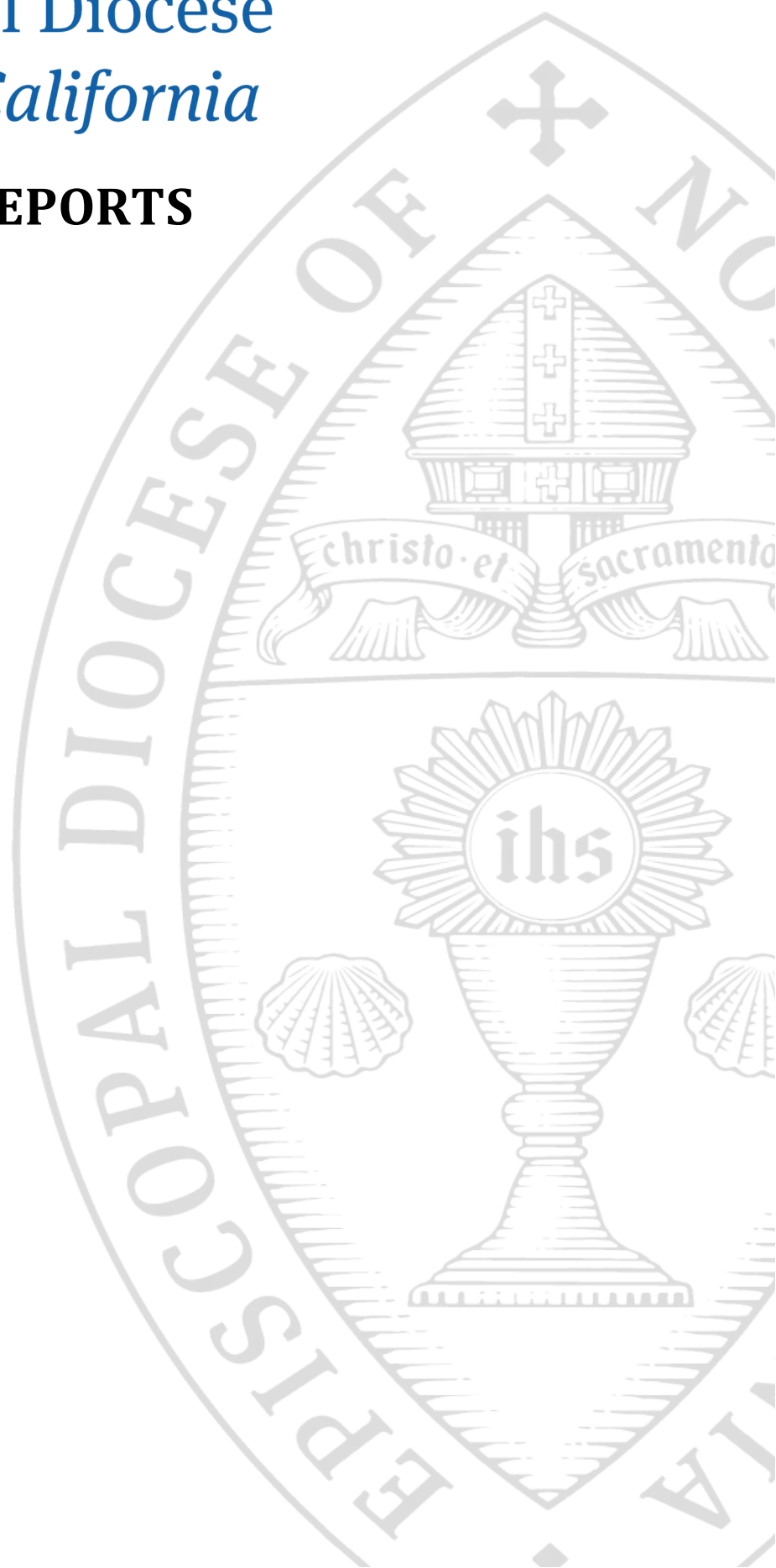


The Episcopal Diocese
of Northern California

GOVERNANCE REPORTS



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GOVERNANCE REPORTS | BISHOP TRAQUAIR'S OFFICIAL ACTS

BISHOP TRAQUAIR'S OFFICIAL ACTS

2023 Diocesan Convention to 2024 Diocesan Convention

Visitations

22

Celebrate Holy Communion

42

Sermons Preached

35

Persons Baptized

3

Persons Confirmed

81

Persons Received

23

Persons Reaffirmed

13

Ordinations to the Diaconate

4

Ordinations to the Priesthood

2

Received by Letters Dimissory

1

Transferred by Letters Dimissory

2

Services of Institution

1

Installation of Bishops

3

Consent to Marriage

3

Consecrations

0

Deconsecrations

0

Made Postulant

4

Made Candidate

5

House of Bishops

1

Clergy Conference

1

Funerals

1

Suspensions

0

Consent to Bishop Consecration

5

Consent to Bishop Resignation

2

General Convention

1

Dedications

2

There are canonically and resident in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California at the present time: 1 Diocesan Bishop, 4 retired Bishops, 147 Priests canonical, 114 Priests canonical and resident, 33 licensed Priests, 33 canonically resident Deacons, 2 licensed Deacons.

GOVERNANCE REPORTS | BISHOP TRAQUAIR'S OFFICIAL ACTS

ORDINATIONS

To the Diaconate

Name	Date
Mark Dibelka	1/6/2024
Paul Mallatt	1/6/2024
Jay Elmquist	7/20/2024
Emily Hyberg	7/20/2024

To the Priesthood

Name	Date
Don Callison <i>By Bishop Megan Traquair</i>	3/24/2024
Mark Dibelka <i>By Bishop Megan Traquair</i>	7/20/2024

To Postulancy

Name	Date
CeeCee Coleman	12/19/2023
Summer Green	12/19/2023
Bill Glenn	8/19/2024
Tim Knight	8/19/2024

To Candidacy

Name	Date
Don Callison	1/19/2024
Jay Elmquist	1/19/2024
Diana Deen	3/21/2024
Karen Hoida	4/18/2024
Joanie Cahill	5/24/2024

ACCEPTED BY LETTERS DIMISSORY

Name	Diocese	Date
Jana Branson	Connecticut	2/15/2024

TRANSFERRED BY LETTERS DIMISSORY

Name	Diocese	Date
Karen Lawler	Western New York	12/5/2023
Daniel Green	Oregon	3/20/2024

LOSSES BY DEATH

Mark Allen	11/12/2023
Donnalee Hart	12/21/2023
Virginia McNeely	2/5/2024
Mary Fisher	2/29/2024
Kent McNair	3/12/2024
Aileen Aidnik	5/13/2024
Charles Poole	7/17/2024

GOVERNANCE REPORTS | BISHOP TRAQUAIR'S OFFICIAL ACTS (CONT.)

