

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM, CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

To the One Hundred Thirty-Sixth Council
of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic
of the Reformed Episcopal Church

Dear Brethren:

I begin my report by asking our churches to consider two questions about the outreach of our churches:

1. What hurdles do you face as a church in connecting with your community?
2. What forms of outreach do you plan to undertake in the coming year to supplement and improve the outreach of your church?

I am not proposing any recommendations as answers to these questions but as food for thought for our consideration.

During this past year, as the chairman of this committee, I explored possibilities for a resource for demographic study which could be utilized for church plants. One resource was recommended by Canon Phil Ashey of the American Anglican Council is an organization called Mission Insite and their web address is: <http://missioninsite.com/> On this website are tools and resources for demographic studies for your community. The committee approved that this resource be recommended for this purpose.

At last year's council, I had reported that this committee had approved a church planting document entitled "Church Planting Basics: For New Anglican Church Startups" which was written by the staff of the American Anglican Council. The web address for this document can be found at: https://americananglican.org/?attachment_id=7911

It is our hope that both of these resources will be helpful in assisting those engaged in church planting efforts in our diocese.

As I close this report I know the task of strengthening existing churches and the planting of new churches in our diocese is a daunting responsibility and yet let us pray to God for wisdom and insight in how to effectively live out and bear witness to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Cedric R. Benner, Chairman