

**Subject: Outline regarding the Fall River Churches Interparish Council**

**Date:** Fri, 21 Sep 2007

**From:** Rev Knight Dexter Cheney

**To:** Rev Richard Reid, Rev Susan Lee, Rev Wally and Rev Pat Gober, Bro Virgilio Fortuna, David Higginbottom , Ed Silvia, Elaine Branco, Cindy Isherwood, Elisa Canning, Judy Bougie, robroy227@comcast.net

***THE FOLLOWING IS A MERGER OF THE TWO DRAFTS RECEIVED FROM REV. CHENEY***

The purpose of the Fall River Churches Inter parish Council is to act in behalf of the four Fall River congregations in matters relating to their upcoming merger and in other matters of common interest to the churches.

The Inter parish Council will be composed of twelve members, three from each of the Fall River Churches. The Council will select chairperson, co-co-chairperson and secretary from among its members. If a member should resign or otherwise leave the council, the vestry of his/her church will be asked to designate a replacement member.

The chair, co-chair and secretary of the council will be responsible for building an agenda for each meeting and the vestry of each congregation may submit proposed agenda items to the secretary at any time.

The Inter parish Council will be represented on each of the following committees and will be responsible for identifying the membership of the Search Committee, assuring insofar as possible balanced representation from all four congregations.

○ GOVERNANCE

- Develop bylaws for the new Church
- Develop application to the Bishop, Standing Committee and Diocesan Convention for approval of the merger.
- Coordinate interface between the individual parishes and the Inter parish Council.

○ PROPERTY

- Receive the report and recommendations from the consultant regarding the use and dispersal of currently used churches.
- Recommend sale/use of existing churches to individual congregations.
- Assist congregations with preparation of requests to the Bishop and Standing Committee seeking consent to sell property.
- Identify possible sites in Fall River for a new church building.

○ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Chair, Co-chair and Secretary)

○ COMMUNICATION

- Serve as a clearing house for updating maintaining and circulating an inter parish calendar.
- Develop and manage an inter-parish web site.
- Periodically produce and distribute a newsletter of common interest
- Advertising and media relations including the diocesan newsletter

○ SEARCH

- In coordination with the diocesan staff and the Inter Parish Council, develop goals and a profile for the new parish.
- Follow diocesan procedures leading to a call.

○ WORSHIP AND LITURGY

- This committee is functioning, planning joint liturgies, etc.
- Plan for how the music program will be structured and staffed in the merged congregation

○ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- This committee is already meeting and understandings have been reached regarding church school curricula for the 2007-08 season
- Identify and organize Christian education opportunities for adults and teens.

○ OUTREACH

- Identify outreach ministries currently carried out by the Fall River Congregations
- Identify the resources required to maintain outreach ministries, which will continue and initiate planning for their maintenance/continuation.
- Identify desirable new outreach ministries to develop.

○ FINANCE

- This committee, made up of the treasurers of the four churches, is functioning.
- Be sure to budget for carrying costs to cover expenses generated before closed church buildings are sold.

○ STEWARDSHIP

- Support individual congregations in developing stewardship programs for 2008.
- Develop a year-round stewardship program for the merged congregation and identify who will lead it.