



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL/MISSION COUNCIL: 2015-2016

During 2016 and with God's help, the work of implementing the structural and functional changes brought about through the work of the Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (TREC-CT) was advanced and our vision of participating in God's Mission as Disciples and Apostles came more fully into focus.

The conclusion of the work of the Executive Council and the inaugural meeting of the Mission Council took place this year in the context of the quarterly Leadership Gatherings. Leadership Gatherings are a collaborative event for the members of the Executive/Mission Council, the Commission on Ministry, Donations & Bequests, and the Standing Committee. For each Leadership Gathering, a planning team consisting of representatives from each of the four governing bodies, our bishops, and members of the ECCT staff develops a plan for the morning activities that include developing our leaders' ability to catalyze, convene, connect, and expand capabilities. The morning sessions of Leadership Gatherings generally include prayer, dwelling in the word (scripture contemplation), one on one discussions, affinity group sessions, didactic presentations, and plenary sessions with midday worship and lunch following. After lunch, the four leadership groups meet separately with the opportunity for collaboration available as needed.

The Executive Council and Mission Council met at the Commons as follows:

- December 2, 2015 – Executive Council
- February 27, 2016 – Executive Council
- June 4, 2016 – Executive Council
- September 10, 2016 – Mission Council

Members of the Executive Council also participated in the six Region Convocations and the Ministry Network Convocation.

The Mission Council replaces the Executive Council and the Board of the Missionary Society, and serves as ECCT's governing body between Annual Conventions. The Mission Council members include:

- Nine (9) members who will be elected by Annual Convention from the Ministry Networks. At the final meeting of the Executive Council a slate of eighteen (18)

people were nominated by the bishops and nine (9) were elected to serve until the Annual Convention in November 2016. At the Annual Convention a slate will be presented and a rota of service terms will be established.

- Twelve (12) members selected at each of the six Region Convocations to include one clergyperson and one layperson from each region.
- The Bishops, Treasurer, Chancellor, Secretary of the Diocese, and the Secretary of the Convention.

The Mission Council is responsible for financial oversight of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, and serves as a leadership body for ECCT's common participation in God's mission, using common resources, between sessions of the Annual Convention. Among the actions of the Mission Council are:

- Financial oversight of our common resources, including the approval of the ECCT annual budget and the reception of quarterly financial reports.
- Approval of loans from the Revolving Loan Fund.
- Ratification of grants for the Sustainable Development Grant Fund, the Jack Spaeth Creation Fund, the Trinity and Harrub Funds, and the Mission Development Fund.
- Adoption of ECCT human resources policies and guidelines, including Safe Church and Integrity policies including approval of the ECCT Sex Offender Policy and the ECCT Vulnerable Adults Policy.
- Approval of actions involving property matters, including sales of properties held by the Missionary Society.
- Appointment of Mission Council Representatives to various committees, including the Missional Curacy Committee.
- Communication of the work of ECCT and our participation in God's Mission.

It is a blessing and a privilege to participate in God's mission of restoration and reconciliation in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra L. Cosman", followed by a small plus sign.

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