

Joint Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2016

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Representatives from the three southern parishes of St. Mary's County Episcopal Church met at the St George's Church to develop policy and regulations for implementing the Covenant. The following members were in attendance: from St. George's - Greg Syler (rector), Bob Etter and Mike Mead. From Ascension- Melinda Artman, (rector), Tom McCarty, and Karol Wolgemuth.

Topics for discussion.

- There was a discussion concerning how the priests are currently spending their time. Both indicated that they spend approximately 25% performing non-priestly tasks and duties. A competent lay person could do many of the things that are now performed by priests. Some of these included lay Eucharistic ministers, pastoral care, buildings and grounds administration, communications, and administrative tasks.
- Greg indicated what he sees as an important function for lay leaders – developing and leading small groups.
- There is a need for an efficient parish administrator; there was a discussion if Gail Dobson who is currently employed 20 hours per week. Consider increasing her time and having her serve in the same way at Ascension.
- Also discussed was Ascension's purchase of Microsoft Publisher to allow bulletins to be produced jointly.
- Melinda and Greg agreed to work together to develop a plan that specifies what the role, the function, and responsibilities would be for a priest of the yoked parishes. There also needs to be a more clearly defined delineation of the role of the vestry.
- There was discussion regarding the scheduling of Sunday services. There was consensus that there needs to be equity. Several models were discussed.
- It is more important that the priest is accessible than that she/he be sitting in the church office.
- To be investigated – could Eucharistic ministers administer Eucharistic during a Sunday service?

The next meeting will be on Friday, June 24 at 7:00.

Karol Wolgemuth