

DESC
Structure and Finance Groups
Meeting on March 2, 2006
Breuer, Cohen, Lockwood, Markham, Martin, Mueller,
Olson and Wratten

Points on structure philosophy

- Need to provide financial relief to congregations
- Wide range of viewpoints on structure
- Parishioners must be educated to be part of resolution – part of Diocese
- How realistic is it to move functions from Diocese to regions and/or congregations?
- Need for collaboration
- Hope to effect change in outlook, behavior and spirituality
- Structure that invites others to join our churches
- Bring mission and ministry to every individual – sense of ownership by members
- Relying extensively on volunteers may mean some things don't get done
- Sharing
- Avoid reinventing the wheel on a congregational level
- Find balance for right number of Diocesan staff
- Allow right kind of bishop to be good leader
- Keep it simple – clear lines of authority and responsibility
- Flexibility
- Collaborative style
- Core purpose: Great Commission (banking souls home to God) and mission (forgiveness, reconciliation)
- Provide tools to inspire, enable congregations to perform
- Difficult for distressed, depressed congregation to look at selves objectively
- What structures allow big, difficult decisions to be made?
- Impersonal connection now between Diocese and congregations – get away from dollar connection
- Need leadership and some ground rules in delegating responsibility