

Support for Evangelism in the Life of the Diocese of Vermont

SPONSOR: Green Mountain Witness Team

Resolved, That the 187th Convention of the Diocese of Vermont recognize that God calls Christians and the church as a whole to bear witness to the transforming grace of God's love in both word and deed; and be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Vermont affirm the Episcopal Church's understanding of evangelism as "the spiritual practice of seeking, naming and celebrating Jesus' loving presence in the lives of all people, and then inviting them to more;" and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention express appreciation for the teaching about evangelism and the inspiration offered by Canon Stephanie Spellers of the Episcopal Church's Evangelism Initiative and by workshop leaders at the 2018 Diocesan Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourage the approximately thirty Evangelism Catalysts who were commissioned at the 2018 Convention to continue to energize their congregations and others to engage in evangelism; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourage the congregations of the diocese to invite visits from members of the Green Mountain Witness Team in order to explore how evangelism as understood by the Episcopal Church can energize and renew their Christian witness; and be it *further*

Resolved, That this Convention express its gratitude Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown for the support she has expressed for the evangelistic life of the Diocese of Vermont.

EXPLANATION:

Under the theme of "Go Tell It On the Mountains: Evangelism Vermont-Style," the 2018 Diocesan Convention focused on evangelism in an unprecedented way as we heard Canon Stephanie Spellers teach and preach on the subject and attended workshops addressing a wide variety of topics in evangelism.

Since then the Green Mountain Witness Team has focused on reaching out to congregations of the diocese to have conversations with lay and clergy leaders and with vestries and to offer presentations and workshops on evangelism. This ongoing and longterm project is assisted by a grant from the Episcopal Church's Evangelism Initiative.

This purpose of this resolution is to recall the focus of the 2018 Diocesan Convention and encourage renewed commitment to evangelism in the life of the diocese.