CLERGY LICENSED

**indicates date licensed by Bishop Traquair*

Name	Congregation Affiliation	Date Licensed
Jeffrey Cave	Shepherd-by-the-Sea, Gualala	*March 3, 2024
Tansy Chapman	St. Michael's, Fort Bragg	October 25, 2006
Gregg Churchill	All Saints', Redding	March 29, 2006
Restituto Coloma	St. Mary's, Elk Grove	November 18, 1971
David Davidson-Methot	Emmanuel, Grass Valley	February 4, 2014
Melanie Donahoe	St. John's, Petaluma	*May 26, 2022
Ken Erickson	St. John's, Roseville	* July 9, 2024
Mike Ferrito	St. Michael's, Carmichael	*February 27, 2024
Jerayne Gray-Reneberg	St. Francis', Fortuna	November 11, 2010
Merritt Greenwood	Trinity, Folsom	*October 1, 2022
Stephen Hassett	Ascension, Vallejo	* August 16, 2024
Deborah Hawkins	St. Martins', Davis	*July 6, 2022
Pamela Higgins	St. Paul's, Benicia	April 1, 2015
Arthur Holder	St. Paul's, Benicia	September 4, 2008
Linda Huggard	St. Mary's, Elk Grove	* May 25, 2022
Karen King	St. Patrick's, Kenwood	March 5, 2014
Amy Lawrence	Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento	April 9, 1999
Connor Lynn	St. Martin's, Davis	August 17, 2015
Deborah Magdalene	St. Alban's, Arcata	*September 10, 2021
Linda Maloney	Faith, Cameron Park	August 15, 2013
Lesley McCloghrie	Christ Church, Eureka	January 29, 2013
Mary Morrison	Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento	December 4, 2018
Barbara Elizabeth Nixon	St. Luke's, Galt	May 1, 2012
Bob Phillippi	Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento	February 4, 2004
Annie Ryder	St. John's, Chico	*February 27, 2024
Briane Seage	Trinity, Sonoma	* September 13, 2024
William Stomski	St. John's, Chico	*September 8, 2022
Fran Tornquist	Incarnation, Santa Rosa	* May 6, 2024

GOVERNANCE REPORTS | BISHOP TRAQUAIR'S OFFICIAL ACTS (CONT.)

James Townsend	St. Luke's, Galt	May 28, 2004
Claudia Jo Weber	Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento	December 4, 2018
Ellen K. Wondra	Incarnation, Santa Rosa	*October 26, 2020
Ronald Zoesch	St. Mary's, Elk Grove	May 20, 2014

CONSENTS TO ELECTIONS AND CONSECRATION OF BISHOPS

By Bishop Traquair

Ordination and Consecration of Julia E. Whitworth to be Bishop in the Diocese of Massachusetts

Ordination and Consecration of Phil N. LaBelle to be Bishop in the Diocese of Olympia

Ordination and Consecration of Dorothy Sanders Wells to be Bishop in the Diocese of Mississippi

Ordination and Consecration of Kara Wagner Sherer to be Bishop in the Diocese of Rochester

CONSENTS TO RESIGNATION OF BISHOPS

Consent to the Resignation of Brian Seage as Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi

Consent to the Resignation of Marc Andrus as Bishop of the Diocese of California

ARCHDEACONS REPORT 2024 REPORT

The Venerable Pam Gossard and the Venerable Margaret Grayden, Archdeacons

The canons of The Episcopal Church state that Deacons serve directly under the authority of and are accountable to the Bishop. They also stipulate that the Bishop may appoint one or more Deacons as Archdeacon(s) to assist the Bishop in the formation, deployment, supervision, and support of the Deacons or those preparing to be Deacons, and in the implementation of the canons. In the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, it is customary for the Archdeacons to continue serving as Deacons in the parishes to which they have been assigned.

The care, support, and formation of Deacons involve many conversations and meetings. Most of our communications have been conducted by text, phone, email, and/or Zoom meetings.

*The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California currently has a total of thirty-two Deacons licensed and/or canonically resident. Of the thirty-two, twenty-three are currently active and/or assigned to a congregation and the remainder are retired.

*The Archdeacons attend monthly Commission on Ministry meetings with seat and voice, but no vote. We are involved in the formation and academic committees as well as ongoing discussions and explorations of specific ways to meet the formation needs of those seeking ordination in this diocese.

*The Archdeacons participated as facilitators for a breakout session during the June Day of Discernment.

*The Archdeacons have continued the Transitional Deacon Experience program in 2024 where we engaged in lively monthly conversations centering around assigned readings and living out the diaconal vows taken at ordination.

*This year Bishop Megan, the Archdeacons, and diocesan Deacons were able to meet in person during the May Clergy Conference held at Bishop's Ranch. All were grateful for this time of community building and mutual support.

*The Archdeacons meet regularly with Bishop Megan.

*The Archdeacons attend the Association for Episcopal Deacons sponsored conferences throughout the year on the Life and Work of Deacons.

*The Archdeacons actively serve at diocesan ordinations and this year joyfully welcomed our newest vocational deacon, The Rev. Paul Mallatt.

STANDING COMMITTEE

Report To Convention 2024

The majority of meetings were held via Zoom with two exceptions – in-person meetings prior to the Discernment weekends at the Mercy Center, Auburn.

