



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

Question #1:

How do we meaningfully engage ECCT in the existing work of serving God's mission among the poor & marginalized?

Description of work done and findings:

We based our work on small group discussion in a World Café structure. This allowed a diversity of sharing across regions, generations, and perspectives as we moved from table to table. By relating to one another, sitting together in intimate conversation, we learned to listen.

We spoke about the importance of deeply, spiritually listening to the needs of vulnerable people, marginalized or poor or whoever they may be. Marginalization comes in a variety of forms, and the most profound way to dissolve these boundaries is to respect and restore the dignity of every human. We are called to work *with* rather than *for* people, just as Jesus walked with us. Justice can occur on such a base level by listening to people in need, and addressing the roots of those needs instead of enacting topical solutions.

Next steps:

1. We will conduct a community needs assessment for the ECCT based on demographics so that we can understand the needs of underrepresented groups in our church and beyond.
2. We will create a ministry network, and we ask that the mission council and region missionaries engage with it. This network will focus on the broad issues of the vulnerable, poor, and marginalized.
 - a. This network will address these issues, pool resources, and together determine best practices.
 - b. This network will also create conversation between congregations and neighboring communities on a parish level.
3. We will create regional forums for open, intergenerational communication between young adults (especially ages 18-39) and others within congregations to empower everyone in leadership and justice work. We invite the mission council and regional missionaries to join us in this effort.
 - a. Young adults 18-39 feel particularly marginalized and excluded from our churches, and we will strive to include them here.
4. We commit to making a fundamental effort at the parish level to focus on the vulnerable, poor, and marginalized. We invite the mission council and regional missionaries to join us in this effort. This could include:
 - a. Advocacy from the pulpit,
 - b. Personal interactions between parishioners and neighbors,
 - c. Creating a willingness to go into unfamiliar places to do the work of God's mission,
 - d. Calling in the expertise (non-profit or secular) to help us do this work,
 - e. Focusing ecumenically, not just within our denomination.

Action needed from convention:

The convention will fund a Needs Assessment as described in Item 1 above from the contingency fund.

Status of action requested at 234th Annual Convention: Approved/adopted