

## **Mission Partnerships Proposed Legislation** **Proposed new Canon**

### **Proposed New CANON 17: Mission Partnerships**

Section 1. At the recommendation of the Office of the Bishop, two or more congregations in geographical proximity may join together to form a Mission Partnership, provided that at least three fourths of the Vestry or Bishop's Committee, of each congregation votes affirmatively to do so. Such congregations may be parishes or missions, and shall retain that distinction so long as they meet provisions for the same under Diocesan Canons.

Section 2. Each congregation belonging to a Mission Partnership shall retain its own identity, Vestry or Bishop's Committee, congregational budget and delegates to Diocesan Convention. The congregations in a Mission Partnership shall, therefore, be represented in Regional Meetings and Diocesan Convention as individual congregations. Each Vestry or Bishop's Committee, shall retain full control over their respective congregational properties and temporal affairs, as provided by the Canons of the National Church and of this Diocese.

Section 3. The Bishop shall, after consulting with the Mission Partnership Clergy, appoint from among the Mission Partnership Clergy the Mission Partnership Vicar. In the calling of a new clergy to the Mission Partnership, the Bishop shall be consulted and will have oversight of the calling of clergy in keeping with the Diocesan Policy and Canons.

Section 4. From and after the adoption of this Canon, any congregation that becomes a member of a Mission Partnership does so for a commitment of not less than three (3) years. After the initial three (3) year period, any congregation desiring to withdraw from the Mission Partnership may do so only upon the action of all of the following:

- a) An affirmative vote of at least three fourths of its own Vestry or Bishop's Committee.
- b) An affirmative vote of a majority of the Mission Partnership Council.
- c) Consent of the Bishop's Office.

Rationale:

Adding this canon to the Diocesan Canons offers a way for congregations to combine resources around mission in a particular area, intentionally develop lay ministry to build up the congregations for ministry especially in geographically remote or challenging areas, and yet keep the identity of the individual congregations.

Submitted by The Reverend Canon Lou Blanchard and the Mission Strategy Committee