The Standing Committee Consented to the following elections of Bishops:

The Rev. Jennifer Brooke – Davidson, Bishop Suffragan for West Texas.

The Rev. Philip N. LaBelle, Diocese of Olympia, Washington.

The Rev. Julia E. Whitworth, Diocese of Massachusetts.

The Very Rev. Kara Anne Marie Wagner Sherer, Diocese of Rochester, NY.

The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells, Diocese of Mississippi.

The Rev. Austin K Rios, Diocese of California.

Approved the following for candidacy:

Jay Elmquist – Candidacy for Priesthood

Joanie Cahill - Candidacy for Vocational Deacon

Karen Hoida – Candidacy for Vocational Deacon

Emily Hyberg – Candidacy for Transitional Deacon

Diana Deen – Candidacy for Vocational Deacon

Rev. Don Callison – Candidacy for Priesthood

Randy Demary – Candidacy for Priesthood

Approve the following for ordination:

Paul Mallatt - Deacon

Jay Elmquist – Priesthood

Mark Dibelka – Priesthood

Emily Hyberg – Priesthood

Rev. Don Callison - Priesthood

Property Report:

Julian’s Rest agreed to give up right of first refusal allowing the Board of Friends of Julians Rest to sell the property.

St. Augustine gave the go ahead to sell 3 partials of land to Pacific West Communities.

Agreed to and accepted the offer for the Ferndale property.

St. Andrews - Antelope approved to sell property including building.

Approved to buy the property at 2394 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento for the purpose of relocating the Office of the Bishop.

Approval for the property sell as requested by the Vestry of St. John’s, Maryville.

Approval of a lease extension between Holy Trinity, Ukiah and River Oak Charter School.

Racial Audit:

DonnaJo Woolen agreed to represent the Standing Committee on the Racial Justice Audit Committee with Jo Ann Williams and Lynn Zender.

Respectfully,

The Rev. Tim McDonald, President

The Very Rev. Matthew Woodward, Vice President

The Rev. Sally Hubbell, Secretary

The Rev. Anne Pierson

Mr. Bismarck Maddy

Dr. Sandra Takagi

Mr. Mark McMillen

Ms. Donna Jo Woollen

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024 REPORT

Margie Harrison-Smith, Vice President, Board of Trustees

2024 was an outstanding year for the Diocese of Northern California! The Board of Trustees wrestled with issues that helped define the Diocese now and well into the future.

In April, we hosted the Fearless Faith Revival. This two-day celebration hosted by Trinity Cathedral and St. John's in Roseville brought together the entire Diocese to "plant love and harvest hope." Speakers for this extraordinary event came from all over the Episcopal Church including Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Rev. Anthony Guillen, Brian Sellers Peterson, Rev. Scott Gunn, Rev. Portia Hopkins and Bishop Daniel Guterrez from the Diocese of Pennsylvania. We had a festival full of interesting ministries to learn about, food trucks, a labyrinth, prayer teams, music – it was a fantastic event!

When the Board learned in 2023 that the current lease for the Office of the Bishop would expire in December 2024, we began to explore options for housing the Office. We looked at renewing our current lease, building an office, retrofitting an existing property or purchasing a building. After months of research, comparing costs and taking a hard look at the needs of the office, the Board of Trustees decided that purchasing an existing building was our first choice. The board is delighted that we were able to purchase a building that is in good shape, is fit for purpose for the needs of the diocese, is centrally located and provides a safe environment for both staff and visitors. The money we save on monthly rent will go towards the missional goals and programs of the diocese.

The Board of Trustees has been working hard on our strategic priorities during 2024. We have spent a lot of time discussing what it means to become a missional diocese, where we no longer just serve

those who walk in our doors, but actively look outward to our communities. We do not want to repeat the mistakes of the past when we did not invite non-Anglo groups to our churches. The work on the New Camino and our focus on Latino Ministry have come out of these efforts. We are working on ways to support congregational vitality at all our congregations – from our large urban churches down to our smallest rural mission. Vitality is not something you necessarily see on the congregational range sheet as there are ways for small congregations to become more impactful in their community than the larger churches. The Board has also worked on ways to empower and train our laity. The laity comprise the largest order in our community, and the Board sees their participation in our faith life as crucial moving forward. In addition, the Board has been exploring how to better use our deaneries for regional leadership. Finally, the Board has been exploring which resources in the diocese are underutilized and they can be shared for the good of the entire diocese.

The Board of Trustees passed the 2025 budget which we presented at Convocation. The 2025 budget has a missional focus. Highlights of the budget include significant new funding for the Latino Ministry program and increased funding to Camp Living Waters – the only camp run by our diocese. We also set aside money to help maintain our 19 mission properties. Bishop Megan told the Board that "the budget accomplished the spirit of what people asked for and is putting our money where our mission is. We are fiscally ready and ready to think about where God is leading us." The Board would like to thank the Budget and Finance Committee as well as the staff for their careful work on the 2025 budget.

The Board took the surplus of money generated by St. Matthews Center in 2023 and put it into a designated fund for the Center. This ensures that those funds continued to be available for the Center for future needs and are not put into the general fund for the Diocese. The work of St. Matthews Center is thriving as they are now serving 25,000 people per month.

The Board voted to take the proceeds from the sale of the St. Mary's in Ferndale and put them in a designated fund to fund future missional work.

Following the recommendation of the Budget and Finance committee, the Board approved that future Curate positions in the Diocese of Northern California be exempt from apportionment. Curate positions are typically for newly ordained priests where the curate works under an experienced rector to gain knowledge, experience and confidence before they move onto running a church as a priest in charge, vicar or rector. Curate positions last for two years and increase participating churches ability to offer additional ministries.

The Board approved the following land acknowledgment:

The Episcopal Church in Northern California acknowledges that its sixty-three churches are built on the unceded Native American land of forty-four federally recognized tribes and of other tribes that are seeking the return of federal recognition. With God's help, we commit ourselves to acknowledging the truth of California's history, as well as strengthening existing relationships and improving our efforts to build collaborative relationships with Native peoples.

