Resolution C1-14: Changing the Name of St. Brigid’s Mission, Rio Vista, California, to St. Brigid of Kildare Episcopal Church, Rio Vista, California

RESOLVED: That the name of St. Brigid’s Mission, Rio Vista, California, is hereby changed to St. Brigid of Kildare Episcopal Church, Rio Vista, California.

EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION
St. Brigid’s Mission, Rio Vista, California, desires to change its name so as to honor more appropriately its patron saint. FISCAL IMPACT: None

RELATION TO DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: This action advances the priority for Healthy Congregations in furtherance of Evangelism and Congregational Development.

Resolution R1-14: Celebration and Participation in the 75th Anniversary of Episcopal Relief & Development "healing a hurting world."

RESOLVED: That the 2014 convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, affirms our faith in God and our fellowship with our Anglican sisters and brothers around the world, and re-affirms our years-old relationship with Episcopal Relief & Development in this their 75th year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that each congregation be invited to participate in this campaign, and to set their own goals of how many persons they would like to reach to bring clean water and education for good hygiene to those in need through the work of Episcopal Relief & Development.

EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION
Rationale: We, as a diocese, have been supporters of Episcopal Relief & Development and The Presiding Bishop’s Fund for World Relief since its founding in 1940. As Episcopal Relief & Development moves into its 75th year of healing a hurting world, this is our opportunity to join with other Episcopal dioceses to help them with their 75th Anniversary goal to secure the future so that their core work of long lasting development can continue.

We have chosen to support Episcopal Relief & Development’s Carry the Water campaign to bring clean water and education to communities around the world because of our own context where we are ever more keenly aware of our need to be good stewards of our own water.

$215 can bring a continuous source of clean water to a family in need in one of the almost 40 countries where Episcopal Relief & Development works and $35 can help one individual. Each
Congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California can set its own goal for how many people or families they would like to help.

This resolution is our opportunity to work with our Anglican sisters and brothers around the world as they strengthen their own resources and care for the needs of their people.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** All materials for this campaign will be provided to congregations by Episcopal Relief & Development at no cost to the diocese.

**RELATION TO DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Worship** – the Carry the Water tool kit includes prayers to be included in the liturgy

**Outreach** – the Carry the Water project will connect us with others in the world who face water issues

**Formation** – the Carry the Water tool kit includes materials for young adults and children, as well as adults, including videos and stories.

**Resolution R2-14** was withdrawn.

**Resolution R3-14:** New Program Staff Apportionment Exemption - There is an amended resolution, which has been distributed to all members of the Convention. The added language is “The approval of the Board of Trustees shall be required for the classification of an expense as a creative staff expenditure.”

The Rev. Dr. Sean Cox moved the resolution.

**RESOLVED:** That the 104th convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, desiring to set policies that will promote congregational engagement with the three strategic priorities of the diocese, and desiring to encourage congregations in the creative use of available resources, hereby modifies and amends Section 50.3 of the Canons of The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California to read as follows:

“Sec. 50.3. Effective January 1, 2010, Mission Apportionment will be calculated as a percentage of Net Disposable Income (N.D.I.) defined as operating income less outreach and capital expenditures as defined in the instructions for the treasurer’s monthly report. The Mission Apportionment calculation will be based on a system of at least three tiers created by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees will determine annually the percentage of Mission Apportionment for each tier.

Commencing January 1, 2015, N.D.I. shall be defined as operating income less outreach and capital expenditures and creative staff expenditures. Creative staff expenditures are those by which personnel expenditures are increased by expenditures for staff positions newly created to be filled between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017, to perform a function not previously..."
performed by a paid staff position; however, creative staff expenditures shall be reduced by salary savings resulting from vacancies in, or the elimination of, other paid staff positions. A deduction for creative staff expenditures shall be available for only the first three years of the function not previously performed by a paid staff position. The approval of the Board of Trustees shall be required for the classification of an expense as a creative staff expenditure.

The Trustees may not set the percentage above 10% on the first $60,000 of N.D.I., nor above 17.5% on N.D.I. over $60,000 up to $120,000, nor above 25% above $120,000, without approval of Convention.

