

***Task Force A: Structure and Governance
Listening Session Proposals for Discussion***

Guiding Assumptions: We affirm that the primary responsibility of a diocese is mission: to empower congregations to do the tasks we are called to in our communities. To that end, our structures should offer satisfying, desirable incentives to foster collegiality and mission, and hold people accountable. Bishop Dietsche has said that the theme of this restructuring is “responsibility.” Our focus is to help the bishop to this end.

We propose evolving the work of the Diocesan Committees accordingly:

For the Diocesan Trustees: Experts of the Diocese, both elected and appointed.

- a) The Trustees will be responsible for developing, proposing, and approving the budget.
- b) The Trustees will also advise the Standing Committee on property decisions.

For the Standing Committee: Diocesan Governance and Council of Advice

- a) The Standing Committee, in partnership with the trustees, will develop a property sale/lease/rental process, including a process for identifying congregations at risk;
- b) The Standing Committee will take an active role in the Episcopal Election process, requiring the Chair to meet with the Standing Committee regularly.

For Diocesan Council / Council for Mission: The Mission Control of the Diocese

- a) Council will implement resolutions passed by Diocesan and General Conventions;
- b) Council will oversee the CSP in its new incarnation, the Board for Mission Congregations;
- c) Council will create a yearly Diocesan Calendar, working with staff;
- d) Council will develop ordained leadership, including creating a handbook of expectations and practices for clergy using;
- e) Council will maintain a published document listing all grants available to congregations.

For the three main governing bodies (Trustees, Standing Committee, and Council): We encourage the development of an Executive Committee that supports the bishop and ensures all structures effectively work together. We also suggest the hiring of an HR Director to oversee the bishop’s staff. The Task Force will also be working over the summer to propose Canonical revisions and specifically a Canon on Imperiled Congregations.

For Deaneries: The committee, working with current deans, is rethinking the structure and effectiveness of deaneries, balancing two concerns: 1) the need for pastoral collegiality for clergy and 2) an effective communication tool between the Diocese and its leaders.

Additionally: We ask the bishop to consider whether it would bring together the work of the Diocese and congregations if the staff also maintained a systematic visitation calendar. We also support the bishop, should he seek to relocate Diocesan Offices, for the betterment of working together out of concerns of layout, parking, rent, etc.