PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-R4

Establishment of a Task Force on the Transition of Diocesan Missions to Parish Status

WHEREAS, the Diocese of Long Island is committed to the growth, vitality, and long-term sustainability of its congregations; and

WHEREAS, diocesan missions play an important role in the mission and ministry of the Church, with the hope that those demonstrating sufficient stability, vitality, and sustainability may eventually attain parish status; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of clear, objective, and measurable benchmarks for the transition from mission to parish status would provide transparency, consistency, and accountability in the process; and

WHEREAS, such benchmarks should consider, among other factors, financial sustainability, congregational vitality, governance, stewardship, and the capacity to sustain the worship and ministry of a parish; and

WHEREAS, a clearly defined process would assist diocesan missions in planning for their future and provide diocesan leadership with consistent standards for evaluating readiness for parish status;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 160th Convention of the Diocese of Long Island respectfully requests the Bishop of Long Island to establish a Task Force on the Transition of Diocesan Missions to Parish Status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Task Force be charged with developing clear, measurable, and objective benchmarks by which a diocesan mission may be evaluated for admission to parish status, including appropriate standards of financial sustainability, congregational vitality, governance, and institutional stability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force review the existing diocesan canons and procedures governing the transition from mission to parish status and recommend such amendments as may be necessary to establish a transparent, consistent, and equitable process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force be authorized to prepare and submit proposed canonical amendments, together with its recommended benchmarks and procedures, for consideration and possible adoption by the 161st Convention of the Diocese of Long Island; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Task Force report its findings and recommendations to the Bishop and the appropriate diocesan governing bodies in sufficient time to permit the consideration of any proposed canonical amendments at the 161st Convention.

Submitted by: The Rev. Keith Voets, The Very Rev. Hickman Alexandre, The Very Rev. Dr. Walter Hillebrand, The Rev. Lilo Carr Rivera, The Rev. Rudolph Anthony, The Rev. Canon Karen Davis-Lawson, The Rev Jimmie Sue Deppe, The Very Rev. Steve Foster, The Rev. Dr. Allen Robinson, The Rev. Lawrence Womack