



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

Let's get missional: Reorganizing to more fully participate in God's mission

Last fall a taskforce delivered its recommendations for "how we can transform the way we structure and govern ourselves to more effectively catalyze, connect, convene, and build capability as the Body of Christ in Connecticut in support of God's mission."

They presented resolutions at the Annual Meeting in November 2015, which passed. Those specified that the transition to the new organization and structure will take place in the first six months of 2016.

For the Final Report, map, and more, see: <http://bit.ly/1LCx46X>

What changes:

1. **Six Regions** replace the current 14 deaneries, many of which no longer function, and we re-imagine the Regions as mission areas
2. A **Region Missionary**, funded by the ECCT budget of Convention, raised up and hired by each Region to facilitate working together to serve God's mission in that Region
3. **Ministry Networks** are formally recognized, encouraged, and included in governance. These are historic or grassroots groups of two or more people serving God's mission, collaborating, from two or more parishes in ECCT.
4. A **Mission Council** replaces the Executive Council and Missionary Society. Two from each Region (one lay, one ordained) and nine from different Ministry networks, serve along with the bishops and other ECCT officers. Regions choose whom to send; Convention elects those from Ministry Networks
5. **Mission Council members** serve the common life and witness of ECCT, with its common resources, instead of a narrower interest.
6. **Annual Convention** includes sharing stories from Regions and from Ministry Networks.

What doesn't change:

1. *Structures and organization required by the canons of The Episcopal Church*, such as the Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, General Convention deputations, Province One representation, etc.
2. *Structures and organizations required by the canons of ECCT*, such as Annual Convention (all ECCT clergy and two elected lay delegates from each parish and worshipping community), Secretary of the Diocese and of Convention, Missionary Society funds, Donations & Bequests, Inc., etc.

What could change:

1. Existing committees, agencies, and boards – and even existing deaneries – are invited to consider whether to reorganize as a Ministry Network
2. Many additional Ministry Networks could emerge; some will be temporary, some will have additional non-Episcopal partners. There is no official vetting action required to create, expand, or end a Ministry Network.
3. Much more collaborative ministry could take place within Regions, and across Regions, serving God's mission, spurred by Ministry Networks, Region Missionaries, and the Holy Spirit.



What's the timetable for all this?

1. First six months of 2016. Regions will be established through a one or two-day "Region Convocation" in April, May, or June of 2016. The date for each Region is set; the location and format of the Convocation will be determined by people in that Region. The Convocation will determine how to select members for the Mission Council and how to create a job description for the Region Missionary. By June 30 the Mission Council members should be selected and the missionary hired.
2. Ministry Networks, existing and emerging, will be invited to a Ministry Network Convocation before June 30. The date and location are not yet set. The Convocation will provide opportunity to discuss mission concerns and identify those who could serve on an initial Mission Council until Convention 2016, when a slate will be elected.
3. Deaneries will sunset on June 30, 2016.
4. The Executive Council will sunset on June 30, 2016.

Who is helping with this transition?

A transition team, "T³," was named by bishops, canons, and members of the Standing Committee. It includes people from each of the new Regions and three from Ministry Networks. It includes priests, deacons, and laity, bishops and officers. Some served on the previous Taskforce and others bring fresh perspective. Each are assigned to sub-teams. Members include:

- The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Bishop Diocesan
- The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan
- The Rev. Sandra Cosman, Secretary of the Diocese
- The Rev. Adam Yates, Secretary of Convention
- Brad Babbitt, Chancellor

- The Rev. Tim Hodapp, Canon for Mission Collaboration
- Karin Hamilton, Canon for Mission Communication & Media

From Regions:

- The Rev. Marilyn Anderson, Christ Church, Redding
- The Rev. John Burton, St. Paul's, Windham Center
- Clint Dixon, St. James', Glastonbury
- The Rev. Jack Gilpin, St. John's, New Milford
- Jane Hale, Christ Church, Pomfret
- The Rev. Rowena Kemp, Trinity, New Haven
- The Rev. Ron Kolanowski, St. James', Poquetanuck
- Cathy Schrull, St. Paul's, Brookfield
- Shirley Wick, Calvary, Stonington

From Ministry Networks:

- Valzie Peterkin, Episcopal Church Women
- Deacon Diane Peterson, Bridgeport Deanery Missioner (now Bridgeport Ministry Network)
- Deacon Don Richie, emerging Ecclesia Ministry Network in New Britain area

SAVE THE DATES FOR YOUR CONVOCATION:

- **Northeast Region: April 22-23**
- **South Central Region: May 6-7**
- **Southwest Region: May 13-14**
- **Southeast Region: May 20-21**
- **North Central Region: June 10-11**
- **Northwest: June 24-25**

Ministry Network Convocation: TBD
