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**Grace Church - Lyons**

**Diocesan Convention Resolution 11-5-16**

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6       Whereas, Grace Episcopal Church is a long-standing incorporated Episcopal parish  
7 located at 9 Phelps St, Lyons, NY 14489 (“Grace Church”).  
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9       Whereas, Grace Church holds significant assets consisting of a church building, rectory  
10 and parish hall, all on the historical register, certain bank and investment accounts, beneficiary  
11 status to certain trusts, dedicated parishioners, and a tradition of religious, missional and  
12 community service (“Church Resources”).  
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14       Whereas, for approximately a five year period Grace Church has made available certain  
15 of its Church Resources working with Rural & Migrant Ministry (“RMM”) to support RMM’s  
16 activities bringing the word and blessings of God to the rural, migrant, farmworker, and Hispanic  
17 communities in the region.  
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19       Whereas, in early 2016 the congregation of Grace Church, under the leadership of The  
20 Rev. Andrew D’Angio White, determined that the demographics of the region no longer  
21 supported the traditional parish model for Grace Church and that Grace church should look to  
22 transition its activities by the end of 2016.  
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24       Whereas, since that time Grace Church, including its Priest, Wardens and Vestry, have  
25 had discussions with the Diocese, including Bishop Singh, Chief Financial Officer Rubiano and  
26 Chancellor Fileri, and RMM, including RMM Board Chair the Rev. Julie Cicora and RMM  
27 Executive Director the Rev. Richard Witt, about charting a new course. These discussions  
28 resulted in a proposal from RMM to Grace Church presented to Grace Church in August, 2016,  
29 supported by the Diocese, to transition Grace Church to incorporated mission status, and as a  
30 Diocesan mission, to engage in joint activities with RMM, pursuant to a proposal, the current  
31 status of which is attached hereto (“Proposal”), using certain of the Grace Church Resources and  
32 gifts to continue and grow RMM’s activities in the Lyons region.  
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34       Whereas, the Wardens and Vestry of Grace Church have approved the Proposal and the  
35 matters in these resolutions set forth below.  
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37       NOW, THEREFORE, this Convention hereby adopts the following resolutions:  
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39       RESOLVED, that as of the Transition Date (defined below) Grace Church  
40 ecclesiastically shall transition from “parish” status to “mission” status in the Episcopal Diocese  
41 of Rochester. The Wardens and Vestry of Grace Church shall no longer have their duties and  
42 responsibilities for Grace Church effective on the Transition Date. As a mission, the Diocese  
43 shall be responsible for the Grace Church Resources and assets as governed by the applicable  
44 Constitution & Canons provisions. Grace Church shall be an incorporated mission and continue  
45 its religious tax-exempt status. Its assets, while subject to Diocesan ownership, control and

46 direction, shall remain assets of the Grace Church incorporated entity, unless determined  
47 otherwise by the Diocese.

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49 RESOLVED, that the Convention hereby:

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51 (a) applauds Grace Church for its many, many years of successful parish ministry,  
52 outstanding stewardship of its resources and gifts, and vision to continue a legacy of helping  
53 those who need help and extending its gifts beyond itself both geographically and in time into the  
54 future.

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56 (b) approves and supports the Diocese engaging with RMM for rural and migrant  
57 ministry arising out of Grace Church, as may be reasonably modified from time to time with the  
58 approval of the Bishop,

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60 (c) thanks all involved for their diligent and inspired work in developing the vision for  
61 this important work and melding the Grace Church Resources with an implementation plan for  
62 this growing ministry, and

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64 RESOLVED, that the Transition Date be such date as agreed to by the Diocese and Grace  
65 Church, but not later than December 31, 2016.

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67 RESOLVED, that the Bishop and the Officers of the Diocese are hereby authorized to  
68 take such actions as may be necessary, appropriate and/or advisable to implement the resolutions  
69 set forth above, including but not limited to establishing, modifying and/or terminating an  
70 arrangement with RMM and taking such steps as may be needed to operate the Grace Church  
71 mission, including but not limited to establishing an Executive Committee and delegating  
72 responsibilities to an administrative board or otherwise.

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76 Explanation

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78 The background and reasons for the actions are detailed in the “Whereas” clauses above.