

Right Onward Committee Report to the 225th Annual Diocesan Report

This year's Vision initiative was: Growth through Welcoming and Inclusion. The committee launched the initiative at Annual Convention in several ways. Annette Buchanan, chair of the committee, made a presentation at a plenary session; committee members staffed a booth while others video taped interviewed conventioners regarding ways in which their parishes were welcoming and inclusive.

Throughout the year the Right Onward Committee (ROC) collaborated with other diocesan committees to further the initiative. It co-sponsored The Magnetic Church training event with the Congregational Development Committee held in May; participated in the planning and development of resources for the Equipping the Servants Workshop: Radical Welcome held in October; and, continued planning a diocesan-wide mission project with the deacons.

In October the committee published and distributed a Welcoming Resource Packet to every congregation in the Diocese. This binder included both practical tools and concrete examples of how parishes can become more welcoming, open, and inclusive; and, scripted mini-curricula designed for children, youth, and adults.

The ROC planned and facilitated a Festive Evensong to be held at the Cathedral on January 31, 2009. This service, "Living the Vision," will be both a celebration of this year's Vision initiative as well as an introduction of next year's initiative, Spiritual Renewal. The Rev. Philip Carr-Jones coordinated this service. The Right Reverend Eugene Sutton, Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland, is the homilist.

The ROC continued to develop its presence on the Diocesan website and newsletter. In an effort to share information and activities, the ROC worked toward establishing a diocesan-wide calendar of events that furthered this year's Vision initiative. ROC committee members contacted other Diocesan committees regarding their efforts to further the initiative. This information was posted on the website and/or the newsletter.

Committee members included: The Right Reverend George E. Councill, ex officio; Ms Annette Buchanan, chair; Rev. Sunil Chandy; Rev. Kathleen DeJohn; Mr. Henry Foster; Mrs. Margaret Hughes; Rev. Terry Martin; Rev. Austin Murray; Rev. Canon Lee Powers; Rev. Lyndon Shakespeare; and, Ms Meg Smith. In September, as a consequence of moving away from the Diocese, Revs. Martin and Murray resigned from the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Buchanan