
The Mission Council serves as a leadership body for ECCT’s common participation in God’s mission, using common resources, between sessions of the Annual Convention. Membership of the Mission Council includes lay and clergy members from each region and nine members from Ministry Networks, and the officers of ECCT. Our Mission Council afternoon gatherings follow a Leadership Gathering of Mission Council, Standing Commission, and Trusts & Bequests and are a model of collaboration. We are responsible for oversight of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut between Annual Meetings. To this end, the Mission Council met quarterly on December 3, 2016, March 18, 2017, June 10, 2017, and September 9, 2017, The Mission Council also gathered on January 21, 2017, for a workday devoted to visioning and planning for work for the coming year. Among the actions of the Mission Council were:

Annual Convention 2016 provided Mission Council with a variety of resolutions and reports that helped shape the work of Mission Council. The second reading of the revised Constitution adjusted our structure. The Resolution 4 Work Group responded to Next Steps in God’s Mission is providing a report to Annual Convention 2017. The Gun-Free Zones Resolution Work Group submitted a proposed policy that was approved at the September Mission Council meeting. The resolution regarding “Sabbatical Leave for Priests and Other Ministry Leaders” was addressed by the Finance Committee and additional study is underway.

Collaboration for Mission continued to be a focus for the work of Mission Council. Region Leadership Team development and region governance; Region Convocations; the selection, hiring and introduction of Region Missionaries; and the continued exploration of Missional Curacies are among the initiatives engaging individuals and worshipping communities in collaborative action.

Mission Council administrative duties included approval of minutes of previous Mission Council meetings; established Dropbox as our communications vehicle for meeting materials; approved updates to the ECCT Human Resources Manual; gave consent to the election of the lay members of the Cathedral Chapter; updated the recommended Sex Offender Policy; approved the restoration of the Seabury Miter; and received an overview of the Bishop Diocesan’s performance evaluation. Mission Council received
reports and updates regarding Camp Washington including program enhancements, availability of scholarships and took action to provide for needed capital improvements.

Among the financial actions taken by the Mission Council were: reception and approval of quarterly financial reports and Finance Committee meeting minutes; approval of Clergy Housing Allowances for ECCT Staff (clergy); appointed members of the Finance Committee; approved VCCR as the ECCT Auditor; approved the “Proposed Minimum Clergy Salary” resolution for Convention; received reports on parish compliance with requirements for good standing; approved “ECCT Policies Regarding Parish Management of Investment Assets.”; moved the Hale Colton Trust to D&B management; and recommended the proposed Budget of Convention.

The Mission Council, at the request of the appropriate screening committees approved a number of grants and funds allocations.

From the Trinity Fund Committee Grants for 2017, grants were approved for:

- The Norwalk Mentor Program
- Christ Episcopal Church, East Norwalk
- Triangle Community Center, Norwalk
- St. Paul’s on the Green - Trinity Mission.

From the Jack Spaeth/Environmental Grants Fund, grants were approved for:

- The Camp Washington Alumni Christmas Tree Farm;
- St Paul’s, Southington - The Southington Common Good Garden;
- Trinity Church Hartford and Trinity Academy Elementary School;
- Trinity Episcopal Church and School, Southport;

Mission Development Grants were made to:

- New Life Ministries of SECT;
- Misa para Esperanza y Vida
- Developing a Young Adult Ministry in New Haven.

Sustainable Development Grants and Missionary Society funds were also allocated to:

- St. Luke’s, New Haven
- Church of the Holy Trinity, Middletown.

The Mission Council also affirmed the recommendations of the Loan Review Board for:

- Christ Church Middle Haddam
- Grace Church, Trumbull.
The Mission Council was informed by presentations by the following worshipping communities and organizations: St. Andrew’s in New Haven; St. John’s, Bristol; St. John’s, Vernon and St. John’s, East Hartford; and the Episcopal Service Corps.

Issues of Governance and Structure were addressed by the establishment of the Faith and Order Committee of Mission Council with specific direction to address the Episcopal election process and propose changes to the ECCT Canons to reflect the present organizational structures and Mission Council approved policies.

The Mission Council received reports and took action as necessary regarding the following properties: Christ Church, Canaan; St. John’s, Sandy Hook; St. Andrew’s, New Haven; St. John’s, Vernon and St. John’s, East Hartford; Robert’s Street in Bridgeport; Berg Home; St. John’s, Sandy Hook; and received an overview of all properties held in the name of the Missionary Society.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Sandra L. Cosman
Secretary of the Diocese and Mission Council