



# EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

## **EVANGELISM OF AND BY YOUNG ADULTS: FAITHFULNESS TO GOD'S MISSION INTO THE FUTURE**

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RESOLVED, that The Episcopal Church in Connecticut in its 237th Convention commit to an increased investment in young adult ministry (including campus ministry, New Christian Communities, Intentional Christian Communities, and young adult networks) as outlined in the Young Adult Task Force Report by: providing resources for parishes and communities to faithfully and successfully engage with young adults in their contexts; deepening young adult formation; offering opportunities for young adult representation on leadership bodies across ECCT; and developing new approaches to outreach/evangelism of, by, and for young adults; and be it further RESOLVED, that this Convention thanks the Young Adult Task Force and commends their report for study and action as appropriate.

**Explanation:** Evangelism of and by young adults should be a priority for the Bishop Transition Committee as it searches for candidates for the 16th Bishop Diocesan of ECCT. The Episcopal Church has the oldest median age among the 20 most common religious traditions in our nation. We will not be fully able to pursue God's mission unless we explicitly focus on nurturing and reaching out to young adults. Churches are eager to connect with young adults, but often lack the resources, staff, and knowledge to do so.

Without key leadership in place, many efforts to build young adult ministry will continue to flounder. We must build leadership capacity and opportunities for training and support in order to encourage the flourishing of young adult ministry within unique, local contexts.

The Young Adult Task Force has fulfilled this mandate, first in the creation and presentation to the 236th Convention of ECCT of a professionally produced video on young adults and God's mission, and presently in the form of extensive research and a 26-page report including proposals, principally the hiring of a senior staff person at the Commons to support ongoing efforts in the area of young adults, and ECCT is in a unique time of transition with the selection of a new bishop during which it may not be judicious to make this hire, therefore this Convention approves in concept, the



proposals contained in the report prepared by the Young Adult Task Force for implementation subsequent to the consecration and installation of the 16th Bishop Diocesan of ECCT.

**How does this resolution further God's mission of restoration and reconciliation with all creation?**

If Christians living out their faith in ECCT want to truly “proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ,” we need to find a way to do so with the young adults in our midst. Many young adults are looking for meaningful and participatory ways to critically engage with their faith alongside church peers and mentors. They seek faith formation opportunities that dig deeper and allow them to engage with questions about God and what it means to be a Christian in today’s world.

If we want to share the Gospel with young adults, we must meet these needs, as well as expand opportunities for engagement beyond traditional Sunday morning services, which often have high barriers for young adult attendance.

**Requirements to Implement:** None at this time, other than the approval in concept of the proposals of the Young Adult Task Force, and a commitment to revisit the implementation of said proposals, principally the recommendation of a senior diocesan staff position for young adults, after the 16th Bishop Diocesan of ECCT has been consecrated and installed.