The 2024 Board of Trustees worked hard to acknowledge our past, celebrate where we are today, and fund the projects for a vibrant future together in Northern California.

2024 CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Barbara Jewell

The Chancellor is a diocesan officer learned in the law who is elected each year at Convention. On request, the Chancellor renders opinions on the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and The Episcopal Church and provides legal advice to the Bishop, the Convention, the Board of Trustees, the Corporation, parishes and missions. The Chancellor also serves as parliamentarian. (Diocesan Canon 13) I have served as Chancellor and called on Kevin Donohue and Malcolm McDowell as Vice Chancellors. Their knowledge and skill is invaluable.

During 2024 we have provided advice on a variety of matters including but not limited to policy formation and implementation, property, bylaws and miscellaneous matters as follows:

Policy Formation: Reviewed documents and participated in meetings with members of the Board of Trustees, Standing Committee, and Office of the Bishop related to how they can better support church growth in the diocese, and meet the needs of parishes and missions in this time of great social change.

Attended regular meetings of the Board's investment, budget & finance, executive committee, and property committees. Attended meetings of the Board of the Episcopal Foundation of Northern California and participated in continued development of a new grant process for the Foundation and selection of recipients and addressed tax and insurance issues.

Government: Drafted and submitted amendment of the bylaws of the Foundation to allow it to have more economic review of its finances in accordance with Canon 21.6. The Amendment was approved by the Foundation and the Board of Trustees approved it in September 2024.

Property: Advised the Office of the Bishop on purchase of its new office. Advised a parish on

title matters in connection with a needed lot line adjustment. Advised another parish on sale of its land to a developer to build an affordable rental housing project. Located a missing executed settlement agreement between a parish and an Anglican church regarding church property. Advised another parish regarding collection of a loan to a former rector. Participated in drafting a use agreement for mission property.

Miscellaneous Matters: Continued to monitor the bankruptcy of the Boy Scouts of America. Consulted with the Bishop on Title IV matters and provided advice on personnel matters. Consulted with our insurance carrier regarding potential claims.

It has been a pleasure serving you in these matters.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Libby Vincent, co-chair

The Commission on Ministry continues to work diligently to help nurture and guide the formation of the baptized for ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church in Northern California. The members of the Commission on Ministry as follows: The Right Rev. Megan Traquair, The Rev. Dr. Libby Vincent (co-chair), Rhonda Canby (co-chair) Earl Cunningham, Fernando Dizon, The Rev. Katherine Frederick, The Rev. Anny Genato, Malcolm MacKenzie, Kate Muris, The Rev. Patty Park. The Rev. Canon Julie Wakelee, The Ven. Pam Gossard and The Ven. Margaret Graydon have seat and voice on the COM. Jacqi Seppi, Executive Assistant to the Bishop also participates in the COM meetings.

We have continued to meet as a commission online via Zoom as it allows members and ordination nominees to meet in whatever geographical location in which they reside. Our Discernment Weekend has gone back to an in-person format; we appreciate how vital it is to be with one another in person and have an extended time of both interviews and social interactions.

Our RDG (Regional Discernment Groups) coordinator, Rev. Anny Genato has continued to do an excellent job training new RDG members for our diocese. We are still in need of individuals who believe they are called to this important ministry; our regional deans have been working hard to recruit news member and their efforts are much appreciated. The RDG serves an important purpose as a place of discernment for potential aspirants; the RDG process helps individuals gain a deeper understanding of their call and the nature of its shape.

The West Coast Collaborative Episcopal School for Ministry has completed its first year and will send forward 3 candidates for ordination to the vocational diaconate in January-God willing and the people consenting, of course! The WCC is a new combined ministry of the Dioceses of El Camino Real, Northern California and San Diego, and provides innovation lay and diaconal formation based in the curriculum of the Iona Collaborative at the Seminary of the Southwest. The West Coast Collaborative currently offers two educational tracks— formation for Vocational Deacons, and formation for Lay Preachers. A course in lay preaching through the WCC is beginning in February of 2025. Over time, it will continue to expand program offerings in support of lay and ordained ministries. The Diocese of Northern California offers thanks to The Rev. Sr. Kathy Lawler, OEF who serves as the dean and has worked tirelessly alongside our archdeacons to continue to grow this wonderful program.

The Commission on Ministry recognizes that, as with all commissions, we always have room to grow and streamline our process. We are working to do our best to make sure things work smoothly; we appreciate your patience and support in this endeavor. All of us who serve on the Commission on Ministry recognize the privilege and honor it is to serve our diocese in the work that we do; your prayers are coveted as we continue to do our best to serve The Diocese of Northern California.

DEANERY REPORT FOR ALTA CALIFORNIA

The Very Reverend Tammy Smith-Firestone

I have the privilege of serving the deanery of Alta California covering the I-5 corridor from Willows to Mt. Shasta and a branch of Highway 99 into Chico and Paradise, covering the five counties of Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Butte, and Glenn. We are a rural deanery drawing from the strength of our local communities and facing the challenges of smaller populations and regular natural disasters. Our congregations are resilient, have committed lay-clergy leadership teams, and are working together to meet congregational and county-wide needs.

The following is a brief update of our Alta congregations from north to south:

St. Barnabas, Mt. Shasta was under the care of its vestry and supply clergy the first half of the year and received Rev. Mark Dibelka as vicar in July.

All Saints', Redding continues to grow and serve its community under the priestly care and leadership of Rev. Aidan Rontani. I would like to note All Saints' active support of the refugee resettlement program in Redding.

St. Michael's, Anderson continues to minister with strong vestry leadership and regular supply clergy.

St. Peter's Red, Bluff has had Rev. Tammy Smith-Firestone as part-time interim priest working alongside a strong lay-leadership team. They will begin a search for a bilingual priest to promote outreach to the Latino community.

St. Andrew's, Corning has not had regular worship as its primary family has struggled with health issues, but it continues to open its doors for 12-step groups.

