



The Episcopal Diocese of Utah
150th Anniversary Task Force



REPORT TO THE BISHOP

FEBRUARY 2018

Background: The 150th Anniversary Task Force was formed in July of 2016 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of our diocese and to study, evaluate and make recommendations to the bishop regarding the future legacy of our diocese. With that charge the Task force worked to:

- 1) strengthen/renew relationships between congregations and with our diocese;
- 2) celebrate the 150th anniversary year and our history, and
- 3) recommend a way forward to discern the on-going legacy for our diocese.

Accomplishments:

- January 2017: **Souper Bowl of Caring** - Congregations/diocesan ministries were encouraged to raise funds for local ministries with a \$15,000 diocesan match. The diocesan match was increased up to \$2,500 for each congregation/diocesan ministry totaling \$22,415 to match the \$24,072 raised. Total funds raised - \$46,487. Diocesan ministries (ECS- St. Mark's Tower) and 15 congregations worked locally with diocesan support renewing a sense of connection, support and common purpose. More than 20 ministries and organizations received proceeds from this effort.
- March 2017: **Diocesan Convention** – Welcoming our Presiding Bishop for the “150th Anniversary with presentations about our diocesan past and the history of the laity videos (by Craig Wirth). 150th pins, hats, etc. were distributed to celebrate our identity as the Diocese of Utah.
- July 2017-November 2017: The Celebrations’ Committee organized and supported several activities.
 - July - 150th Anniversary Celebrations at congregations to **celebrate our ‘birthday’**.
 - Sept – Diocesan **Golf Event**

- Sept thru Nov - **Regional Anniversary Events** in Moab, Ogden, Kanab, Unita Basin and Midvale to join with others in each region as we celebrated our history and our ministries now.
- January 2018: Recommendation for use of the balance of funds allocated to the 150th (2016-2017)
 - 1) Evangelism Matters Conference (March 2018, Cleveland OH) sending 2 or 3 participants to become 'evangelism catalysts' for the diocese and
 - 2) \$15,000 Souper Bowl of Caring match.
- January 2018: Souper Bowl of Caring #2. More than \$40,000 raised including the \$15,000 match from the diocese. Results are still being gathered.
- February 2018: Task Force recommendations to the bishop for moving into our future legacy.
- March 2018: Celebration of the Task Force and dissolution (planned for March 13)

Approach: Since its inception the Task Force has focused its efforts in three areas: 1) identity, 2) relationships, and 3) mission. The bishop's address to the convention in April 2014 has been the impetus and guide for our work. We suggest focus legacy-building in three areas:

- 1) Discipleship and Christian Formation – To equip the 'saints'
- 2) Evangelism and Stewardship – Being in the world, with Jesus, as the Church (Jesus Movement)
- 3) Mission Initiatives - Challenging and transforming systems to set the oppressed and captives free

Defining the Areas of Focus

The Task Force suggests that an intentional focus of our current efforts in these three areas will strengthen our sense of identity as the Episcopal Church and Diocese, builds relationships within the diocese between congregations, our ministries and with the wider community and church. This is nothing new; it is a renewed approach to getting folks 'on board' and communicating these efforts considering goals and vision. We will be better able to 'invest' in our future with such focus and intention. We hope this approach will equip the saints to be in the world, with Jesus, as the Church (Jesus Movement) as we challenge and transform systems that will set the oppressed and captive free, and all of us, in the world and church that God calls us to become.

Discipleship and Christian Formation - to equip the 'saints'

Developing, strengthening and supporting discipleship training and resources for members of congregations and diocesan ministries, laity and clergy, for all ages, at the local and diocesan level to 'equip the saints'. Such as:

- Education for Ministry (EFM), Godly Play training, Adult Education resources
- Sacramental Prep- Videos, resources

- Leadership Development
 - Vestries, wardens, Finance Committees
 - Lay-ministers and ministries, including training and licensing
 - clergy wellness, training
 - pledging and fund-raising skills and resources
- Episcopal identity-building and a greater awareness and connection with wider church, its people and resources
- Online accessibility to resources (e.g. Episcopal Church Foundation, Church NEXT etc.)
- Retreats, conferences, spiritual direction and mission trip opportunities.
- Mission trips for people in the diocese to support the wider church and its people.

