

Commissions and Task Forces Purpose and Goals

Affirmative Aging

Purpose: to enrich the lives of aging individuals and the caregivers of elderly persons who may be vulnerable, at risk or dependent in one or more spheres of life.

Goals:

- Support/assist individuals or groups striving to lead meaningful lives as they age
- Enhance the physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects of life for aging individuals who may experience challenges
- Support/assist diocesan entities to develop positive attitudes toward the aging population
- Promote cooperative ministries for the aging population between all diocesan entities

Chair: The Rev. Marie Butterbaugh, St. John's, Pensacola

Church Development Task Force

Purpose: to discover the methods and means to enable the congregations of our diocese to become vibrant congregations. We seek to bring the "Good News" to life so that the Kingdom of God will be made manifest through our actions of revitalization.

Goals:

- Beginning Goal- to ask new questions in order to help revitalize those churches who seek revitalization, and in so doing, develop methods and best practices that will foster congregational vitality
- Ultimate Goal- is resourcing congregations so that they might become (or remain) vital and healthy – by offering classes, seminars and helpful tools

Chair: The Rev. Dr. Margaret Shepard, St. Andrew's, Panama City

Cursillo

Purpose: to build up our parish churches by encouraging and empowering its members to prepare for doing the work of the church- the spreading of the Gospel.

Goals:

- Ensure that every parish across the Diocese has a parish liaison in place
- Be more strategic with our Ultreyas (location wise across the Diocese and communicating the events that we are focused on) More is not necessarily better. But more importantly making sure that whatever we put our name on we do it well!
- Make sure that all parishes have the tools (and support) to host Ultreyas
- Commit to having a staff training session every year
- Make sure that more pilgrims are in reunion groups and then get the opportunity to serve on staffs

Chair: Scott Thompson, St. James', Fairhope

Diocesan Missions

Purpose: be a voice for small congregations in the Diocese so that the congregations feel that they are a part of the Diocese and not alone. The goal would be to spread the word that it is alright not to be a big congregation in order make a difference in its community. This goal is one way that the Commission is important to the overall goals of the Diocese

Goals:

- Submit articles to the Coastline to share ideas and answer questions from small congregations
- Set up an "Angel List". Ideally this list would be a way to share resource information with other small congregations. The list would have information on materials that one congregation would like to share or information on individuals who have skills to share. The congregations would be able to work together to solve some of the maintenance work or program needs that they face using a type of barter system
- Annual Conference for Small Congregations will continue to be a large part of the Commission's work

Chair: Lynn Ferren, St. Patrick's, Panama City

Environment

Purpose: to encourage congregations in the diocese to live out the call to care for God's creation through service opportunities, education, and awareness.

Goals:

- Regular meetings (bi-monthly) in Pensacola and via virtual means when necessary
- Regular communication amongst members via email
- Members will reach out to each church in the diocese to assess their needs, what they would like to see from the Commission, and where they currently are "environmentally"
- Commission will sponsor a fun and educational environmental event such as the Weeks Bay tour or the Delta tour
- Members will provide spotlight and/or educational articles for the Coastline
- Commission chair will visit with churches and preach on the biblical imperative to care for the Earth (by invitation)

Chair: Elizabeth MacWhinnie, St. Monica's, Cantonment

Episcopal Church Women

Purpose: to strengthen the spiritual lives of the women of the diocese and to provide useful direction in women's activities, especially in the area of Christian Education, Outreach, and coordinating the efforts of women within the Diocese.

Goal:

- Schedule and offer at least two Diocesan-wide meetings each year, preferably, one in the spring and one in the fall. One of these meetings should be designed to reach the working-women and therefore, held on the weekend

Chair: Becky Taylor-Scott, Nativity, Dothan

Liturgy and Allied Arts

Purpose: serves as a resource to the diocese in three areas: communication, facilitation and education

Goals:

- To create a functioning resource space on the Diocesan website, related to liturgy, music and art
- To offer help to other groups with events such as Diocesan Acolyte Festival (Aug. 20), Altar Guild and ECW workshops
- To plan and present a workshop for church musicians/choir members - September 2016
- To be a clearinghouse for communication to the diocese about liturgical/musical/art events at individual churches

Chair: open

Peace, Justice and Racial Reconciliation

Purpose: seeks to answer two critical questions for the people of this Diocese: What issues of justice face our communities? and What can we do about it? Many of the problems which confront us are systemic and complex, but this Commission hopes to be able to present ways in which the people of our Diocese can engage and help begin to transform our congregations, neighborhoods, cities, and towns. We affirm our baptismal vows to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to strive for justice and peace among all peoples. Our work is controversial, it is complex, and it requires self-examination and repentance. None of which are reasons to avoid this critical aspect of our vocation in Christ Jesus. We strive to find ways in which our call to join in proclaiming the Gospel transcends and breaks down the artificial divisions of this world. The Scriptures remind us that this endeavor is at the heart of our call to proclaim the kingdom of God through the Good News of God in Christ Jesus. Reinhold Niebuhr once wrote, "God's dream for the world is love, and the means of love is justice." We serve to help congregations and individuals discern ways in which they can help God's dream become our reality.