St. John's, Chico has flourished under its interim priest, Rev. William Stomski, and has concluded its search process, with a new rector beginning Advent 1.

St. Nicholas', Paradise, after continued outreach on the Ridge under the leadership of Rev. Richard Yale, is currently in hiatus for Sunday worship but continues to be a hub for the community under the supervision of the Office of the Bishop and its office administrator.

Holy Trinity, Willows continues to minister with strong vestry leadership and Rev. Delia Faye as regular supply clergy.

This summer our deanery responded to the devastating Park Fire and several other lesser wildfires under the leadership of Rev. Mark Dibelka and the Episcopal Church Disaster Assistance Team. Three of our congregations were Evacuation Assistance Hubs, and volunteers from neighboring congregations helped at the Local Assistance Centers in both Chico and Red Bluff, stored bins, and opened their homes and church buildings for evacuation needs. In addition, we received the support of the entire diocese with (Re)Start bin preparation and transport, as well as emails of encouragement and constant prayer. This is nothing more than our fulfilling our mission to share Christ and serve our neighbors with love. Thank you all for your continued support as we engage in long-term Park Fire recovery efforts in Tehama and Butte counties.

I am also encouraged by our deanery's participation in the New Camino Worship and an openness to build relationships and minister together with both our Latino and refugee communities.

I want to thank Bishop Megan, Canon Julie, Kati, Jacqi and the rest of the Office of the Bishop staff for their support, as well as our vestries for their commitment and service to their congregations. And I want to give special recognition to lay preachers and worship leaders, leading Morning Prayer and Liturgy of the Word, as well as all parishioners providing pastoral care for their fellow congregational members. I also deeply appreciate our "retired" clergy in the region who assist, do supply preaching, and provide pastoral support throughout the deanery.

My hope for this coming year is that our regional team will become stronger with increased lay leadership, ministry collaboration, and sharing of lay and ordained resources.

DEANERY REPORT FOR CAPITAL

Submitted by The Very Rev. Tom Gartin

The Capital Deanery welcomed the Rev. Jana Branson back to the diocese as she joined **All Saints' Sacramento**. We were delighted to hold a joint VBS program in June with 23 children, with tremendous gratitude to **St. Michael's Carmichael** for hosting us, especially as they were preparing to say goodbye to their rector, the Rev. Mary Claugus, who also served as our regional dean for some time. We have continued regular Clericus gatherings hosted at **St. Clement's Rancho Cordova** where clergy can share ideas and discuss policy updates. We also share updates and resources in a monthly newsletter to keep clergy, wardens, and any other members of our deanery informed. We also look forward to welcoming the Rev. Bret Hays as he joins **Trinity Folsom** in a few short weeks. The thirteen worshipping communities of our deanery are each very distinct and each contribute something special to our shared life of ministry.

Faith, Cameron Park continues to partner with support groups, and has begun a process of renewing our community connections to better serve our neighbors. In addition to continuing the three annual outreach projects of our youth group (Super Sunday Food Drive, Sierra Service Project, and Christmas gifts for children), we have also regularly collected diapers for the local Community HUB, pet food for the animal shelter, and scholarships for students in Honduras.

St. George's, Carmichael has continued our work with the Vitality Improvement Project (FaithX). We are exploring ways to learn about and be involved with our community, especially with Carmichael HART and ministry with homeless people around us, and with the Chamber of Commerce, through which we learn about community events and publicize our ministries. We have developed new mission and vision statements and a new website (see the statements on our site, stgeorgeca.org). We have a new LED sign in front of the church. We continue our Community Garden ministry. As we come out of Covid, our Sunday in person attendance and membership have started to grow!

St. Mary's, Elk Grove celebrated a baptism as well as eleven confirmations and reaffirmations this year, and offered Sunday school for young children. Members are active in many ministries, and have completed many important repair projects, as well as hosting the St. Mary's Day Community Picnic and Trunk or Treat event. They have also been active in outreach ministries, including Gift of Warm, St. John's Shelter, Kids Spree, South Sacramento food closet, Chicks in Crisis, a clothing drive for the homeless, Knitting/crochet Ministry, providing rental space to two separate churches, and contributing tuition for college students in Zimbabwe. They welcomed the Rev. Linda Huggard as Priest-in-Charge and they continue to form greater connections with one another and their neighbors.

The following congregations did not submit a report, but you can find out more about their ministries by visiting them online.

St. Michael's, Carmichael www.stmichaelscarmichael.org

Trinity, Folsom www.trinityfolsom.org

St. Luke's, Galt www.stlukesgalt.org

Our Savior, Placerville www.oursaviourplacerville.org

St. Clement's, Rancho Cordova www.saint-clements.com

Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento www.trinitycathedral.org

All Saints', Sacramento www.allsaintssacramento.org

St. Matthew's, Sacramento www.stmatthewschurchsacramento.org

St. Paul's, Sacramento www.stpaulssacramento.org

Trinity, Sutter Creek www.trinitysuttercreek.org



Faith, Cameron Park



St. George's, Carmichael

DEANERY REPORT FOR CENTRAL

The Very Rev. Rick Laughman

During 2024 the Central Deanery Congregations experienced Holy Spirit filled services and servant caring times within our church families, throughout the deanery and the entire dioceses. Our congregations celebrated the seasons of worship while facing head on the challenges of continuing the reviving of our post pandemic worship families.

St. John's Roseville 2024 ministry began with stepping out in "Fearless Faith, Planting Love and Harvesting Hope." They joyfully hosted the Diocesan Revival providing a wonderful fellowship among our diverse congregations as well as the wider church. Wonderful speakers, great workshops, engaging exhibits, and enriching worship all made for a sacred day of refreshment and renewal.

St. John's has also reached out into the wider community. They continue to host various neighborhood associations, support groups, and provided space for a variety of community events throughout the year. One particular highlight took place in June when they hosted a " Summer Kickoff Community Festival attended by over 800 people.

St. John's continues to serve the guests of The Gathering Inn, St. Vincent de Paul, and the Neighborhood Wellness Foundation. They were named a Becoming Beloved Community 2024, and received a grant of \$9,000 from The Episcopal Church for funding a mentoring internship program for The Pacers Take Space program at Grant High School in Del Paso Heights.

