

# PROJECT CREED NEW MINISTRIES RESOLUTION

**Whereas**, by virtue of our Baptismal Covenant, we are all called to “proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ,” to “seek and serve Christ in all persons,” and to “strive for justice and peace among all people” (BCP, p. 305), and

**Whereas** the outline of our faith in the Book of Common Prayer lists the laity first among the ministers of the Church, charging them “to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church” (BCP, p. 855), and

**Whereas** the majority of our parishes operate without full-time clergy, some operate with only Sunday supply, and some currently have no consistent clerical presence, and

**Whereas** this reality makes it ever more important to have a committed and capable core of lay leadership within all of our parishes, working together for the good of Christ’s Church and of all the people of God, therefore,

**Now Be it Resolved** that:

1. The clergy and lay leaders of each parish or congregation encourage new lay-led, Spirit-inspired ministry initiatives, including not only the traditional form of intraparish ministry, but new ministries that are interparish, interdenominational, interorganizational or individually led;
2. Every parish or congregation encourage a diversity of leadership in new ministries in regard to race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital or family status (including pregnancy and child-care plans), sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disabilities, or age (Canons of the Episcopal Church, III.1.2), with particular attention to historically underrepresented populations; and
3. Lay-led Morning Prayer (or other Daily Office services) be encouraged among parishes and congregations that desire it when clergy cannot be present.

## **Explanation:**

As we look to ministry in the 21st Century the role of laity must increase as parishes increasingly struggle to afford clergy at staffing levels of the 20st Century. We all must encourage ministry by groups and individuals while seeking diversity.

This promotes reclaiming the laities’ role in ministry, mission, and service as the laity are the constants in parishes from week to week, year to year, and across generations.