Goals:

- Re-engage with the organizing of the Jonathan Myrick Daniels and Civil Rights Martyrs of Alabama pilgrimage in Hayneville
- Propose a resolution that all members of the Standing Committee and all Diocesan Chairs of all CCAB's participate in Anti-Racism Training
- Have members write monthly pieces on justice issues and how they are being addressed in our communities
- Explore and communicate what resources are available to congregations and communities through the DFMS/National Church and Province IV structures

Chair: The Rev. Peter Wong, Nativity, Dothan

Planned Giving and Stewardship

Purpose: to shape stewardship and planned giving best practices for parishes in the Diocese of the Central Gulf. This includes identifying tools and resources that can be provided to our churches via the Diocesan website as well as a **Shepherding Program** that assists parishes in

planning campaigns. Members of this commission will be active Shepherds, visiting churches in their region (when requested) to mentor stewardship chairs and co-chairs. Optimally each region will have one to two shepherds

Goals:

- Attend monthly commission meetings via Skype. (Beginning June 30, 2016)
- Help the Commission Chair identify and document best practices for the diocese (initially TENS resources will be used)
- Contact church clergy in their region to encourage early identification of stewardship chairs for the year
- Mentor parish stewardship chairs to encourage planning, promoting and coordinating church- wide stewardship goals and milestones
- Visit churches if requested to consult on stewardship practices with a limit of two churches visited per campaign year. Shepherds may invite other churches in their region to attend in one location. (Churches will be asked to reimburse mileage per IRS standard but otherwise this service is a ministry and fee-free)
- Encourage stewardship chairs in their region to use the best practices that will be developed and published by the commission on our diocesan website
- Follow up with stewardship chairs to see if milestones are being met during their campaigns
- Communicate diocese expectations on giving through discussions with clergy (Commission Chair or Bishop)

Chair: The Rev. Jessica Babcock, Christ Church, Pensacola

Prison Ministry

Purpose: it is our Vision to be guided, governed, encouraged, and inspired by the words of Jesus in Matthew 25; *"...when I was in prison, you came and visited me....in as much as you do it to one of the least of these, you did it unto me."* We will also be guided by the Baptismal vows, which we have taken as members of the Episcopal Church and the Christian faith.

Mission- We will endeavor to carry out our vision by being the conscience of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and the larger Church, and bring to the attention of our members and others the wrongs in the whole of the criminal justice system. We will do so through speaking, writing articles, advocating in both person and writing, and encouraging the use of the Prison Cycle of Prayer.

Goals:

- Conduct visitations and services within the prison walls
- Be members of formal prison ministries such as Kairos and Prison Visitation and Support
- Write letters to those who are incarcerated, and encourage others to do likewise
- Join local "Ban the Box" (BtB) campaigns to remove questions about arrest records in on-line and written job application forms
- Advocate for immediate return of the right to vote for those who have served their sentences and left prison

Chair: The Rev. Deacon Ed Richards, St. Thomas-by-the-Sea, Laguna Beach

School for Ministry Task Force

Purpose: to plan and implement a School for Ministry in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast that will provide local education/formation for both priests and deacons in the diocesan setting

Goals:

- Review existing programs of education/formation for clergy in other dioceses
- Review multi-diocesan approaches to education/formation of clergy
- Develop local curriculum and field experiences for education/formation
- Initiate program in Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast in Fall, 2017

Chair: The Rev. Al Pruitt, St. Agatha's, DeFuniak Springs

World Mission

Purpose: World Mission - seek ways in which our Diocese can spread the gospel by building relationships with our brothers and sisters at home and abroad and, working together, inspire hope by nurturing spiritual, physical and health care needs; **Construction Mission Ministry** - build pews and other church furniture for Episcopal Churches in the Dominican Republic so that our brothers and sisters in Christ who are economically deprived will have a more comfortable and inviting place in which to worship our Lord; **Medical Mission Ministry** - work through local Episcopal churches in the Dominican Republic to staff and supply medical clinics in order to bring medical care and medicines to those who would not otherwise have them.

Goals:

Short Term

- Seek and implement additional ways to increase communication with all communicants in the Diocese with a view to both informing and recruiting participants for our global mission ministries
- Seek and implement additional ways to recruit more communicants in our Diocese to becoming missionaries on the 2017 medical and construction mission teams
- Learn of global ministries presently being sponsored by congregations throughout the Diocese, collect information about those ministries, serve as a "clearing house" to make those ministries known throughout the Diocese and offer such help and support as the Commission can provide
- Make personal telephone contact with all active clergy in the Diocese to (i) learn of their congregation's global ministries, (ii) inform them of the 2017 dates for our ongoing construction and medical foreign mission ministries, (iii) ask them to inform their congregations of the ministry and that all adult members of the Diocese are invited to participate, and (iv) offer a slide program explaining our ongoing mission ministry in our Companion Diocese of the Dominican Republic
- Continue with the mission ministries we are presently sponsoring
- Strive to expand and improve our relationships with individuals in our companion Diocese in the Dominican Republic by such means as may be available including sending representatives to the DDG's semi-annual meetings, to "Discovery Tours" in the Dominican Republic, and to the Dominican Republic's annual convention

Long Term

- Continue to explore the need for and means to implement and expand our mission ministries at home and abroad
- Develop and sponsor a Diocesan "Youth" mission to our Companion Diocese of the Dominican Republic not later than 2018
- Develop and sponsor a Diocesan Dental Mission to our Companion Diocese of the Dominican Republic for 2017
- Develop a "Go Team" and "Home Team" program where by those not going on mission trips can be a part of the ministry at home by offering prayers, holding fund raisers and other means
- Develop a program of "partnering" parishes with mission teams using the "Go Team" and "Home Team" format
- Develop and execute a Diocesan-wide global mission fund raising strategy to increase mission revenue to finance existing and future mission ministries

Chair: Geary Gaston, St. Paul's, Mobile

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Purpose: to support, connect, and commission the youth and young adults of our diocese to become the hands and feet of Christ

Goals:

- Continue the development of successful programs such as Happening, young adult gatherings, summer camp at Beckwith, and youth presence at Diocesan Convention
- Establish the following sub-committees: Jr. High, Sr. High, Young Adults, Outreach, and Campus/College. The focus of each will be planning events and spending intentional time developing ministry for that age group

Chair: Jen Manning, St. James', Fairhope