They continue to develop the Joined Hearts Community Project seeking to develop the land behind their church. They continue to look for ways to serve their community as they "experience and share the transforming love of Jesus Christ." They look forward to hosting the Central Deanery for Advent Lessons and Carols on the First Sunday in Advent (December 1st). All are invited.

St Augustine's guided by Reverend Anny Genato embarked on the Invite, Welcome, Connect Ministries this year. The Vestry met in retreat to set a direction, embraced Pastor Anny's vision and immediately set to work, making it a tangible reality. The Invite Welcome Connect ministries welcomed 16 guests/families who now call St. Augustine their spiritual home. They expanded their circle of fellowship embracing 69 visiting worshippers. Lent began with participation in Rise Up against Hunger with over 90 volunteers packing 20,000+ meals distributed to children living in poverty in Viet Nam. They began Way of Love Faith Feasts, intimate gatherings of 6-12 individuals where faith blossomed through monthly discussions centered on a chosen topic.

Their small groups have nurtured deep friendships, fostering laughter, love, and comfort within their community. Bible study and book clubs challenged and awakened minds. Yoga Devotion and Centering Prayer have offered sanctuaries of peace. And through their unwavering contributions of time, talent, and treasure, St. Augustine remains a safe place for those seeking God.

The community garden at **St. Timothy's Gridley** is all in with Creation Ministry. They took a weed filled vacant lot and transformed it into a vibrant garden feeding the soul as well as hunger. They have an active composting program feeding the soil that feeds many souls. They complete the cycle with a food preservation program. For more on their garden visit the ECS Facebook page for a short video.

Grace Church, Wheatland demonstrates its faith in multiple ways. Their Spiritual Stitchers made and distributed shawls, caps and mittens for people in need. They supported a Christmas Vacation lunch program for community children, and also provided meeting space for AA. They also participated in disaster relief with bin contributions. Their faith formation included a newly certified as Lay Preacher, and three members completed Sacred Ground and racial reconciliation training. They worked towards the goals of the Carbon Neutral program, installing a timer on the church's HVAC system. They also submitted a resolution to consider amending the church canons to allow unbaptized worshipers to share in Holy Communion. Their effort led to meetings where the topic was thoughtfully and with open hearts and minds discussed to find common ground.

St. John's Marysville is a small church with a strong heart. They have discerned ways to worship that included Holy Communion by employing two supply priests (3x each month) and a very effective lay leader leading Morning Prayer. They have continued their weekly bible study. St John's continues to serve the community with their Food Shelf and Clothes Closet as well as participating in the bi-monthly Simple Gesture food collection program. St. John's numbers and financial wherewithal are far short of what's necessary for their physical plant. They are exploring the sale/disposition of their property but do not expect a quick transaction, They are facing an uncertain future if and when the property is relinquished. Although few in number they are committed in devotion.

St Stephen's has taken on a new outreach activity: once a month they distribute groceries to about 40 families. They continue to take turns with several other churches providing hot lunches to the needy once a week. And, of course, they will raise outreach money with their Chocolate Festival on Dec. 8. St. Stephen's is challenged by a diminishing congregation. Their average Sunday attendance is around 11. This is their biggest challenge for their continuing existence. Reverend John Vafis is planning to retire this year at 86 years young, after many years of faithful leadership.

Community outreach is an important part of **St James, Lincoln's** ministry. They reactivated their food outreach program, The Pantry, providing food to approximately forty families. The program is also financially supported by Grace Lutheran Church in Lincoln, and St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Rocklin. The Placer County Food Bank contributes most of the food. They protected their church building with an ECS grant to repair their roof.

They continue to offer a Special Needs Welcome program, including a Sunday service at noon three Sundays a month. The service is adapted for those with autism, and brings Holy Communion and the Gospel to those who are often marginalized in society. The Sunday program is supplemented by quarterly activities suited to those with special needs, including a "Trunk or Treat" celebration in October in an environment that is not only safe for them, but allows them to enjoy an activity which would otherwise not be available to them.

St. James continues to support its community garden providing an opportunity for local residents to grow their own fresh vegetables. They also operate a clothing distribution program. Although a small congregation, they do what they can to help those in their community who are less fortunate.

St James, Yuba City continued its outreach employing 25% of their budget to support diverse ministries that include the Navajo church, Salvation Army, women's shelters, Christian Assistance Network, the emergency shelter program, REST, and Green Bag food collections. The church's community garden provides fresh produce to St Andrew's food pantry, the Salvation Army food distribution and the Yuba Sutter food bank. They hosted a Maundy Thursday service and Agape meal and have started a Fifth Sunday joint service with St John's Marysville, Grace, Wheatland, St. Stephen's, Colusa and Faith Lutheran Church, Marysville. Changing the meeting time for Bible Study increased participation to 50% of the congregation. Once a month Morning Prayer is Lay led as well as occasionally a Lay homily. The "landscape" in front of the church was transformed from a weed patch to a drought tolerant palette of orange, red and purple ground cover and shrubs welcoming all to "Come and See".

DEANERY REPORT FOR RUSSIAN RIVER

The Very Rev. Bob Scott

Good Shepherd, Cloverdale: Good Shepherd has been experiencing steady, slow growth. The parish has been active in the FaithX program which encourages churches to explore the needs in the community. The effort involved collecting information at a music concert held in May and church members and other community organizations have started working on various projects. One involves consolidating toy drives amongst all the service organizations and non-profits in Cloverdale. Another involves assisting a church that is closing in becoming a resource center for the entire community.

