The Merger of Grace Church Broad Brook and Grace Church Windsor

Submitted by: Ian Rickard, Deborah Hutchinson, Gail Ladany, Steven Bethke and The Reverend Harry A. Elliott III

RESOLVED, that the 235th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut ratifies the merger into one parish of Grace Episcopal Church of Broad Brook and Grace Episcopal Church of Windsor, such merger having been approved by, and undertaken in the manner and under the conditions required by, the Bishops and Standing Committee in keeping with Canon I, Section 13 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the resulting parish shall be a single ecclesiastical corporation possessing all the rights, privileges, immunities, franchises and obligations of each of the merging Parishes, and all the rights and interests in property belonging to or due to each of the parishes so merged shall be vested in such resulting parish without further act or deed, in accordance with Canon I, Section 13 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the resulting merged parish shall be named Grace Episcopal Church of Windsor.

Explanation:
Seeking a better way to live into God’s mission, Grace Episcopal Church, Broad Brook, was able to find a partner with which to worship and work. Welcoming its sister parish into union, Grace Episcopal Church, Windsor, found new vibrancy. Together, the new parish is finding challenge, strength and new spiritual gifts as it stretches into new ways to be God’s people on journey of faith in God’s mission.
How does this Resolution further God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation with all of creation?

Two years ago at this convention, the merger of the two St. John’s into one parish was celebrated. The answer they gave to this question speaks eloquently for us as well.

The merger of the two parishes serves to further God’s mission in the world in several ways. It consolidates the mission activities of the two parishes thereby freeing support and maintenance resources to be used in missional activities, putting faith into action. It allows for normal operations to be combined (one building to heat, one newsletter to print, etc.) in ways that decrease their negative impact on the creation. It brings together people of diverse history and backgrounds to discover in one another both the opportunity and means for the breaking down of barriers and the increase of mutual understanding. Perhaps most importantly, it redirects energy that was spent on worry about parish survival into the furtherance of God’s mission in the communities served. And it reveals the essential truth that the Body of Christ, the beloved community, is always so much more than a building.

Statement of Requirements to Implement the Resolution:
This resolution does not require any funding or further action by the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.