A parish or mission in financial difficulty may apply to the Board for assistance in paying its Mission Apportionment. Such applications must be made on an annual basis and must include a completed audit by a diocesan auditor or audit committee.”

And be it further;

RESOLVED, that said expenditures shall include all funds used to provide benefits to said hired individuals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Treasurer and Director of Finance and Administration are to report on annual basis to the Board of Trustees the total amount of income exempted from the calculation of Apportionment for each fiscal year; so that a determination might be subsequently made at the 2018 convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California as to whether such an exemption might be extended on a permanent basis.

EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION
The strategic priorities of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California call for congregations to work diligently to promote Evangelism and Congregational Development; Community Collaboration and Communication and Youth and Young Adult Ministry. In living into these priorities congregations often find their ability to work in such a fashion hindered by their ability to hire staff that will be able to assist in leadership efforts to carry out this work. The passage of this resolution will allow congregations to have a greater ability to hire appropriate staff to carry out these priorities, and it will also provide a greater sense of shared commitment throughout the diocese as congregations experience a sharing of the cost that is incurred and often prohibits the hiring of staff to lead ministry initiatives.

FISCAL IMPACT: At the present time it is uncertain as to how many of our congregations might be in a position to add additional creative staff expenditures to their budgets. However, it is anticipated that those who are able to do so will provide a long term return for congregations and the Diocese.

It is anticipated that as congregations assume the responsibility for funding additional positions, they will be in a position to provide budgetary resources necessary for such additions and that such positions will be added in such a way that the congregational budget will grow to fully support the position. Over the three year period this will result in additional income to support both congregational and diocesan priorities.
The following scenario provides an illustration of the anticipated result of the passing of this resolution:

A congregation hires a staff member at $30,000 per year. Depending on the size of the congregation, the additional funds would be assessed between 10%-18%. Under the current apportionment rules, the income generated to pay for the new hire would result in the congregation paying between $3000 and $5400 per year in additional apportionment, resulting in a 3 year return to the Diocese of $9000 to $16,200. The creative staff exemption resolution would authorize the congregation to wait three years before paying the full apportionment on additional staff members. However, the congregation will still pay the full expense required to compensate the additional staff. Assuming the addition of the new staff member helps the congregation to grow by 20 families pledging $3000 per year, $60,000 of additional income would become available beginning 3 years from the hiring of the staff member.

**RELATION TO DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:** Additional Staff hired under the scenario presented by the passage of this resolution will be able to lead and support initiatives that promote Evangelism and Congregational Development; Community Connection through Collaboration and Communication as well as Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Through the use of these additional resources it is anticipated that programs and initiatives supporting these priorities will grow in number and effectiveness.

**Resolution R4-14:** Partnering with the “Charter For Compassion” by The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California. Ms. Margaret Lewis moved the resolution.

**RESOLVED:** That the 104th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California affirms the values and principles set forth in the Charter of Compassion, namely that:

> “The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to Honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that
breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community;”

And be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California are urged to sign on as a partner to the Charter of Compassion; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That The Rt. Rev. Barry L. Beisner, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, in consultation with the Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, name a “Charter of Compassion” Task force to urge congregations and members of this diocese to affirm the charter and assist congregations and members of the diocese in developing acts of compassion that demonstrate a commitment to the principles and values set forth in the Charter, and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the “Charter of Compassion” Task Force will provide reports as requested to Bishop Beisner and the Board of Trustees informing them of the actions taken to carry out this resolution and results obtained; and will also provide written reports of the Task Force’s work to the 105th and 106th Conventions of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

**EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION**

The Charter for Compassion is a document that transcends religious, ideological, and national differences. Supported by leading thinkers from many traditions, the Charter activates the Golden Rule around the world. The Charter for Compassion is a cooperative effort to restore not only compassionate thinking but more importantly, compassionate action to the center of religious, moral and political life. Compassion is the principled determination to put ourselves in the shoes of the other, and lies at the heart of all religious and ethical systems (http://charterforcompassion.org/the-charter, 2014).

The Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, parishes, and individuals have recognized the need to grasp new forms of leadership, ministry, and evangelism in a changing world to maintain the mission of the church in the 21st century (Bishop’s conference, 2013). By
partnering with the Charter, we seek to find a common ground with those who do not follow our specific doctrine but who want to live a righteous life of compassion. In so doing, we hope to extend our Diocesan mission of “…transforming communities for Christ.”

The Charter, written by Karen Armstrong, invites individuals, communities, and organizations, both secular and religious, to stand together in encouraging those with whom they interact to live their lives according to the Golden Rule acknowledging the inherent value of each individual person.

This resolution is asking the Diocese of Northern California to partner with the Charter as a public proclamation that we stand with people of all faiths to put compassion at the center of our lives and to treat every human being with respect as promised in our baptismal covenant.

Becoming a partner is a simple matter of logging onto the Charter’s website and providing information regarding the structure of our organization. From that point, the Diocese of Northern California will be shown as a partner on the website and will have access to resources regarding the Charter for Compassion and its continued evolution.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no required fiscal impact on any church or The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California for becoming a partner in the Charter for Compassion, though the Board of Trustees may wish to fund, support, and enable deaneries in acts of compassion.

**RELATION TO DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

Youth and Young Adults - The Charter for Compassion is one way to help youth and young adults bridge the gap between their friends of varied faiths. The Golden Rule, the foundation of all major wisdom traditions, is a value our young people have been taught as an integral part of their faith. This charter opens doors for discussion; a safe way for them to profess their values, and, if they choose to engage more deeply, can be a starting point for a variety of activities in their communities and peer groups.

Communications – Respectful, civil discourse seems to be a challenge for nearly every institution and individual today. Whether secular, political, religious, or otherwise a statement of respect can play an important role in setting up structures within which civil exchanges can begin. The Charter for Compassion serves as such a statement.

Congregational Development – Focusing on acts of compassion changes a congregation into a gospel centered community that leads to spiritual growth, growth as servants for Christ, and as a community beacon displaying the reign of God.

**Resolution R5-14:** Marriage Equality – The Very Rev. Dr. Brian Baker moved the resolution.

**RESOLVED:** That the 2014 Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northern California calls
upon the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church to authorize the use of “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage,” “The Blessing of a Civil Marriage,” and “An Order for Marriage” from The Book of Common Prayer 1979, and “The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant” from Liturgical Resources I, for all marriages legal in the civil jurisdiction in which the liturgy takes place. In civil jurisdictions with same-sex marriage, the language “man and woman” and “husband and wife” and other such gender-specific language shall be equally applicable to two persons of the same sex, and may thus be modified whenever necessary for the purposes of the Canon “Of the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony” (Canon 1.18) and “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage,” “The Blessing of a Civil Marriage” and “An Order for Marriage” in the Book of Common Prayer 1979; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2014 Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northern California calls upon the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church to amend Canon 1.18: Of the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony, to read as follows:

Sec. 1. Every Member of the Clergy of this Church shall conform to the laws of the civil jurisdiction governing the creation of the civil status of marriage, and also to the laws of this Church governing the solemnization of Holy Matrimony, and if the solemnization of Holy Matrimony is to have legal effect as a civil marriage, to the laws of the State governing the creation of the civil status of marriage.

Sec. 2. Before solemnizing a marriage Holy Matrimony the Member of the Clergy shall have ascertained:

(a) That both parties have the right to contract a marriage according to the laws of the State, if the marriage is to have legal effect.

(b) That both parties understand that Holy Matrimony is a physical and spiritual union of a man and a woman two persons, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind, and will, and with intent that it be lifelong.

(c) That both parties freely and knowingly consent to such marriage, without fraud, coercion, mistake as to identity of a partner, or mental reservation.

(d) That at least one of the parties has received Holy Baptism.

(e) That both parties have been instructed as to the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony by the Member of the Clergy, or that they have both received such instruction from persons known by the Member of the Clergy to be competent and responsible.

