

Diocesan Reimagining Task Force - Parish Visit Packet – Summer/Fall 2013

Contents

This document includes the following:

- Evangelism Volunteers/Teams
- Parish Data
- Email to Rectors from DRTF
- Talking points for calls with Rectors
- Agenda and Talking Points for Parish Visit
- FAQs

Evangelism Volunteers/Teams: Pre-Convention 2013

Target 2 or at least 25% of Parishes from each group?

- Evangelism Volunteers
 - Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale
 - Jaimie Murdock
 - Scott Wilson
 - Bill Strauss
 - Enid Morrison
 - Will Boggs
 - Katherine Holtzleiter
 - Others?
- Options to consider on pairing up
 - Brendan & Jaimie
 - Katherine & Scott
 - Will & Enid
 - Bill & ? (ask Randy to assist?)
- Current suggested list below has each person visiting 4-5 parishes. If pairing up, should we trim down to 2-3 visits?

Parish Data

49 Parishes/Ministries to Visit

- >200 ASA = 5 parishes
 - St Paul’s Indianapolis – **SCOTT**
 - Christ Church Indianapolis - **BRENDAN**
 - Trinity Indianapolis
 - St Christopher’s Carmel - **WILL**
 - Trinity Bloomington – **JAIMIE**
- 100 – 199 ASA = 6 parishes
 - St Paul’s Evansville - **BILL**
 - St John’s Lafayette
 - St Francis Zionsville - **WILL**
 - Holy Family Fishers – **SCOTT**
 - St Michael’s Noblesville - **WILL**
 - Nativity Indianapolis – **SCOTT**

- 75 – 99 ASA = 8 parishes
 - St Paul’s Columbus
 - St John’s Crawfordsville
 - St Stephen’s Terre Haute
 - St Paul’s New Albany - **BILL**
 - St Matthew’s Indianapolis - **BRENDAN**
 - St Mark’s Plainfield – **ENID**
 - St Augustine’s Danville – **ENID**
 - St Thomas’ Franklin
- 50 – 74 ASA = 11 parishes
 - All Saints Indianapolis - **BRENDAN**
 - St John’s Speedway - **WILL**
 - Grace Muncie - **KATHERINE**
 - Good Shepherd West Lafayette
 - St Timothy’s Indianapolis - **BRENDAN**
 - Trinity Anderson - **KATHERINE**
 - Christ Madison - **BILL**
 - St David’s Bean Blossom – **JAIMIE**
 - St John’s Mount Vernon
 - St Paul’s Richmond
 - St Alban’s Indianapolis – **SCOTT**
- 25 – 49 ASA = 10 parishes
 - St Andrew’s Greencastle – **ENID**
 - St Stephen’s New Harmony
 - St Paul’s Jeffersonville - **BILL**
 - Trinity Lawrenceburg
 - St John’s Bedford – **JAIMIE**
 - St Phillips Indianapolis - **BRENDAN**
 - Canterbury House Bloomington – **JAIMIE**
 - St Peter’s Lebanon - **WILL**
 - St James’ New Castle - **KATHERINE**
 - St James’ Vincennes
- <25 ASA = 8 parishes
 - St John’s Washington
 - St Mary’s Martinsville
 - St George’s West Terre Haute
 - Peace Rockport
 - St Luke’s Shelbyville
 - Trinity Connersville – **SCOTT**
 - St Luke’s Cannelton - **BILL**
 - St Stephen’s Elwood - **KATHERINE**

* Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) is from 2009-11

Draft Email to Rector

"Dear _____:

Greetings from the Diocesan Reimagining Task Force!

As you may remember, at the 2012 Diocesan Convention for the Indianapolis Diocese, a resolution was passed to create a task force. The charter of this task force was, among other things, to "develop recommendations for the diocese and its constituent missions, parishes, and other bodies to achieve a vision together, with God's help". This task force (the "DRTF") has been assembled and convened meetings over the course of the past few months, and is ready to move to the next phase of our work.

From now until the 176th Convention this Autumn, the DRTF has a stated goal to spend time with as many parishes as possible in order to accomplish two objectives. The first objective will be to provide a brief update to the Household on the charter and initial work of the DRTF. The second objective will be to seek input on what individual members of your parish believe the DRTF should be focused on when it comes to the topic of "reimagining".