Evangelism and Stewardship – Being in the world, with Jesus, as the Church (Jesus Movement) Sharing the Good News of God in Christ (from the Episcopal perspective) acting with our local communities, other religious organizations, social-justice non-profits, etc., but investing our resources (people, passion, perspective-building and purse). Some opportunities might be:

- Congregation's building and grounds use – 12 Step programs, community events, non-profits; also, Camp Tuttle and other properties.
- Interfaith relations - events, projects and worship opportunities e.g. Interfaith Prayer Alliance, etc.
- Partnerships with justice-oriented non-profits
- Re-visiting a diocesan Social Concern effort
- Outreach to millennials looking for meaningful action-based faith experience
- Activating faithful to participate and support legislative initiative that are in line with diocesan goals and vision
- Presence in the 'public forum' e. g. Bishop's task force for non-violence, Gay Pride, Legislature Day in January
- Investment policies

Mission Initiatives – Challenging and transforming systems to set the oppressed and captives free Supporting and investing resources in 'new' ministries in line with diocesan goals and vision.

- Episcopal Community Services (ECS) and Episcopal Management Corp (EMC)
- Supporting non-profits programs/organizations affiliated or led by Episcopalians, e.g. Flourish Bakery, Backyard Broadcast, Youth Impact, parish based/supported food pantry, feeding programs
- Study and needs assessment for planting/extending ministries in under-served areas and communities.
- Co-sponsor/ support community event that raise awareness and call to action. e.g. Love Heals Summit (March 2018) The Rev. Becca Stevens sponsored by The Jr League)
- Supporting community-based initiatives for housing, homelessness and health care, e.g. Family Promise, the Inn Between, 4th Street Clinic, new shelters, affordable housing, etc.
- Bishop's non-violence, anti-gun violence initiatives.

Recommendations

- The Task Force recommends that the bishop/or designees create **action groups**/committees in each of these areas to define annual and long-term goals (3-5 year initially), events, activities, etc. Generally, much of what we do now can be included (excepting administrative and executive work of the diocese.)
- In each area, persons will be engaged/appointed **to build a diverse team** to support ongoing work.
- This is not a “quick fix”. Rather, it is an **ongoing effort** to bring awareness to the diocese’s intentions and to engage laity and clergy in this work.
- This work should be **both practical and strategic** in light of diocesan vision and goals.
- To support **Evangelism and Stewardship** efforts, a prior recommendation was made (by resolution January 9, 2018) to provide \$15,000 matching grant for 2018 Souper Bowl of Caring and to send 2 or 3 participants to the 2018 Evangelism Matters Conference (March 16-18)
- There seems to be a ‘Spirit-driven’ synergy in our diocese at this time with advocacy and involvement by the Episcopal Church - our bishop, clergy persons and lay-leaders - in programs/organizations that are actively addressing those oppressed as victims of violence, human trafficking and the societal punishment for those with background deficiencies. As a **mission initiative**, the Task Force supports the requests for a grant from the ‘legacy funds’ (from the sale of diocesan property) for Flourish Bakery, a post-incarceration social-justice non-profit enterprise. This grant would allow a matching grant from the National Church (Mission Enterprise Zones Grants) that requires diocesan endorsement and funding. The recommendation is a **grant of \$100K** (the amount that can be matched).
- It is further recommended that these steps forward will be **communicated** to diocesan ministries, congregations and clergy at the diocesan convention (or shortly thereafter) in the Spring of 2018 and at clergy conferences.
- It is suggested that the work is **reviewed annually and reported to the convention** inviting broader participation and synergy with the diocesan vision and goals.

We submit this report for your consideration. We are grateful for this opportunity to serve our bishop and diocese as members of this task force.

Submitted by the 150th Anniversary Task Force*

February 25, 2018

*The Task Force members at the time of this report are: Martha Wunderli (All Saints); Nancy Appleby, The Rev. Libby Hunter (Cathedral of St. Marks); The Rev. Lyn Briggs (Church of the Resurrection); The Rev. Dave Sakrison (St Francis, Moab); Beth Gaines (St. Jude’s); Dave Seiter (St Michael’s); Russ Pack, John Sheaffer (St Pauls’ SLC); Angela Micklos, Nancy Tanner and The Rev. Terri Heyduk, Co-chair (St James Midvale); Daniela Lee (St Stephen’s, West Valley City) and Halee Oliver and Craig Wirth, Diocesan Communications staff.