

Developing a culture of Grace

The 2016 Diocesan Synod adopted a resolution (A-2) which reads:

“Resolved that every recognized gathering in our Diocese – Vestries, Councils, Bible studies, Mission groups, Deanery Clericus, Diocesan Council, Associates in Episcopal Ministry, etc. – every circle in which we participate – spend time developing a culture of grace – exploring what it means in their context, and taking steps to make it reality, part of our transformation as we embrace the world with Christ.” (*Synod theme = Embracing the world with Christ.*)

Discussion points:

- What is “grace”? (Dictionary definitions focus on 3 primary meanings from ancient Latin – a pleasing quality; favour or goodwill; gratitude or thanks.) In English usage, the second of these also developed a sense of an expression of favour by a superior, or an offer of mercy, clemency or pardon. (i.e. The extreme expression of grace – God’s gift of Jesus Christ to the world.) How would you describe receiving “grace” from a person or community? (an example)
- Jesus’ attitude in everything he did and said was one of grace. “Every word, every action, every challenge of Jesus was designed **to show the potential, the possibility, the good purpose, of all human lives in God’s world.**” What would this look like in the context of this group of people?
- St. Paul says that “**we are members one of another**” in the Church. (Rom. 12:5) In the same chapter he expands on the truth that we have different gifts and functions but that we *need each other* in order to function fully as the Body of Christ. How do we express and live out that reality in the context of this group of people?
- Intentional communities of grace see that one of their primary purposes is “**to reveal the potential, the possibility, the good purpose of all human lives and, in fact, all of creation.**” How will we continue to monitor our ability to do this in this group or gathering?