

P#1: ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY

RESOLVED, that each parish of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania be encouraged to do three things to support its engagement with the local community:

1. Create and share a clear message of their Church's mission and work that will help all members of the broader community to know who the parish is and what it offers as a community of faith;

2. Develop a plan of financial stability that will enhance the use of, and help sustain, the property and buildings of the parish as a witness of the presence and compassion of Christ in the community; and

3. Partner with other institutions and individuals of the community in furthering programs and relationships that enhance compassion, justice and the respect of the dignity of every member of the community, as we seek and serve Christ in all creation.

EXPLANATION: The work of the Church involves engagement of each local congregation with the community, and each parish offers a local witness of the presence and compassion of Christ in the Community.

The work of each of our parishes involves the stewardship of property, buildings, and other resources that often are a financial burden. There are very helpful resources to assist parishes and other institutions of faith in these efforts, such as "Partners for Sacred Spaces" out of Philadelphia, and that are willing to team with our local parish and communities.

Our newly elected Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has begun with a simple but clear message of "Go" into the world and preach the Gospel...

Presented by The Very Rev. Churchill Pinder, Dean of St. Stephens Cathedral, and the Leadership of the Property and Environmental Committees of the Cathedral.