The feedback we gather at these parish sessions will be utilized to provide important, local context for the work of the DRTF as well as information for our initial report to the Convention.

We would like to schedule a time to speak with you in order to arrange the right time and format for a visit to your parish by a team from the DRTF. We can be flexible on both elements; each parish is unique in knowing the best way to reach its members.

A member of the DRTF will be in touch to discuss scheduling this session and its format.

We look forward to working with you on this important effort.

In Christ's Love,

Co-Convener's of the DRTF

Lara Dreyer

Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale

Scott Wilson"

Talking Points for Rector Discussions

1. Introduction: Name, parish, any connection to this parish?
2. Ways to Present/Review Task Force Charter, Work and Seek Input
 - Sunday - Adult Forum Time
 - Sunday - Meal/Discussion Session Post-Services
 - Sunday - Homily

- Weekday Evening - Discussion Session
 - KEY POINT: discuss with Rector on which option works best for their individual parish
3. Discuss various dates/times which work for the rector/parish.
 4. Commit to follow up on finalizing date/time
 5. Suggest multiple communication methods for announcing visit including Sunday bulletin and announcements, email, even written letter if appropriate (DRTF will post/tweet as well)

Agenda and Content for Parish Visit

Welcome and Introduction – 3 minutes

Prayer (written by one of the clergy?) – 2 minutes

Highlights of Resolution (emailed prior and handed out) – 10 minutes

- Modeled after Resolution C095 adopted by the 77th General Convention
- Diocese and Officers open to prompt sharing of information
- Task Force should: study scriptures and pray; reflect; engage in appreciative inquiry of all programs, activities and outreach; discern a shared vision for the Diocese; develop recommendations
- Review Explanation section of the Resolution

Personal Testimony – 5 minutes (10 minutes total if 2 DRTF members present)

- What is my history in TEC? (Faith)
- Why did I offer or accept to join the Task Force? (Hope)
- What do I want to see happen? (Love)

Questions Asked to the Group – 15 minutes

- Does the Resolution “make sense”? Is it valuable? **Use FAQs to answer specific questions about the Resolution, if needed**
- How does this parish/ministry depend on the Diocese, if at all?
- What types of support would you like to see from Diocese, if any?
- Does your parish feel connected to other parishes in the Diocese and is that important?
- What are the best things about your parish? What challenges exist?
- **To encourage dialogue, ask other questions from the Data Gathering team, based on where the conversation is headed**

Other Open Feedback – 15 Minutes

- Tell me a story about the best worship experience you have had...about a time when you served others...about a time when you sensed God's presence

- General questions or comments

Closing Prayer

“Thank You”

FAQs

Q:

Why was the Task Force put in place?

A:

At the 2012 Indianapolis Diocesan Convention, a resolution was brought to the floor and passed which set up the requirement for the Task Force to be installed. The resolution followed the lead of a similar resolution passed at National Convention in 2012, calling for a Structural Reform of the national Episcopal Church. The individuals who proposed the resolution for our diocese saw a similar need for examining and “reimagining” our own local structure in the face of declining attendance and budgets.

Q:

What is the goal of the Task Force?

A:

The Task Force will present a set of recommendations via a resolution or resolutions at the 2014 Diocesan Convention. These recommendations will be based on feedback received from the diocesan household including clergy and lay, combined with data related to the health of individual parishes.

Q:

Is the Task Force supported by Bishop Waynick?

A:

Yes. In fact, when the Task Force held their initial meeting earlier this year, she attended the opening evening, voicing her personal support for the work for which the Task Force has been chartered.

Q:

Will the Task Force decide close certain parishes?

A:

The Task Force only has the ability to make recommendations and cannot mandate any of its suggested courses of action. If, through the collection of views and data it seems to make sense to combine parish families, repurpose facilities or take any action with this level of impact, the Task Force may make proposals at Convention via the resolution process. All resolutions are subject to the voting of delegates.

Q:

Are similar efforts or Task Force teams in place in other diocese in or outside of Indiana?

A:

Yes. At least X other diocese across the United States are going through similar “reimagining” processes as they follow the lead of the work being performed at the National Church level.

OTHER FAQs?