

**Resolution on Evangelism  
Proposed by the Evangelism Commission  
Approved unanimously**

*Be it Resolved, That this 136th Convention of the Diocese of Bethlehem gives thanks to God for the many people of this Diocese who have prayed, worked, and trained for evangelism, and for those who have shared the Good News of Jesus Christ in many varied ways in the past year.*

and be it further

*Resolved, That this convention reiterates our commitment to a 'Plan to Evangelize Northeast Pennsylvania' passed at the 134th Convention (2005) of this Diocese, understanding that evangelism is a sign of Christian identity and maturity that flows out of a life of thanksgiving to God,*

and be it further

*Resolved, That this convention encourages individuals to commitment to daily personal prayer for empowerment from Our Lord to share the Good News,*

and be it further

*Resolved, That this convention calls on members of this Diocese to renewed, continuing commitment to the Holy Habits,*

and be it further

*Resolved, That this convention urges each person in the Diocese to discern his or her own "personal faith statement" that can be shared with another person and encourages each parish in the Diocese to include this in their ministries of Christian formation,*

and be it further

*Resolved, That this convention requests the Bishop direct parishes to continue using the Prayer for Evangelism in corporate worship at least one Sunday of every month.*

Rite I "Holy God, thy Son called us to wrap the whole world in thy saving embrace. By thy Holy Spirit, give us compassion, purpose and energy to invite into thy Church those who do not yet know the transforming power of thy love. We ask this through Him who has brought us from darkness to light, thy Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen."

Rite II "Holy God, your Son called us to wrap the whole world in your saving embrace. By your Holy Spirit, give us compassion, purpose and energy to invite into your Church those who do not yet know the transforming power of your love. We ask this through Him who has brought us from darkness to light, your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen."

and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention directs parishes to continue growing vital evangelism communities where the members may experience mutual, prayerful support of one another, the clergy, and the parish and further directs each parish to report it's evangelism work to their congregations annual meetings, the Evangelism commission and to the Diocesan community through *Diocesan Life*, and other Diocesan media, to encourage and celebrate our work,

and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Convention directs that the Archdeacon's visit prior to Episcopal visitations include a discussion of the parish's evangelism ministries,

and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Convention directs the Congregational Development Commission to continue to evaluate grants in terms of mission,

and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Convention directs the Evangelism Commission to develop a team of evangelism consultants to work directly with parishes that request prayerful and practical assistance in evangelism. And further directs the Evangelism Commission to report to the next convention progress towards the recruitment, identification, and training of an initial team and the process for utilizing this team by parishes,

and be it further

*Resolved*, Directs the Evangelism Commission and Stewardship Commission to continue to collaborate in year-round prayer and training.

#### Explanation

1. *On Evangelism Consultants*: The job of the consultants would be to a) Pray for, by name, the parish clergy person(s) and parish lay leadership person(s) with whom they will be working; b) Encourage prayer as the foundation for evangelism for parish vestries and evangelism committees; c) Teach the 'nuts and bolts' of personal and corporate evangelism and offer practical resources for year-round evangelism.

2. *On Stewardship and Evangelism Commissions working together*: Just as stewardship is fueled by the spirit of thanksgiving to God, evangelism is fueled by thanksgiving for God's loving self-revelation to us.

*3. On Sharing Experiences, Celebration, and Mutual Accountability:* While it is expected that every parish will develop ministries of evangelism specific to their own contexts, it is also true that the ministries in each parish is also the ministry of the whole Diocesan community. We seek a balance of idea sharing, celebration of successes, and accountability in a spirit of encouragement and support.

Submitted by the Evangelism Commission