- The purpose of the **Trialogue** is to enable members of the three Episcopal dioceses in Wisconsin to explore how reunification into one diocese can better equip us to be the church God is calling us to be in these times.
- The goal of the **Task Forces** is to bring in everyone so desiring to participate which would create buy in. They are to be the beginning, middle and end of the work.

TRIALOGUE TASK FORCE GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

Background

The Episcopal dioceses of Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, and Milwaukee are exploring how reunification as one diocese may better equip us to be the church God is calling us to be in these times. A Steering Committee formed task forces to examine elements as part of a reunification proposal. The task forces are to involve many voices to generate ideas under their area or focus that may be considered for inclusion in a reunion proposal.

Area of Focus

Each task force has an area of focus which is a component of the trialogue. It is likely that one task force's area of focus may overlap with another task force, so each will have a Steering Committee liaison to communicate and help coordinate which task force may take the lead.

Membership

Initial members are selected by the Steering Committee with representation from each diocese. They may invite others to become members to ensure diversity in representation as well as connect persons with experience or expertise in a focus area.

Organization

Each task force is to develop procedures to function within its area of focus. Procedures which may work for one task force may not be the best for another. Each task force is expected to have at least one facilitator ("chair" or "co-chairs") who will make meeting arrangements and facilitate discussion and one clerk to document discussion for future reference by the task force and Steering Committee. This written record will be essential for communication to the Steering Committee and other task forces.

Outcome

The work of each task force is to perform careful study in its area of focus in the context of three dioceses becoming one and report on its findings to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee may, from time to time, ask a task force to perform specific action items. Findings are likely to be fluid and may be influenced by reports from other task forces. Reporting is both a one-time event and on-going as the work moves ahead. What is specifically reported will be a function of area of focus and how it is reported may vary. The Steering Committee may request a report which provides options and/or recommendations about the area of focus as it prepares a proposal to consider.

Timeline

Each task force's work is to be regularly moving forward. Some work may be immediate activity (e.g. Prayer and Discernment) while others may see more activity in the future (e.g. Constitution and Canons). Each task force is to meet at least monthly, even if for a short, check-in gathering. The Steering Committee expects to receive a report at least quarterly. It is important to note the work of task forces will likely not end with a finalized reunion proposal but may change when such a proposal is acted on. The goal is for conventions to consider a proposal in October 2023, though more time will be allowed if a proposal is not ready to be presented.

Wisconsin Trialogue

Diocese of Eau Claire | Diocese of Fond du Lac | Diocese of Milwaukee

Trialogue Task Force Charges

Task Force	Area of Focus	Steering Committee Liaison
Prayer and Discernment	• Identify and organize those who commit to praying regularly for the trialogue. • Prepare prayers / litanies / liturgies which may be used by individuals or congregations in praying for discernment about reunification.	Kathy Charles
Parish and Regional Engagement	• Organize conversation in and between congregations and in and between dioceses around the work of the trialogue task forces. • Engage various methods for conversation and connection such as virtual meetings and in-person gatherings.	Tim Donahue
Culture and Mission	• Assess the culture of who we have been and who we are as congregations, dioceses, Episcopalians, and Wisconsinites. • Assess the landscape of who we could/should be as congregations, as one diocese, as representatives of the Body of Christ. • Review and evaluate the missions of each diocese in terms of what is doable, what is stagnant or outdated. • Considering the cultural and mission assessment, assess the missions and what could/should be done in a one diocese in the 21st century in terms of needs and abilities.	Scott Leannah

Structure	• Consider meta questions related to how one diocese may organize or structure itself:
	  ○ What are congregations for? Dioceses? How do they connect or relate?
	  ○ What structures might be needed for the 21st century?
	  ○ What are bishops for? How do we best organize to support their ministry?
	• Examine ways to maximize the arrangement (structure, personnel, office, Cathedral) of one diocese for the sake of the mission of the church and assuring each congregation received attention and support.
		John Vogel

Finances	• Examine the fiscal assets and liabilities for doing mission work if there were one Wisconsin diocese. • Investigate models for diocesan revenue, expenses, and investments which are good stewardship. • Consider how combined assets and liabilities may be used to support congregations on being vital.	Jana Troutman Miller
Constitution and Canons	• Develop understanding of the basic governance documents of each diocese by reading and absorbing copies of the printed document. • Determine where governance documents are congruent and divergent. • Develop the essentials for a governance document for one Wisconsin diocese. • Build governance documents for one Wisconsin diocese based on the work of task forces and allowing for future innovation.	Wilson Roane
Communication	• Develop and implement systems to foster sharing of information and conversation. • Determine a method of communication each diocese uses to communicate to all members of each diocese. • Work to assure information is readily accessible from one source and reaches those who may not have access to digital communication.	Pat Pfeifer