereinafter based on a demonstrated commitment to mission **beginning in 2007**.