<https://goodshepherdcloverdale.org>

St. Michael & All Angels, Fort Bragg: The Rev. Randy Knutson was on sabbatical this summer. The parish shares Randy with the Lutheran church in Ft. Bragg and the Lutheran Bishop Jeff Johnson visited both congregations in September. The church also hosted a number of music concerts at the parish during the year. <https://www.stmichaelfb.com/>

Shepherd by the Sea, Gualala: This Episcopal/Lutheran mission continues to be support by the Episcopal priest Rev. Portia Hopkins and the Lutheran Pastor Rev. Dr. Moses Penumaka. The parish laity is very active in the community supporting the Gualala Food bank in collaboration with the Gualala Baptist Church, providing emergency assistance to locals and people passing through via South Coast Crisis Aid. They also organize the annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. <https://www.shepherdbythesea.org/>

St. Paul's, Healdsburg: St. Paul's continues to be a vibrant parish supporting two services on Sundays and a midweek service held at a local art gallery. Their ministries also include serving two hot meals each week, providing showers three days each week, and a monthly music/organ concert from September through May. The Rev. Sally Hubbell was on sabbatical this summer, which included travel in the U.S. and Europe. The Rev. Jim McCammon and clergy and lay leaders from surrounding churches in the deanery helped fill in for her. St. Paul's held a fundraiser this fall to help close a budget gap in supporting the shower and meal ministries and to expand the view of how St. Paul's is seen in the community. <https://www.stpauls-healdsburg.org/>

St. Patrick's, Kenwood: The parish is in transition with recently called former Missioner for Church Life, the Rev. Mack Olson, as Priest in Charge. Following the retirement of the Rev. Ed Howell after Easter, the Rev. Carol Luther offered beautiful support and leadership during the interim. The parish continues to have very robust outreach ministries including supporting two local elementary schools in the spirit of "Love Your Neighbor". The initiative has funded playground equipment, books, and musical instruments. The congregation also supports food bank distributions, a nomadic shelter, and puts together "blessing bags" for those in need. <https://stpatrickskenwood.org/>

St. John's, Lakeport: St. John's continue to worship under the leadership of Senior Warden, Leila Haddad. Morning prayer is observed most Sundays and supply priests celebrate the Eucharist when available. The Rev. L.A. King has recently agreed to supply the first Sunday of each month through 2025. The thrift store continues to provide a means of outreach to the community as well as provides financial support for the parish. <http://www.saintjohnslakeport.org/>

St. John's, Petaluma: The Rev. Merritt Greenwood started as interim rector on August 16th. The parish continues to have ministries in the areas of Peace & Justice, the Interfaith Food Pantry, the Petaluma Interfaith Community Climate Commission, and the Petaluma Community Relations Council. The parish also offers a monthly Taizé service, Sacred Circle Dance, and Labyrinth walks. <https://www.saintjohnsepiscopepetaluma.org/>

Incarnation, Santa Rosa: Incarnation continues to offer outreach ministries including the Sunday Open Table Breakfast, which involves opening their church's doors at 6:00 a.m. to welcome more than a hundred of their neighbors in for a fresh-cooked breakfast. They also operate the Heavenly Treasures Gift and Thrift Store providing low-cost and free clothing and household items to Sonoma County residents. At their June 2024 meeting, Incarnation's vestry officially adopted a Generational Campus Plan. This document is a set of guidelines for their vision of how the campus will evolve to serve God's mission in the years and decades to come. Incarnation participated in the Season of Creation (September 1 to Feast of St. Francis). The Rev. Stephen Shaver has also introduced an "all ages liturgy" to foster full participation by all. <https://www.incarnationsantarosa.org/>

St. Stephen's, Sebastopol: The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris continues as rector. The parish is experiencing a fair amount of growth which will require looking out further ahead for planning purposes. St. Stephen's is the hub for the neighborhood where people can gather in community. Ministries include the monthly Saturday Table providing a hot meal to the community, Godly Play, Centering Prayer, Friends of the Garden, and the Inter-Church Food Pantry. There is also a playground available to the community and the church is adding the Playground Café in the near future. <https://www.ststephensebastopol.org/>

Trinity, Sonoma: The parish celebrated its 170th anniversary in 2024. The Rev. Lisa Biersch Cole served faithfully for a year as Priest in Charge. In October, the Rt. Rev. Brian Seage took up the reigns as Interim.. <https://www.trinityepiscopalsonoma.org/>

St. Francis in the Redwoods, Willits: Led by the Rev. Betsy Bruneau, the parish is working through issues resulting from the passing of some key clergy and lay ministers. The church continues to provide food to those in need. A new group has formed in Willits to address the lack of shelter for locals and travelers alike. The Willits Shelter Action Group is forming as a non-profit organization and some parishioners are officers on the new board. A bequest has enabled St. Francis to pay off their mortgage and to install air conditioning. <https://www.facebook.com/p/St-Francis-in-the-Redwoods-Willits-CA-100064718316674/>

DEANERY REPORT FOR SEMPER VIRENS

Submitted by the Very Rev. K. Lesley McCloghrie

The faith communities of the **Semper Virens Deanery** are, **St. Alban's-Arcata, Christ Church-Eureka, St. Francis Mission-Fortuna, and St. Paul's Mission-Crescent City.**

February: *Christ Church* hosted an amazingly well attended book signing for "The Gray Bird Sings: The Extraordinary life of Betty Kwan Chinn" by Karen M. Price, Ph.D., Humboldt State Press, 2023. Betty Chinn is a nationally known advocate and worker for the homeless.

St Alban's held a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and concert given by Bobby Jo Valentine. Bobby Jo Valentine is a gay man with a progressive faith orientation, and an award-winning folk and pop artist.

March: Once again, our deanery parishes cooperated in sharing Holy Week services.

April: There was a large attendance at the satellite site for the Fearless Faith Revival hosted by Christ Church. Many participated in walking the new portable labyrinth as part of the workshop, "Walking the Labyrinth" facilitated by Kathyne DeLorme.

May: at Christ Church, David Odorisio Ph.D. led a workshop on his book, "Thomas Merton in California: The Redwood Conferences and Letters", Liturgical Press, 2024.

July: Camp Living Waters. *See separate report.* Sr. Jacqueline and Oblate Toni of the Community of the Transfiguration, Cincinnati, attended camp and, during their stay, were also guests of honor at a dinner with the local Community Associates.

