

RESOLVED

This convention thanks the clergy of the Diocese for their careful study of *Reclaiming the Great Commission*, and noting their enthusiasm and energy for restoring mission as our central priority, it is FURTHER RESOLVED:

- 1) This convention reaffirms the central responsibility of every congregation so to nurture and equip the followers of Jesus Christ that they may have maximum direction and zeal to represent Christ in and to the world.
- 2) Charges the Evangelism Committee to propose to the 2005 Convention a detailed plan for how we may move ahead together to spread the gospel in Northeast Pennsylvania.
- 3) Asks the Evangelism and Congregational Development committees to forward by February 1, 2005, an audit form that each congregation may use annually to assess its own Sunday worship experience in terms of welcome, accessibility, and clarity for newcomers, and to discuss the results of these audits within the parish so that each parish can maximize its welcome.
- 4) Asks each parish to provide means for individuals to assess their spiritual gifts, and for the parish to assess its communal assets for sharing the gospel.
- 5) Asks the Evangelism Committee to assemble a directory of resources for parishes seeking to improve their evangelism by Lent of 2005.
- 6) Asks Diocesan Council and the Commission on Ministry, together with the bishop, to provide at the 2005 Training Day, training and resources for clergy on the evangelism aspects of preaching and pastoral care.
- 7) Asks Diocesan Council and the Commission on Ministry, together with the bishop, to provide at the 2005 Training Day, training and resources for lay people who have pastoral ministries in the evangelism aspects of their ministry.
- 8) Ask each parish to produce a purpose statement summarizing their mission in seven or fewer words before Ash Wednesday of 2005 for inclusion in the Easter issue of Diocesan Life.
- 9) Asks the Bishop to direct that the following collect be included after the Collect for the Day at all services in this Diocese on the first Sunday of each month, and on 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.

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.”

- 10) Asks that in Lent of 2005 the Evangelism, Stewardship, and Communication committees meet jointly to develop common strategies.
- 11) Asks that Diocesan Council, the Evangelism Committee, consider ways to bring the Diocese together for a common celebration of our identity and mission.
- 12) Directs that the priority for Congregational Development grants be demonstrated commitment to mission.
- 13) Directs that the narrative portion of the Diocesan Budget continue to be expressed in terms of mission.

Moved by the Bishop and Diocesan Council
7/22/04