

**Commission by Bishop Hubbard to the 39 Local Planning Groups and 17 Deaneries
Regarding the “Called to BE Church” Pastoral Planning Process
From January 2007 through June of 2008
(Discussed and Approved by Presbyteral Council on November 29, 2006)**

To: 39 Local Planning Groups and 17 Deaneries (Advisory to Bishop)

Timeline: January 2007-June 2008 (Planning Phase)

Commission:

- Prayerfully discern how we will invigorate the mission and ministry of Jesus in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany through prudent stewardship of all of our resources.

Method:

- Local Planning Groups will meet monthly to develop a plan with specific recommendations for the local church.
- The Core Team will use the process of *prayerful discernment* throughout this task.
- The Core Team must seek input consistently from At Large participants and parishioners and be attentive to on-going communication with same.
- The Core Team will arrive at decisions through *general consensus*. Voting is not an acceptable method for this process.
- Each Deanery should develop recommendations that recognize the special needs or circumstances of the deanery and, at the same time, complement those of the Local Planning Groups.
- Local Planning Groups will submit their recommendations and a specific plan and timeline for implementation in June, 2008 . Also, each deanery will submit its complementary recommendations to the Bishop by June 30, 2008.

Definition of Terms for The “Called to BE Church” Planning Process

Prayerful Discernment: A process, centered in prayer and collaborative, reflective dialogue, which seeks to arrive at general consensus and ownership of a specific plan/recommendations to strengthen the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ from each of the 39 Local Planning Groups and 17 Deaneries throughout the Albany Diocese.

“General” Consensus: A process by which decisions are arrived by a group wherein the majority of participants agree that they can “live with” and “own” the decisions of the group.

Core Planning Team: Six (6) members from each parish in a Local Planning Group commissioned by the Bishop to jointly develop and submit recommendations and a specific plan and timeline regarding the discerned future of the church in the Local Planning Group area.

At Large Participants: Permanent or Ad Hoc participants in the Local Planning Group who are asked to serve at the discretion of the pastor, administrator or Parish Life Director. Input from At Large participants will be taken under advisement by the Core Planning Team.

Diocesan Mission Statement

We are God’s people sharing a responsibility to witness God’s unconditional love and to bring Christ’s healing presence to our world.