Sec. 3. No Member of the Clergy of this Church shall solemnize any marriage unless the following procedures are complied with:
(a) The intention of the parties to contract marriage shall have been signified to the Member of the Clergy at least thirty days before the service of solemnization;

Provided, that for weighty cause, this requirement may be dispensed with if one of the parties is a member of the Congregation of the Member of the Clergy, or can furnish satisfactory evidence of responsibility. In case the thirty days' notice is waived, the Member of the Clergy shall report such action in writing to the Bishop immediately.

(b) There shall be present at least two witnesses to the solemnization of marriage.

(c) The Member of the Clergy shall record in the proper register the date and place of the marriage, the names of the parties and their parents, the age of the parties, their residences, and their Church status; the witnesses and the Member of the Clergy shall sign the record.

(d) The Member of the Clergy shall have required that the parties sign the following declaration:

(e) "We, A.B. and C.D., desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife two persons as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

(f) "We believe that the union of husband and wife two persons, in heart, body, and mind, is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

(g) "And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto."

Sec. 4. It shall be within the discretion of any Member of the Clergy of this Church to decline to solemnize any marriage.

EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION

This resolution enriches the liturgical options for all couples, while eliminating the implicit or explicit liturgical dishonoring of any. To require that same-sex couples being married in the Episcopal Church, in civil jurisdictions where that marriage is legal, use a liturgy other than the one long in use in The Episcopal Church – and currently reserved exclusively to opposite-sex couples – dishonors these couples who seek the church's blessing on their marriages, declaring that such marriages are not Holy Matrimony.
In addition, the prohibition on opposite-sex couples’ use of the proposed liturgical resources for blessing same-sex unions deprives those couples of the full theological and liturgical resources of the church. Allowing all couples to use either liturgy shows respect for all people, regardless of sexual orientation, and so affirms their full baptismal dignity in the eyes of God.

Making the language of the Prayer Book liturgies “equally applicable” to two persons of the same sex echoes the language of Canon III.1.2, which makes the provisions of the ordination canons “equally applicable” to men and women. First adopted in 1976, this provision was restored to the canons in 2006 (Resolution 2006-D045).

The current language of Canon 1.18 confines the church’s understanding of Holy Matrimony to marriages legalized and defined by the State, and gives the laws of the State primary authority in determining which unions the church will solemnize as Holy Matrimony.

The changes proposed in this resolution will make clear that the church’s understanding of Holy Matrimony is not restricted or defined by the State, while preserving the canonical support for clergy to act as agents of the State in creating all such civil marriages as may be permitted by law in the appropriate civil jurisdiction.

Removing the gender-specific language of “husband and wife” and “man and woman” from the canon removes the canonical dilemma possible when a Member of the Clergy, under the authorization of the Bishop, solemnizes a marriage between a same-sex couple in civil jurisdictions where such marriage is legal.

Removing the gender-specific language of “husband and wife” in the Declaration of Intention allows all couples to acknowledge that marriage may be between two people of the same sex or of opposite sexes.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**RELATION TO DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

This resolution allows us to honor and support all couples who want to solemnize their commitment through the rite of Holy Matrimony. It is a witness to the wider community that the Episcopal Church is committed to full inclusion of gay and lesbian persons. Being clear in that witness in a state where gay and lesbian couples can be legally married can help with our evangelism and congregational development efforts. Also, being able to solemnize gay and lesbian couples with the same rite used for opposite-sex couples supports the children and youth of those gay couples seeking the blessing of the church. This can enhance our ability to provide effective ministry to children of these couples. Since a majority of young adults in California support marriage equality, this resolution can enhance our welcome to young adults.
1. Resolutions: The Very Rev. Cliff Haggenjos introduced Ms. Lynn Zender to present the resolution.

Resolution R6-14: Welcoming the Stranger: Humanitarian Response to the Crisis of Unaccompanied Children at the U.S. Border – Ms. Lynn Zender of St. Martin’s in Davis introduced Resolution R6-14 and moved it.

