

# Diocesan Convention

October 27-28, 2023

Baymont Inn & Suites - Mandan, ND

*Theme: At the Threshold!*

*Convention Website:* [www.ndepiscopal.org/2023-diocesan-convention](http://www.ndepiscopal.org/2023-diocesan-convention)

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On September 15, 2023, Diocesan Council received and endorsed recommendations and resolutions from the New Season of Ministry Task Force. The full New Season of Ministry Task Force report can be found on our [website](#). What follows is the resolution to be considered at Convention on October 28, 2023.

## Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

### Diocesan Convention Resolution submitted by the New Season of Ministry Task Force and endorsed by the Diocesan Council

September 15, 2023

**Resolved**, that the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, meeting in Mandan, North Dakota on October 27-28, 2023, gives thanks to the New Season of Ministry Task Force for its faithful work throughout this past year and for the excellent and informative Report presented to this Convention, and be it further,

**Resolved**, that this Convention adopts the five recommendations from the New Season of Ministry Task Force, as follows:

#### **A. Invest in remaining one diocese:**

1. Maintain identity as the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
2. Elect a part time Bishop Provisional for another 3 years with specific mission charge to:
  - a) Support goals
  - b) Support dMSTeam, evaluate and discern future staffing needs
  - c) Support collaborations/cooperation with other dioceses
  - d. Prepare for election of Bishop Diocesan (part-time or full-time TBD) no later than the end of 2026

#### **B. Invest in Goals/Priorities for the next 3-5 years and evaluate on an annual basis (at a minimum):**

1. Develop Youth/Young Adult Ministry
  - a) Establish presence on college campuses
  - b) Cultivate youth leadership pathways
  - c) Raise awareness and support local congregational efforts for youth/young adult ministry initiatives.
  - d) Pursue ecumenical connections (e.g., Young Life)
  - e) Address liturgical opportunities to more fully engage youth/young adults.

2. Develop Native American Ministry
  - a) Address local/diocesan needs for leadership
  - b) Connect to church-wide initiatives related to Boarding Schools and other issues.
  - c) Identify Indigenous perceptions of church
3. Develop Congregational Ministry
  - a) Identify members of our diocese with gifts and skills to be ordained for sacramental ministry on a diocesan-wide basis.
  - b) Identify and support locally trained, ordained, and commissioned ministers, especially for small congregations.
  - c) Explore possibilities for local ministry team development.
4. Develop Reconciliation and Creation Care Ministry
  - a) Continue building on current efforts and communicate more widely.
  - b) Expand education related to these areas (e.g., Doctrine of Discovery, Dismantling Racism, Indigenous creation teachings, resources for environmental awareness, liturgical resources, sustainable energy opportunities)
  - c) Encourage connections between congregations

**C. Invest in Staffing to Align with Goals and review structure annually:**

1. Continue funding for full-time Diocesan Administrator
2. Commit to 3-Year funding for a full-time Diocesan Missioner (formerly Diocesan Minister) for Diocesan Ministry Development and Administration in advance of the election of a Bishop Diocesan.
3. Commit to 3–5-Year funding for a full-time Missioner for Youth/Young Adult & Congregational Ministry Development. This position will support and serve various long-term goals, including sacramental support for congregations, youth/young adult ministry, Native American ministry (in particular Saint Thomas, Fort Totten) and other congregational development.
4. Commit to 3-5-Year funding for a full-time Missioner for Reconciliation, Creation Care & Congregational Ministry Development. This position will support and serve various long-term goals, including sacramental support for congregations, Native American Ministry, in particular Saint Paul's, White Shield and Saint Sylvan's, Dunseith, and Reconciliation, and Creation Care. This is a refocus of the Northwest Ministry experiment, based on what we have learned these past two years, and builds on the ministry of the current Northwest Coordinator.
5. Reallocate General Convention block grant funding and increase annual budget approximately \$150,000 by making strategic use of additional withdrawals from trust endowment; use of other diocesan assets such as designated reserve funds; use of other funds invested in NDEF such as congregational renewal and revitalization, and contributions from congregations benefitting from these ministry positions.

**D. Invest in collaboration/cooperation with other dioceses:**

1. Continue to explore and engage in opportunities for cross-diocesan collaboration and cooperation in mission and ministry (e.g., youth EYE participation with Minnesota, South Dakota Racial Reconciliation efforts, Companion Relationship with Texas.)

**E. Invest in structural/organizational changes:**

1. Request that Diocesan Council address the following:
  - a) Delegates to Diocesan Convention (proportional or equal representation?)
  - b) Eligibility of canonically resident clergy to vote at Convention.
  - c) Scope and functions of regions, if any?
  - d) Consequences of non-participation in Diocesan Stewardship Share
  - e) Ways to encourage larger congregations to partner with smaller congregations