

R -2 -- Resolution in Support of Increased Young Adult Outreach and Involvement

Whereas, the 202nd Convention of the Diocese of Ohio should continue to implement procedures to recruit and include young adults (ages 18 to 30) in church affairs,

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, that an intergenerational Young Adult Outreach Task Force be established whose number and membership is to be determined by the Bishop to (1) study the success of parishes with high young adult engagement; and (2) propose diocesan-wide recommendations for further outreach and engagement to the 203rd Diocesan Convention (2019), and be it further

Resolved, that the Convention encourages the Committee on Nominations to actively recruit young adults to participate in the governance of the Diocese, including identification of candidates for Deputies and Alternate Deputies to General Convention, and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention continue to provide financial support for attendance at General Convention (i.e., registration fees, travel costs, hotel expenses, and per diem allowance) for Deputies and the First Alternate Deputy.

Explanation:

Young adults exist in the nebulous space between youth ministries and the established community of older congregants. Often lumped in with one or the other, there tends to be very little targeted programming for this demographic. As a result, young adults may feel less connected to their churches and may drift away from church activities. The Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministries of The Episcopal Church supports ministries of, to, and with young adults (ages 18-30) both on and off college campuses through the communities, resources and networks of the Episcopal Church. It is a specific age range that had been markedly absent from church counsels and activities. It covers the spectrum from those who are single and still navigating a search for their first full-time job, to those who are married and have children and full time jobs, as well as post high school students, and those who may have dropped out of high school and everyone else in that age range.

This resolution seeks to acknowledge and affirm those steps the Diocese already takes to include young adults in church governance. In addition, this resolution plans to build support for parishes looking for outreach ideas through establishing the Outreach Task Force. This will allow the Diocese to build on the strengths already present while offering support to parishes planning to branch out.

Finally, this resolution hopes to build engagement by young adults in church governance through encouraging the Committee on Nominations to actively recruit young adults. This will ensure that young adults are aware of all the opportunities available to them that they might not have heard of before.

Including young adults in church life is a necessary part of ensuring the continued vitality of our Church. When young adults leave the Church, they often take their children with them, depriving us of two generations of congregants. With this resolution in place, the Diocese of Ohio will be able to lead the charge on young adult outreach, recruitment, engagement, and involvement.

Submitted by Evangeline Warren, Kenyon College, Harcourt Parish