RESOLUTION 241-03



Bel Gwiazdowski

Diocesan Council, vice-president

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will
not be afraid.

– Isaiah 12:2

Discovering & Rediscovering Christ

St. James’, Mill Creek
St. Luke’s, Seaford
St. Martins in the Field, Selbyville
St. Nicholas, Newark
St. Paul’s, Georgetown
St. Peter’s, Lewes
St. Phillip’s, Laurel
St. Thomas’ Parish
Trinity Parish and Old Swedes Church

Christ Church, Milford
Church of Sts. Andrew & Matthew, Wilmington
Church of St. John the Baptist, Milton
Grace, Talleyville
Immanuel Highlands, Wilmington
St. Anne’s Church, Middletown
St. Barnabas, Wilmington

Thank you to the 82 people who participated during the 5 listening sessions, including 60 lay participants and 22 clergy.

All Saints & St. George’s Chapel
Christ Church Christiana Hundred
Christ Church, Dover

Younger members don’t have time to volunteer.

Not enough supply clergy.

Licensed lay people confined to their own parish.

Clergy challenges

Parishes in survival mode with no vision or inspiring plan.

Most active and giving members aging out.

Members can’t let go of how things used to be.

Clergy challenges

No Communion on Sunday.

Difficulty in developing/discerning a vision or the future to facilitate congregations without clergy.

Challenges (lay participants)

Aging & shrinking population to do the work of the parish.

No Sunday school or youth participation.

Help in forming partnerships and sharing among congregations.

Challenges (lay participants)

Training to grow & strengthen lay leadership & lay ministers.

Flexibility in parish life, liturgy & assignment of deacons and lay ministers

Desired Support:

Specialist consultants to help parishes accept loss & decline, discern hopeful futures.

Assist in marketing to attract new members.

Desired Support:

Financial resources being drained to maintain and operate aging buildings.

Not enough ordained clergy, full or part-time.

Lay leaders want closer relationship with Mission Support Team.

Challenges:

Aging & shrinking congregations, some grieving for lost vitality; difficulty letting go of the past.

Little success in attracting new, younger members.

Resolution 241-03:

Directs the bishop and Diocesan Council to appoint a convener to engage the diocese’s congregations and schools, lay and clergy leadership in a listen and discernment process in order to examine our practices of polity and to develop models of support for all communities

Thank You

Discovering & Rediscovering Christ