A074

TOPIC: LAY MINISTRY

Identify and Deploy Lay Evangelists

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church

ENDORSED BY

SPONSORED BY

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 505–506; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / Evangelism

CURRENT FILING STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

Resolved, The House of Bishops concurring, that the 77th General Convention ~~challenge~~ *encourage* each diocese, in accordance with Canon III.3.1(a) and Canon III.4.9, to develop a plan to identify, train and use the gifts of lay Evangelists in local settings; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention ~~challenge~~ *encourage* each diocese to license the number of Evangelists equal to one quarter of the number of congregations in the diocese by 2015 *and report these numbers annually to the Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church*; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention ~~challenge~~ *encourage* each diocese to develop local evangelism training resources that match the cultural settings within which members will share the good news in word and deed.

EXPLANATION

Matthew 28:19-20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

By using the gifts of Spirit-filled, passionate, trained and licensed “evangelists” as seed planters, we trust that more members will grow as evangelists and thus grow our communities of faith into the fullness of the Body of Christ. Many people have the natural gift for evangelism, and with greater training and careful identification and strategic deployment, they can become the leaders who draw us all into this essential ministry.