

## **REPORT: 235th ANNUAL CONVENTION**

235th CT Annual Convention 2019 opened on October 26, 2019 with a prayer. Bishop Laura Ahrens spoke, asking delegates and to attendees to put themselves in the mind of others.

The morning consisted of group discussions. Caroline, Sarah, and MB attended the session for issues with small parishes. I attended the breakout meeting for young adults in the parish. I chose this discussion group with Darcy Campbell's children in mind, seeking to see what we might be able to offer them. I know about and have been a part of this weekend group event in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. It is called "Happening". It is wonderful gathering of Episcopal youth and has been effective. It is along the same lines as the adult group "Cursillo". RI has partnered with CT. There was a Happening last March 2019 at Camp Washington.

<https://www.episcopalri.org/ministries/episcopal-charities/#.XdB9OJlwwyoY.email>

It turned out that the meeting and discussion for Youth centered on providing things for young adults of college age as a group.

The focus seemed to be that this group of adults is not to best seen as one so much in your parish, but as a group unto themselves. Parishes can best help them by providing financial support. This seemed to encapsulate in a resolution that was put forth and passed regarding these communities that are called "Intentional Episcopal Communities". These communities are people living together as a "worshiping community".

In the afternoon session, various reports were given from the breakout groups, and a number of resolutions were brought to vote. A few are listed below:

### **1. Intentional Communities:**

The resolution put forth was to give them representation at convention by granting them voting delegates.

**2. Creation of Task Force for Young Adults: Evangelism in God's Mission,** to research ways to bring the age group of 17 to 39 into the church community.

### **3. Merging of Parishes:**

We saw videos of two parishes that put forth resolutions to merge with another nearby parish: 1. Church of Our Saviour, Plainville with St John's, Bristol, and, 2. Grace Church Broad Brook with Grace Church, Windsor. Members of all the parishes spoke powerfully

about their journey to this decision about which they are celebrating. The resolutions passed.

4. Change of Canon V: "Mission" churches are now referred to as "Worshiping Communities".

5. Other votes:

Fr. Geoff Hahneman was elected to the Diocesan Standing Committee\*\*.

Fr. Hahneman was the only person in the room to stand and ask some basic questions all of us were wishing to know, such as what is an "Intentional Community"?

Bishop Ian Douglas ended the business part of Convention with an address about our Missionial Age.

FYI from ECCT website:

\*\*"The Standing Committee has three main functions: oversight, advice, and in the absence of any bishop, ecclesiastical authority of the diocese. The committee must consent to elections of bishops throughout The Episcopal Church; to matters regarding disposition of church property including any encumbrances, openings, or closings, (Click here to learn more about the Sales and Encumbrances process); to candidacy and ordination of deacons and priests; and to appointments to major boards. They also meet regularly with the diocesan bishop as a confidential council of advice."

Richard C. Thompson  
November 16, 2019  
Delegate from St. John's