

## **Task Force on Church Planting and Congregational Redevelopment**

November 11-13, 2018

Maritime Conference Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Present: The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe, The Rev. Michael Sells, Dr. Gandhi Lopez, The Rt. Rev. Gretchen Rehberg, Dr. Caroline McCall, The Rev. Canon Dan Morrow, The Rev. Mike Michie, The Very Rev. Amy McCreath, The Rev. Canon Ada Wong Nagata, The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne, Ms. Katie Forsyth, The Rev. Canon Betsy Ivey, The Rev. Eric Metoyer, Ms. Natalie Finstad, The Rev. Daniel Velez-Rivera, The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner, The Rt. Rev. Allen Shin

Absent: Mr. Jason Evans, The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson

Note: Ms. Caroline McCall only attended the convening on Monday, The Rev. Tom Brackett was not present for Monday's convening, Ms. Natalie Finstad did not attend the convenings on Tuesday evening or Wednesday Morning, and Dr. Gandhi Lopez did not attend the convening on Wednesday morning.

### **Monday, November 12, 2018 morning session:**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. on Monday, November 12, 2018. There was a quorum present.

### **Committee Organizational Tasks**

Task Force members introduced themselves to each other by a process of mutual invitation, sharing their names, ministry settings and contexts, and why they said yes to the Spirit's call to serve in this ministry.

Natalie Finstad agreed to serve as the Task Force secretary, and the Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne agreed to assist her.

The Chair then invited the Task Force to create a Covenant of norms and expectations that will bind us and serve as a guide to our work together. Essential items for the group included:

- We will practice appropriate confidentiality
- Share the learning widely
- If you're going to share stories then check with someone before sharing it
- Share from our own perspective - our own truth
- Keep the grant applications within the room
- We will adopt the guidelines for Dialogue by Seeing the Face of God (page 97)
- We will show up to the work both as disciples and as teachers - so we can share what we've learned, learn from one another and take what we learn to the wider church
- We will try to remain open to the mystery of what the future of the church holds and avoid moving into "camps" about the future of the church
- We will check for understanding if we are unclear about the intent of someone's words.
- We will make sure that everyone has the opportunity to speak in each round of discussion. As we end discussions we will pause before we move on to hear from everyone and, if needed, specifically invite those who have not spoken to speak.
- We will remain prayerful in all of our work by weaving prayer into our work that we may be attentive to what God's doing
- We will address people with first names and in emails it's okay to email without the + signs

- We will balance the work of congregational redevelopment and church planting
- We will remain mindful of who is not in the room - specifically noting that we are not working with anyone from Province 9.
- We will be attentive to how power operates - specifically noting that this is a very clergy heavy group.
- We will respond to emails will be read/responded to within 4 Days during regular business unless otherwise communicated
- We will set clear deadlines and expectations about work to be done outside of meetings
- We will use google docs for the minutes approval process - Natalie will post within 48 hours and then the rest of the group will give feedback within a week

Twila Rios from the General Convention office then joined the group and offered guidelines and timeframes/expectations for external reporting.

The Task Force adjourned at 12:00 for lunch.

### **Monday, November 12, 2018 afternoon session:**

The Task Force reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

#### **New Business**

The Task Force reviewed the mandates included in Resolutions A005 and A032 from General Convention. The conversation included a review of the revised financial allotment granted by the resolutions.

Iris DiLeonardo from the General Convention office then joined the group and offered guidance about the Extranet and reviewed the process to schedule face-to-face and virtual meetings for the triennium ahead.

The Rev. Mike Michie gave a presentation on the work of the prior triennium that included what he has learned over the past year in his staff position.

The Task Force ended the meeting by sharing the hopes/needs of the members in regards to our work together and adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

### **Tuesday, November 13, 2018 morning session:**

#### **New Business**

The Task Force reconvened at 10:30 AM on Tuesday the 13th of November. The meeting opened with the The Chair offering an overview of today's agenda and some reflections on our work together.

The Rev. Tom Brackett gave a presentation on the work he has been doing on redevelopment of parishes.

Mr. Patrick Hazel and Ms. Jennifer Gonzalez from the General Convention office then joined the group to talk about travel policies, the conflict of interest agreement, and interpretation/translation services.

The Chair proposed a detailed schedule that the Task Force can spend the rest of our time.

The Task Force adjourned for lunch break at 12:04 p.m. with a blessing from The Chair.

### **Tuesday, November 13, 2018 afternoon session:**

The Task Force reconvened at 1:10 p.m. to take a photo and the first area of discussion was to continue our conversation on redevelopment in parishes. The conversation focused on the potential overlaps for the work of planting churches and doing redevelopment for new ministry in existing structures.

The Chair asked the Task Force to design four subcommittees for our work together and to identify on which subcommittee we felt most called to work. The Task Force was also asked to name the amount of time each member has available for this work.

The Task Force adjourned at 4:45 for dinner.

### **Tuesday, November 13, 2018 evening session:**

The Task Force reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

The Chair invited the Rev. Mike Mitchie and the Rev. Tom Brackett to offer detailed presentations on what is currently in place for church planting and redevelopment, what specific tasks need our decision, and what are the big picture questions we need to address.

The Task Force adjourned for the day at 9:00 p.m.

### **Wednesday, November 14, 2018 morning session:**

The Task Force convened at 8:30 AM and the Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe opened by leading the Task Force in prayer.

The Chair then presented a suggested structure for the make up of subcommittees.

The Task Force had a conversation about the next steps of our work proceeding this gathering.

The Chair closed the meeting by asking members to share their parting graces with the Task Force.

The Task Force added these commitments to the covenant:

- We are invited to prioritize this work.
- We will have 90 minute subcommittee conversations each month and 90 min Task Force conversations each month.
- We will create a feedback loop for our Covenant, to ask: “How are we doing and what do we need to add or change to the Covenant on a regular basis?”

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

### **Action Items from the Meeting**

- Mike - Post the Ministry Plan and Application to Extranet
- Natalie - Distribute meetings to the group - By Friday 11/16
- All - Post comments to Official Minutes - By Friday 11/23
- The strategy subcommittee will start with making connections with networks as a first step in leadership development.

- The Subcommittees will all set up their first meeting, and cc Tom and Mike and Janet on the emails, the expectation is that we will have met by December 14.
- Janet - Send out a doodle poll to determine online meetings. By December 14, we will have a meeting schedule settled.
- Daniel - connect granting teams with Day Smith Pritchatt from Episcopal Evangelism Society