**RESOLVED:** That the 104th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California affirms our Baptismal Covenant to Strive for Peace and Justice; and be it further,

**RESOLVED:** That the 104th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California joins with the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, The Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori in calling upon all members of the church to advocate to our government representatives on behalf of refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking and torture, and other migrant populations that they be afforded the legal protections and services afforded by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a law passed unanimously by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2008; and be it further,

**RESOLVED:** That the “Welcoming The Stranger” Task Force shall take such action as to carry out the advocacy called for in this resolution by actions which will include, but are not limited to:

(a) Encouraging congregations and individuals to donate funds to the Episcopal Migration Ministries;

(b) Supporting the work of Episcopal dioceses and churches such as the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, St. John’s Episcopal Church in McAllen, Texas, and Christ Church in Laredo, Texas which are on the frontline of the compassionate response to those Central American children and families that have been released from detention and are on their way to a further destination; and

(c) Providing information to our diocesan website about how local congregations can advocate and make a difference in resolving this crisis of unaccompanied children at the border of the United States; and be it further,

**RESOLVED:** That the “Welcoming The Stranger” Task Force will provide reports as requested to Bishop Beisner and the Board of Trustees informing them of the actions taken to carry out this resolution and results obtained; and will also provide written reports of the Task Force’s work to the 105th and 106th Conventions of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

**EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION**
During 2014, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of unaccompanied children as well as mothers with children from Central America arriving at our border with Mexico. Like refugees from conflict zones, the women and children are fleeing from pervasive violence, particularly as a result of gangs and trafficking in drugs and human beings, in their home countries of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Honduras now has the highest murder rate in the world with El Salvador and Guatemala ranking third and eighth.

While the United States has the duty and right to defend its borders, international law (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and US law allow for people facing life-threatening violence to seek asylum in this country. The Central American children now arriving at our southern border are refugees who present a humanitarian crisis not a security threat.

*I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.* (Matthew 25:35)

On July 10, 2014, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori issued a statement about the humanitarian crisis involving unaccompanied children and mothers with children. In that statement, Bishop Jefferts Schori noted: "Episcopalians are responding with prayers and concern, and asking how to help. I urge you to remember these people and their difficult and dangerous position in your prayers --- today, this coming Sunday, and continuing until we find a just resolution. The Episcopal Church has established an account to receive financial contributions to assist Episcopal Migration Ministries in this work. I would also encourage you to contact your legislators, and ask them to support an appropriate humanitarian response to this crisis. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keeper, and as a Church, we are asking the United States government to support such a response, grounded in justice and the fundamental dignity of every human being."

Also, on July 10, 2014, the Episcopal Church’s Office of Governmental Relations submitted testimony on this subject to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee. That testimony noted that the Episcopal Church has supported providing humanitarian aid abroad and refugee resettlement domestically since the Presiding Bishop’s Fund for World Relief was established in 1939. It further urged the Senate to adequately fund the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) so that it can provide the necessary services to these unaccompanied migrant children and to increase legal services to protect their rights under law.

At its General Convention in 2006, through Resolution Number 2006-A017, the Episcopal Church adopted as its policy certain principles regarding "The Alien Among You." Those principles include that the Episcopal Church undertake a campaign to educate Episcopalians as to the plight of refugees, immigrants, and migrants, and the root causes of migration and that this campaign call the Church to commit to welcoming strangers as a matter of Christian responsibility, to advocate for their well-being and protection and to urge its members to resist legislation and actions which violate our fundamental beliefs as Christians, including the criminalization of persons providing humanitarian assistance to migrants.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No fiscal impact to Diocese other than donations made.

**RELATION TO DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**
Community Connection through Collaboration and Communication: This is an outreach project that can be best accomplished through our connecting with each other and helping each other with resources and information on ways to be effective. We are a large Diocese and working together makes a difference.

Resolution R7-14: Disaster Preparedness

RESOLVED: That the 104th Convention of the Diocese of Northern California hereby directs all congregations, diocesan institutions and offices within the Diocese of Northern California to have current disaster preparedness plans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all such congregations, institutions and offices shall develop such plans, with the aid of the diocesan Disaster Coordinator when needed, prior to the 105th Convention of the Diocese of Northern California in 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Diocesan Disaster Coordinator shall establish procedures for monitoring progress in implementing this policy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Diocesan Disaster Coordinator shall report on the state of disaster preparedness to the 105th Convention of the Diocese.

EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION

Churches can be great in a crisis. By their very nature they have the capacity to gather people to common cause, to pray and facilitate hopeful and healing ritual and to offer hospitality and community outreach. Their coffee makers are large. They usually have a good supply of tables and chairs. And among their people are the kind of folks who roll up their sleeves and get things done. Most importantly, churches are animated by the Gospel and its central call to seek and serve Christ in society’s most vulnerable members. When people are in danger of falling through the cracks, churches offer important safety nets, including a human one that embraces, supports, heals and loves. When a disaster hits a community, churches have a unique role to play and a particular set of gifts to employ.

But mobilizing all these gifts on a congregational level during an unexpected crisis is no easy task. It works better with some preparation, with a vision of what effective response looks like and a sense of how to use the tools and gifts at hand as needs change on a community’s road to recovery. Here the diocese has its own role to play, as a source of leadership and support and a clearinghouse for information and resources.

We live in an area that is subject to natural disasters such as earthquakes, fires, and floods. We are also increasingly aware of the possibility of human-initiated disasters such as terrorism. Prudent stewardship of the resources of the church requires that we be prepared for such events. We also owe it to the communities in which we live to exercise leadership in helping those communities to be resilient in the face of possible disaster.
The role of the Disaster Preparedness Committee, formed in 2012 at the request of Episcopal Relief and Development and Bishop Beisner, is to offer guidance and support to congregations and other entities of the Diocese in the preparation of their disaster preparedness and response plans. The committee is working with Episcopal Relief and Development to provide training, information and other capacity-building activities for local leaders and congregations throughout the diocese. Planning templates and other resources are available to assist your congregation generate a plan that will not only assure that your congregational life will continue with the least amount of disruption, but you will also be in a good position to aid those in your community respond to the disaster.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There will be minimal costs associated with preparing a disaster plan, but being prepared for a disaster may have a very positive impact on the mitigation of the effects of the disaster and returning a congregation to normalcy. In some dioceses, reaching out to the community with preparedness activities and events has had a very positive effect on evangelism and church attendance.

**RELATION TO DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:** We believe that being prepared leads to a healthier congregation by not only seeing that the church itself is prepared, but all the families in the church are also prepared. Being prepared to serve your local community is a form of outreach, and increased visibility in the community is also an evangelism tool.

2. Resolutions of Courtesy and Memorial
   a. **Memorial Resolution M8-14** – The Rev. Shepherd Martin “Shep” Jenks – Resolved by the Diocese of Northern California of The Episcopal Church of the United States of America, in Convention, on the fifteenth day of November, 2014, at Santa Rosa, California, that this diocese with sharply felt grief, gives thanks and remembers with deep fondness our brother Shep Jenks who served faithfully as a deacon of our diocese for many years, and has witnessed to all a deep faith made manifest in the diligence, dignity, grace, humor and incredible patience with which he discharged his duty. This diocese hereby gives voice and attests to our deep and lasting love for Shep, our thanks to God for his life, and our sympathy to his family who most acutely feels his absence.
   b. **Courtesy Resolution R9-14** – Support for St. Mary’s Napa – Resolved by the Diocese of Northern California of The Episcopal Church of the United States of America, in Convention, on the fifteenth day of November, 2014, at Santa Rosa, California, that this diocese offers its prayers and support for the people of Napa, the congregation of St. Mary’s, our brothers and sisters in Vallejo, and all who were affected by the recent earthquake. We give thanks for the faithful witness that all of you have provided as your repair and rebuild your lives and sanctuary. We look forward to joining with you in praise to the glory of God when you are able to gather once again in your sacred space. – The resolution passed unanimously.
   c. **Resolution on the Bishop’s Address R10-14** – Resolution In Response to Our Bishop’s Call to Continue the Work of Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints, and Transforming Communities for Christ in Northern California
**Resolved**, by the Diocese of Northern California of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America, in Convention, on the fifteenth day of November, 2014, at Santa Rosa, California, that this diocese, being mindful of our identity, purpose, and sense of mission; having an awareness of God’s work in our midst; and being mindful of our duty to be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us; joins with our Bishop in committing ourselves to God’s mission as we live into the promises of Baptism. We commit ourselves to the practice of making disciples, raising up saints, and transforming our communities for Christ, utilizing the many gifts and blessings God has bestowed upon us to do this work. We are grateful for the life, work, love, and presence of Bishop Beisner in our midst, and look forward to his continued leadership in helping all of us become better disciples of Jesus. – The resolution passed unanimously.

