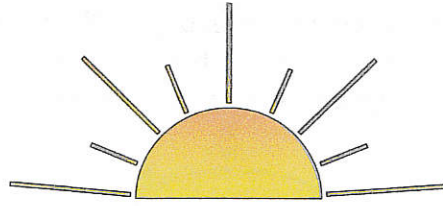

Parish Visioning



At last year's Diocesan Convention, clergy and delegates approved resolution 5, which called for a task force to examine our mission, structure, and governance. This task force met over much of 2011 and determined that parish involvement in discerning our future as churches and as a diocese is crucial. An outgrowth of their work is to facilitate conversations within and among parishes about their sense of identity, purpose, and mission.

On Saturday, February 25, from 11:00 a.m. to noon, following the Eucharist, members of the task force will lead a discussion and invite participation and visioning among parish groups.

The full report of the task force may be found on our diocesan website, www.dioceseofeaston.org. What follows is a summary of their vision.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Each generation of Christians is called to present Jesus anew in its own contemporary context.

We believe God is calling the church to a time of significant renewal. Living into this renewal requires clarity and conviction about our identity as followers of Jesus, and courage and creativity to share his life-giving message of transformation and hope.

Key to this renewal is prayerful conversation and joyful listening among the community of believers. It is as though each of shines a small penlight into the world; none of us sees God's full future, but when we share with one another what our penlight is showing us, together we see more. We expect that this adventure will be full of trial and error, and that through the supposed missteps we will actually discover the future God has in mind.

Resolution 5, passed at our 2011 Diocesan Convention, has opened a doorway for us to be intentional about discerning our future, both here in the Diocese of Easton, and in the part God intends for us to play in the wider church as a beacon for others. We invite you to make a commitment to engage on this journey, in a spirit of trust, eagerness, and anticipation.