

Board of Missions Annual Report to the 224th Diocesan Convention

Board of Missions membership: We give thanks for the faithful ministry of the following Board members who completed terms or service in 2007: Mr. Charles Perfater (Diocesan Council), Mr. Richard Baitzel and the Rev. J. Leroy Saunders (Burlington Convocation) and the Rev. Canon Servio Moscoso (Northern Convocation, reappointed). We welcomed the following new members: Mr. Felix Estepa (Diocesan Council), Mrs. Nancy Sullivan (Burlington Convocation) and the Rev. Jefferson Hulet (Burlington Convocation, later resigned), and Ms. Carolyn Hales (Northern Convocation).

Changes in clergy serving in Mission Congregations: During 2007 the following changes occurred in clergy leadership in the following mission churches:

St. Clement's, Belford – The Rev. Gina Walsh-Minor resigned as Vicar.

Christ Church, West Collingswood – The Rev. Canon James Moore died in December.

St. Mary's, Keyport – The Rev. Joseph Leigh is serving as long-term supply priest.

Christ Church, Magnolia – The Rev. Robert Critelli is serving as long-term supply priest.

Christ Church, Palmyra – The Rev. Jefferson Hulet resigned as Vicar. The Riverfront Episcopal Team Ministry disbanded. He continues as Rector of St. Stephen's, Riverside.

St. Mary's, Pleasantville – The Rev. John Bryant began retirement and died in April.

Trinity Church, Swedesboro – The Rev. Jill McNish began serving as Priest-in-Charge.

St. Barnabas', Villas – The Rev. Debra Bullock began serving as Vicar and also serving as Assistant at St. Mary's in Stone Harbor.

"May the souls of the Revs. John Bryant and James Moore, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Alleluia."

Cooperation in expansion of Hispanic ministry: In April the Board of Mission and the Hispanic Commission met in a joint session with Bishop George Council to begin a conversation about the development of a strategy for expanding Hispanic ministry in the Diocese of New Jersey. We identified three specific immediate tasks:

1. Development of a theology of mission for this effort. We need a viable plan for evangelism and outreach, and not to be afraid of trying things that failed before.
2. Development of multicultural ministries, Anglo, African American, Hispanic, Asian, and other groups in one place, not separated. Bring diversity to our existing single-culture congregations.
3. Develop bi-lingual and multi-lingual worship resources to facilitate these goals.

Many different strategies were discussed, and the Board of Missions and the Hispanic Commission each appointed 2-3 people to form a task force to work up plans for the implementation of strategies to achieve these goals. Our efforts have been further enriched by the arrival of and support from Bishop Sylvestre Romero.

Other events and developments:

1. A Camden Strategy Group, with representatives of the four Camden Churches and the Dean of the Convocation, met to begin forming strategy for ministry expansion in Camden. The group made recommendations to Diocesan Council for the use of some of the proceeds of the sales of the Church of Our Savior, Camden and Holy Trinity, Delair to enable all the churches in Camden to make some desperately needed repairs to their buildings. St. Andrew's and St. Wilfrid's are looking into the possibility of using both locations in working together to provide needed services to the people of their communities.
2. All Saints Church, Highland Park decided to close. With less than twenty members they were overwhelmed by the costs of operating and maintaining a large church facility. Their final worship service was on September 30, 2007.

3. In June the two Wardens and the entire Vestry of Christ Church, Millville resigned, and with about ten additional members, they left the Episcopal Church and joined the Anglican Mission in America. Bishop Councill and Canon Lee Powers met with the remaining members, who elected new Wardens and Vestry, and with the help of the Very Rev. Brian Burgess, Dean of the Woodbury Convocation, Linda Macklin, their Board of Missions liaison, and neighboring parishes in Vineland and Bridgeton, the remaining members have been continuing their worship of God and the redevelopment of their ministry leadership. Several new people have joined them in the last few months.
4. Christ Church, Magnolia and Annunciation, Lawnside had a meeting of parish leaders during the summer and are working on a plan of occasional joint worship and possible sharing of ministries.

Mission assistance: The Diocesan Council and the Board of Missions agreed on three priorities for mission assistance in the future:

1. truly missionary work in developing new congregations or reaching out to new constituencies
2. assisting a formerly vibrant church recover from some recent trauma
3. assisting two or more churches in developing plans for yoking, regional ministry or merger.

We also agreed to notify churches that we will be reducing support for churches that have no plans to address chronic deficits, and who are unwilling to consider plans for consolidation.

In support of the missionary work of some of our mission congregations, the following churches received \$377,413 of mission assistance in 2007:

Urban Churches

St. Andrew's, Camden	\$67,000
St. Wilfrid's, Camden	9,310
Grace, Elizabeth	61,030
San Jose, Elizabeth	40,000
Cristo Rey, Trenton	35,000
St. Albans, New Brunswick	20,000
Trinity, Vineland	40,000

\$272,340

Non-Urban Churches

St. Clement's, Belford	\$10,000
St. Mark's, Hammonton	15,000
St. Stephen's, Mullica Hill	10,000
Holy Spirit, Tuckerton	23,413
St. Luke & All Saints, Union	10,000
St. Luke's, Westville	21,500
St. Mark's, Williamstown	9,160
Christ the King, Willingboro	6,000

\$105,073

Respectfully submitted, on behalf of all the members of the Board of Missions, by

The Rev. Lee Powers
Canon to the Ordinary

March, 2008