

**RESOLUTION TO COMMEND THE WORK OF THE
EPISCOPAL MINISTRY DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Whereas, the congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan at their annual convention in October, 2007 embarked on a vision of a shared episcopate, modeled upon its twenty-seven years of experience with local, shared leadership through mutual ministry, and formed an Episcopal Ministry Discernment Team (EMDT) to implement a discernment process for electing its Bishop following the tragic death of Bishop James A. Kelsey; and

Whereas, the twenty-one members of the EMDT, broadly representative of our entire diocese, completed an eleven month process in January, 2009 consisting of over 2000 hours of prayerful deliberations in consultation with Bishops from Vermont and Wyoming, a professor from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, and a companion from the Diocese of Michigan; and

Whereas, the EMDT, applying local mutual ministry principles, discerned an inclusive, unique and courageous process which ultimately resulted in the successful election at a Special Convention on February 21, 2009 of Kevin Thew Forrester as our Bishop/Ministry Developer, and the affirmation of an Episcopal Ministry Support Team to share in the oversight, development and management of our Diocese;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that St. Paul's Episcopal Church, one of the twenty-seven congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan, commends the Episcopal Ministry Discernment Team for its profound discernment work, its commitment to openness and inclusivity, and its unerring dedication to the belief that every member of this community of churches is gifted for, and called to, ministry and that all are equally valued members of the Body of Christ.