

Resolution Number: R2- Create a Missional Review Working Group (As Amended)

From: The Rev. Sharon Alexander, Trinity Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge

Purpose: To create a working group to address the questions of congregational vitality and viability raised in the Assessment Study Committee Report of September 1, 2017

Resolution:

Resolved that the 180th Convention approve the development of a Missional Review Working Group system to help congregations address questions of congregational vitality and viability raised in the Assessment Study Committee Report of September 1, 2017, and other similar concerns that the Executive Board may deem appropriate; and

Further resolved, that each Missional Review Working Group formed shall work with congregations that are struggling to meet financial and other obligations, thereby hindering their ability to engage in ministry; and

Further resolved, that a Missional Review Working Group shall be appointed to work with a congregation upon request of the congregation or as determined by the Bishop and the Executive Board and local Vestry; and

Further resolved, that the Executive Board shall identify lay persons and clergy from across the diocese representing a diversity of skills, training and experience in areas such as finance and budgeting, stewardship, property and facilities, communications, technology, law, human resources, organizational structure and processes, church polity, and other relevant areas, such lay persons and clergy to be appointed to a Missional Review Working Group as needed; and

Further resolved, that upon completion of a missional review, the Missional Review Working Group shall promptly prepare a report containing observations, analysis and recommendations for presentation to the Executive Board.

Further resolved should the Missional Review Working group take longer than 6 months to complete the review an interim report shall be submitted each six months to the Executive Board and local Vestry.

Explanation:

The Assessment Study Committee Report raises concerns about congregations that are struggling to meet all their financial and other obligations, thereby hindering their ability to engage in ministry. On page 4 the fourth bullet point provides as follows:

Several parishes expressed concern about how to resolve the fierce tension between flat or declining church budgets, congregational attendance, and aging congregations with the ever-increasing financial obligations of clergy and lay compensation, insurance costs, and maintenance of aging church plants. There is a sense that the “old” way of “doing business” will have to give way to a new model. Although, it is unclear what that new model might look like.

The Missional Review Working Group can play a critical role in helping congregations address these concerns and help the diocese explore potential new models to help congregations move toward vitality in their ministries and financial stability.

Support Documentation: Assessment Study Committee Report (September 1, 2017)