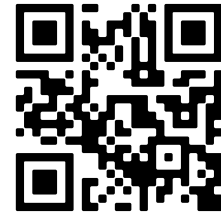


THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESES OF EASTERN & WESTERN MICHIGAN

Building Bridges **Facilitation Guide for Conversations in Congregations** January 2024

Pre-Session

Provide information documents to all invitees ahead of time, “in order to have a robust conversation, it’s essential that we come having done our homework, taking time to review the informational offerings from the dioceses...”



Access from eastmich.org/building-bridges or edwm.org/building-bridges:

- Trifold Overview
- Link to full 2023 Convention Report (QR code)
- Link to Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome and Opening Prayer (1 minute)

“Today we want to talk about the potential juncture between Eastern and Western Michigan. Before we begin, we will open in prayer - Let us pray”

Spirit-Wind

Eternal God of Love,
in you we live and move and have our being.
Breathe through us again this day;
give us the courage to be open
and welcoming to your Spirit
that we may be led to do your will
and follow in your ways,
today and tomorrow. Amen.

From Prayers for Parish Groups

Introduction (2 minutes)

- Review Tri-Fold Summary
- Describe the process to prepare for a vote on juncture:

- “I hope you have all had the chance to review the Building Bridges Report to Convention and the Frequently Asked Questions document that were distributed earlier.
- “We will share a QR code to access the documents about juncture after today’s discussion, so that you can read up on the issues surrounding this decision.
- “We hope we can answer your questions today, but we may need to take some of them back to the Building Bridges team for consideration—we will add responses to the FAQs document, as we develop responses.”
- The leadership of the two dioceses and Building Bridges team are holding four sessions, both in person and online, starting January 20th to hear feedback on the summaries of the proposed recommendations of the canons and transitional budget for 2025.
- “Finally, having incorporated feedback received from many sources in early February, the Building Bridges Steering Committee will share the actual draft canons and other content that will be included in the Agreement for Union, so that everyone, most especially the convention delegates, can review them before the pre-Convention meetings on February 20th for Eastern Michigan and February 22nd for Western Michigan.”

Questions (50 minutes)

“Today, we want to ask you some questions, so that we can hear your thoughts about this pending decision.

- What do you know about the issue of juncture between the two dioceses?
- What do you like about the idea of juncture?
- What concerns you about juncture?
- What additional information would you need to make a decision?

Wrap up (2 minutes)

- “Thank you for joining us today.”
- “We will share your responses with the Building Bridges team, so that they can prepare us for the Special Convention.”
- “Please encourage other people in the congregation to read through the materials and learn as much as they can about this process.”

Post-Session

- Please let us know that you held a session and share any feedback with Building Bridges’ consultant Katie Ong at katieongconsulting@gmail.com.