COMMITTEE REPORT
MISSION WITH THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED

A committee on Serving God’s Mission with the Poor & Marginalized was convened in response to the convention question: “How do we meaningfully engage ECCT in the existing work of serving God’s mission among the poor & marginalized?”

This group agreed that next steps would be

1. To conduct a community needs assessment for the ECCT based on demographics so that we may understand the needs of underrepresented groups in our church and beyond.
2. Create a ministry network, and 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. Address these issues, pool resources, and together determine best practices.
   b. Create conversation between congregations and neighboring communities on a parish level.
3. Create regional forums for open, intergenerational communication between young adults 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. Commit to making a fundamental effort at the parish level to focus on the vulnerable, poor, and marginalized. Invite the mission council and regional missionaries to join us in this effort. This
   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

A group met at The Commons on January 26, 2019. Due to several gatherings scheduled for that day in ECCT, the attendance was lower than expected with 11 people present. The group decided to act on developing a strategy for assessing the needs of the Poor and Marginalized related to housing, transportation and food. We
identified the regional structures in ECCT: 6 Regions, 168 Parishes, Not for Profits and City/Town Organization. A list of potential partners was developed and invitations were sent out to attend our next meeting.

A second meeting was held in May with 6 attendees. The need to have Regional Missionaries on Board was apparent. Please note that during this time 3 Missionary positions were terminating and would need to be filled. Two deacons were in attendance and the suggestion was made to collaborate with City/Town agencies.

It was proposed that the next meeting should be held near the Yale University Campus, so as to take advantage of interest on the part of members of the Episcopal Church at Yale. Attempts to arrange that meeting failed, as did attempts to find a mutually convenient time in the schedules of the ECCT deacons and the Missioners.

The committee was originally hosted by different conveners. Attendance was not good enough at the May meeting to hold elections for a committee chair and secretary.

An email was sent out to all who had an original interest to join this group for their availability to attend a meeting. Only a few people responded. Given the expansion of Joining Jesus in the New Millennial Age, Regions Networking for Mission and individual parishes participating in Mission, it is felt that there is not enough energy at this time to further support another group assessing what more can be done to meet the needs of the poor and marginalized. It is suggested that the above groups work in collaboration to determine what can be done as they expand God’s Mission outside the walls of the church by being with and working with others.

Submitted by the conveners:
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