**d. Courtesy Resolution R11-14** – Courtesy Resolution for The Rev. Dr. Timothy Chi-pei Kwok and The Diocese of East Kowloon – **Resolved** by the Diocese of Northern California of The Episcopal Church of the United States of America, in Convention, on the fifteenth day of November, 2014, at Santa Rosa, California, that this diocese offers its prayers and support for The Rev. Dr. Timothy Chi-pei Kwok as he is ordained and consecrated as the new Bishop of East Kowloon, and we bid The Rt. Rev. Barry L. Beisner, as he represents The Episcopal Church, to extend our expression of love and support to the people of East Kowloon, and our sincere desire to work together to strengthen the bonds of our Communion. We celebrate with joy the lives and ministry of our brothers and sisters in East Kowloon and their new Bishop and we pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen all of us as we carry out God’s mission and live into our ministry of reconciliation. – The resolution passed unanimously.

**e. Courtesy Resolution R12-14** – Resolution of Thanks for Ms. Kathryn Burleson – **Resolved**, by the Diocese of Northern California of The Episcopal Church of the United States of America, in Convention, on the fifteenth day of November, 2014, at Santa Rosa, California, that this diocese offers deep gratitude and thanks to Kathrin Burleson for your willingness to use your grace-filled gifts and talents for the greater glory of God. We rejoice in the work of your hands, and ask God’s blessing upon the beautiful icon of Christ that Bishop Beisner will present to The Rev. Timothy Chi-pei Kwok as he is ordained and consecrated as the new Bishop of East Kowloon. We celebrate with joy the lives and ministry of our brothers and sisters in East Kowloon and their new Bishop and we pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen all of us as we carry out God’s mission and live into our ministry of reconciliation. – The resolution passed unanimously.

**f. Courtesy Resolution R13-14** – Resolution of Thanks for the Rev. Dr. Linda Clader – **Resolved** by the Diocese of Northern California of The Episcopal Church of the United States of America, in Convention, on the fifteenth day of November, 2014, at Santa Rosa, California, that this diocese extend its deep gratitude and thanksgiving to The Rev. Dr. Linda Clader for your reminder to all of us that in our work together we are doing theology, offering ourselves and our gifts to each other, and to God, as we answer God’s call to mission and the ministry of reconciliation. We thank you for your witness, your love, and the daily theology you embody through your presence in our midst. – The resolution passed unanimously.

**g. Courtesy Resolution R14-14** – Resolution of Thanks and Expression of Support for the Staff of the Office of the Bishop – **Resolved**, by the Diocese of Northern California of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America, in Convention, on the fifteenth day of November, 2014, at Santa Rosa, California, that this diocese expresses its heartfelt thanks for the Staff of the Office of the Bishop. We are inspired by your selfless witness to the presence of
Christ in our communal life through your grace and service to the people of this diocese. In particular, we are grateful for your willingness to put in countless hours of work in preparation for this convention. We give thanks also for the arrival of the Rev. Canon Andrea McMillin, and we look forward to working with her and all of you as we continue to make disciples, raise up saints, and transform our communities for Christ. – The resolution passed unanimously.

**Courtesy Resolution R15-14** - Resolution of Thanks and Support for The Rt. Rev. James Magnus and The Rev. Ranjit Matthews – Resolved by the Diocese of Northern California of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America, in Convention, on the fifteenth day of November, 2014, at Santa Rosa, California, that this diocese expresses its heartfelt thanks for the presence of The Rt. Rev. James Magnus and The Rev. Ranjit Matthews in our midst. We give thanks for the ways in which you call our attention to ministry for those serving in our Armed Services and in our Federal Ministries, as well as God’s call for us to be mindful of our brothers and sisters throughout the world, and the many opportunities to us to join with them as we all work to carry out God’s mission to all.