

Committee on Congregational Development Report to the 222nd Diocesan Convention

Members:

Deborah Crall	The Rev. Jonathan B. Percival
The Rev. Emily Griffin	The Rev. Canon Lee Powers, Staff Liaison
Peter Hausman	The Rev. Arthur P. Powell
The Rev. Francis Hebert	The Rev. Dirk C. Reinken
The Rev. Dr. Henry Jansma	The Rev. Dr. Virginia M. Sheay, Chair
The Rev. Charles N. Lochner	Lawrence L. Stroud
The Rev. Karin Mitchell	The Rev. Robert Turner, Dcn.
The Rev. Harry Mazujian	The Rev. Dr. Augustine Unuigbo

“Equipping New Jersey for New Life and New Mission”

With renewed enthusiasm and commitment to provide resources and workshops for congregations, our committee offered its third Day of Workshops for the Diocese. Entitled, “Equipping New Jersey for New Life and New Mission: A Day of Workshops”, the event was held at Trinity Cathedral on Saturday, April 23, 2005. The committee invited talented presenters, lay and clergy, from across our diocese, and the Dioceses of Newark and New York, to offer new and exciting workshops to enhance participants in their skills and abilities for ministry in such areas as: Christian Formation, Stewardship, Music, Funding for Ministry, Evangelism and Growth, Justice and Peace, Multicultural Ministry, Pastoring and Servant Ministry, Communication, and Spirituality and Faith. Approximately two hundred people were in attendance, representing nearly forty congregations. It is our plan to offer another Day of Workshops in the Fall of 2007.

We were pleased to have with us at our May 2005 meeting, Canon Margaret Sipple, Director of the Leadership Institute, Diocese of Pennsylvania. She was the Canon for Education Training, which oversees the Leadership Institute. This Leadership Institute was one of many Diocesan models and programs for Congregational Development that we studied for possible on-going training/educational opportunities in the Diocese.

On Saturday, November 5, 2005 our committee sponsored and supported the workshop day, “Fireweed Evangelism” which was led by The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Geitz and The Rev. David Stout. Canon Geitz did a terrific job teaching basic principles from her book, *Fireweed Evangelism*, and Fr. Stout presented an action plan of welcoming and incorporating new people into the church.

On March 11, 2006, at the Vestry Day with Bishop Cancell, representatives from our committee, The Rev. Canon Lee Powers, and The Rev. Dirk Reinken, will present principles of the Purpose Driven Church, and Natural Church Development. Our Bishop will teach on the Baptismal Covenant.

Looking ahead, on Saturday, October 21, 2006, The Rev. James Lemler, Director of Mission at the Episcopal National Church Center, NYC, will offer a seminar/workshop day for clergy and lay leaders using a new resource for congregational development called, “Groundwork: Digging Deep for Change and Growth.” Find out about this resource now. Visit www.episcopalchurch.org/groundwork for further information.

The goals of the committee for 2006 are as follows:

- Provide resources, workshops and training in congregational development
- Enhance Diocesan Web Site for Congregational Resources
- Offer a Fall Workshop led by National Episcopal Church staff person, The Rev. James Lemler, Director of Mission
- Continue to collaborate with Province II Congregational Development Committee members

Concurring with our Bishop whose words appeared on the cover of our 2005 Day of Workshop brochure, “Equipping New Jersey for New Life and New Mission”,

- We are challenged to develop disciples of Jesus Christ in all of our congregations.
- We are challenged to develop congregations that thrive and flourish.
- We are challenged to go forth in mission and to care, passionately, for the world.

Our commitment is to **develop** and equip *disciples for their ministry* that will make *each congregation thrive* and **flourish** to the glory of God, so that *every church* in our diocese will **go forth in mission** in the world!