The Merger of Church of Our Saviour, Plainville and St. John's, Bristol

Submitted by: Margit Bobman, Jeff Burdelski, Stephen Karwowski, Laurie Myska, David Woodford and the Rev. Link Hullar

RESOLVED, that the 235rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut ratifies the merger into one parish of Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church of Plainville and Saint John's Episcopal Church of Bristol, 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 Good Shepherd Episcopal Church.

Explanation:
Combining the two parishes allows us to combine our resources (people, property and finances) to better follow God into the neighborhoods of Bristol and Plainville. Either church standing alone spends most of its energy focusing on keeping the lights on and the doors open. Together we can explore opportunities to spread God’s love into our neighborhoods.
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.”

One of our goals moving forward is to be able to offer grants to organizations that are already doing God’s work in our neighborhoods. This will help us engage our people to get out into the communities of Bristol and Plainville and hopefully encourage others from the community to join us in worshipping God.

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