

Mission Renewal

Congregations are becoming increasingly aware of their call to serve and to respond to the profound needs of God's people: healing, serving, helping people to "make the common holy."

We see people freely giving of themselves and their resources in confidence and faith that Christ will "lead us to a just society." To this end, we envision:

- Our diocese identifying, implementing and accomplishing two to three mission projects, through the work of everyone in the diocese
- Our diocese assisting congregations in identifying local, social, and action opportunities
- Our diocese identifying and supporting social action projects that will directly involve young people of our Diocese in "reaching out"
- Congregations broadening the use of church buildings and other resources for community efforts, thereby encouraging the church to become a beacon for social justice

Spiritual Renewal

We see people of all ages being transformed by the grace of Jesus Christ into His disciples through an ongoing spiritual process.

To this end, we envision individuals and leaders in faith communities who reflect Christ's likeness by:

- Developing regular habits of worship, prayers, giving, and study of scripture

- Participating in Christian education
- Identifying their spiritual gifts
- Fostering leaders who enlist people into the mission of Christ and help them grow into Christ's likeness

We envision faith communities:

- Reflecting Christ's body by recognizing that Jesus is bringing us to one heart and mind to act as one Body to accomplish Christ's mission.

Next Steps

- Vision statement received and endorsed by Diocesan Convention. (Completed, 3 March 2007)
- Create a vision action committee.
- Ensure that all diocesan committees, commissions and task forces adopt the vision in their programs.
- Request Diocesan Council to create structures and budget where no organizations or programs exist.
- Ask each congregation to pray about the vision and adopt it.
- Ask you to pray about the vision and adopt it!

To Find Out More

See the web site of the Diocese of New Jersey:
newjersey.anglican.org/vision

You'll find a movie you can watch that brings our vision statement to life. (In early Spring 2007, each church in the diocese will receive a DVD with a copy of the video.) You can peruse the questions we asked and read what people told us. You can also download slides for use in your congregation.

**New Jersey: Renewed with vision
Right onward!**

The Vision of the Diocese of New Jersey



The Vision of the Diocese of New Jersey

The Diocese of New Jersey is one family of diverse and unique congregations, belonging to Jesus Christ and belonging to one another, for Jesus' sake.

Together, we are a missionary community, celebrating the abundant life of Christ (John 10:10) and sharing that life with the world that God so loves (John 3:16).

Our vision is to build up the Body of Christ and reach out to the world in Christ's name as we:

- share the Good News simply and genuinely;
- worship the Lord radiantly and reverently;
- serve the poor boldly and strive for justice passionately;
- give of our resources, our abilities and our lives joyously and generously; and
- seek continual spiritual renewal for a closer walk with Christ.

This is our vision of our Diocese, flourishing, to the Glory of God.

Above all and before all and as the sure and certain means of all, we pray:

Lord, in your mercy, make New Jersey new.

How do we get to the future?

Five steps can take us there.

Community and Resource Renewal

There are loving, supportive, collaborative connections among individual members, congregations, clergy, lay leaders, diocesan staff and our bishop, as well as the lost, the

strayed and the seeker. These connections are built with great intention by drawing out and engaging the gifts of all and providing opportunities for coming together. We envision:

- Congregations gathering together for social, mission, educational and other shared purposes
- Congregations increasing resources — talents, skills, and facilities — and maximizing their use
- Congregations providing sacrificial financial support for mission and diocesan ministries
- Our diocese communicating strategically, reaching as many people as possible, using both traditional and non-traditional channels
- Celebrating a diocesan-wide event annually

Liturgical Revival

Liturgical revival nurtures the best of our traditions and explores new avenues for lively and engaging worship. This includes the way we gather, pray, and sing and use music. We envision:

- Congregations identifying and celebrating the best of their traditions in worship
- Congregations incorporating new liturgical practices such as contemporary music, dance, Taizé, prayer groups, healing services, instruments other than the organ, and labyrinth walks
- Congregations sharing information about experiences with new liturgical practices through diocesan

communications including the web site and at diocesan and interparish gatherings

- Our diocese modeling new liturgical practices and the best of traditional practices at venues such as the convention, confirmations, youth gatherings, cathedral events, ordinations, clergy gatherings, and lay and clergy training

Growth through Welcoming and Inclusion

Faith communities are overflowing with all the diverse people of God's creation, proclaiming by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. We envision:

- Congregations growing, being supplied with practical tools and concrete examples to become welcoming, open, and inclusive
- Members sharing their faith stories first with one another and then with the lost, the strayed, the seeker in the wider community
- Congregations reflecting the diversity of their surrounding communities by: Knowing and embracing the diversity of the community of which they're a part and equipping members to step into unfamiliar situations to proclaim the Good News of Christ

Right Onward