September: Three of our parishes were awarded grants by the Episcopal Foundation of Northern California. *St. Alban's, Arcata*, \$7,142 for Community Playground Renovation; *St. Francis, Fortuna*, \$11,000 for English Express ESL Classes; *St. Paul's, Crescent City*, received \$379 for live-streaming equipment (Mustard Seed Grant).

St. Francis, Fortuna, began hosting a course of "English as a Second Language" classes, with a greater than expected initial attendance.

October: Bishop Megan spent a week in our deanery, bookended by visitations to St. Alban's, Arcata, and Christ Church, Eureka. During her time with us she also attended a Sacred Saunter, a Clericus dinner, visited the Betty Chinn Center, and had a tour of The Shakefork Community Farm in Carlotta.

During the summer: *St. Paul's Crescent City* replaced their old oil-fired furnace with a new electric heat pump.

As a deanery we are working to restock ReStart bins after sending our supply to St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Red Bluff, where a distribution hub resource center was set up for those affected by the Park Fire.

Our congregations continue to host deanery Sacred Saunters at various sites in the area.

DEANERY REPORT FOR SIERRA

The Very Rev. Brian Rebholtz

There are currently seven active churches in the Sierra Deanery: **St. Michael's, Alturas; St. Luke's, Auburn; Emmanuel, Grass Valley; Holy Spirit, Lake Almanor; Holy Trinity, Nevada City; Christ the King, Quincy and Good Shepherd, Susanville.**

Sierra Deanery's aggregate ASA is 304 a Sunday. Our combined pledge and plate for all churches is \$908,444.

St. Michael's, Alturas and Good Shepherd, Susanville are offering regular ministries of Word and Sacrament under the leadership of Fr. David Cohen. Holy Trinity, Nevada City and Emmanuel, Grass Valley are also offering regular ministries of Word and Sacrament under the leadership of Fr. Brad Helmuth and Fr. Seth Kellerman. Emmanuel has recently completed renovations on a new building used for office and ministry space. St. Luke's, Auburn is also offering regular ministries of Word and Sacrament and has recently renovated their Parish Hall.

Christ the King, Quincy is without a priest and has yet to identify an interim minister. They offer regular services of Morning Prayer led by lay leaders in the congregation. Holy Spirit, Lake Almanor has decided to begin the petition process to close their parish, as they do not own a building, are without clergy and are no longer able to provide leadership for worship services.

DEANERY REPORT FOR WINGFIELD

The Very Rev. Perry W. Polk

The churches in the Wingfield Deanery are **St. Paul's, Benicia, St. Luke's, Calistoga, St. Martin's, Davis, Grace Church, Fairfield, St. Mary's, Napa, Grace, St. Helena, Epiphany, Vacaville, Ascension, Vallejo, and St. Luke's, Woodland.**

During the year 2024, the Deanery held three Clericus meetings - one at Clergy Conference and another in August and the third in October. Our thanks to **Epiphany, Vacaville** and **St. Martin's, Davis** for hosting.

Some of our Rectors have had the opportunity to go on sabbatical; others have been out due to health problems. They have been ably assisted by Supply Clergy.

Overall, the churches in the Wingfield Deanery have been good examples of congregational vitality. Most have returned to pre-pandemic levels of attendance and giving. We have been graced by the presence of The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe at **Grace St. Helena**. He is retired from the Diocese of Iowa and now lives among us on a part-time basis.

Ascension, Vallejo, welcomed their Interim Rector The Rev. Dr. Steven Hassett in August. The Rev. Debbie Hawkins continues as Long-Term Supply Priest at **St. Luke's Woodland**.

We have been represented on the Board of Trustees by our outstanding lay representative, Anne Seed. Anne has done yeoman's work on the Employee Practices and Benefits Committee, probably the most difficult of the BoT committees. Other members of the BoT from Wingfield are Bob Hall, Barbara Jewell, Karen Freeman, Diane Curtis-Page and the Dean.

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Submitted by: Betty Harrison-Smith, Board President

ECS works to assist the congregations in the Diocese of Northern California to reach out into their communities to assist those in need. Thanks to our generous donors, ECS has been able to fund \$28,260 in our 2024-2025 funding year.

Ministry Development Grants. One-year grants of up to \$5,000. Focus on human rights advocacy, human service or health ministries, lay-leadership/empowerment programs.

- St. Luke's, Calistoga. \$5,000 for Hearts & Hands Preschool, predominately for scholarships.
- St. Alban's, Arcata. \$1,160 for Camp Living Waters, this year offering an Ecology and Astronomy Education Project.
- St. James, Lincoln. \$5,000 to help replace the roof of their distribution center.

Warren Dunning Memorial Social Justice Grant. A three-year grant; up to \$5,000 the first year; up to \$4,000 the second year; up to \$3,000 for the third year. Focus on serving the least, the last and/or the lonely.

- St. Patrick's, Kenwood. \$5,000 for Year 1 of the grant to help fund a Music/Art Summer Camp for underserved students.
- All Saint's, Redding, \$3,000 for Year 3 of the grant to assist with housing for refugees.

Barry L. Beisner Multi-year Grant. Up to 5 years; Year 1, \$2,000. Subsequent years, up to \$1,000 each year. Focus on human rights advocacy, human service or health programs,

- All Saint's, Redding. \$2,000. To help establish the Project(Re)Start program at the church. The congregation responded with such enthusiasm that the church was able to return most of the funding back to ECS!

Bishop Jerry & Jane Lamb Grant. Support youth/young adults in providing social and health ministries projects within and outside the Diocese of Northern California (i.e. youth outreach projects). Maximum of \$1,000.

(No grant requests for this funding year.)

The Rev. David & Catherine Cavanagh Memorial Grant. One-year grant; option for two renewals. Focus is to advance social services, community outreach, and/or agrarian ministries. Up to \$5,000.

- Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa. \$5,000 to develop a half-acre parcel on the church property into a community garden.
- St. George's, Carmichael, \$3,100 to update the water system in their community garden.
- St. Peters, Red Bluff. \$1,000 to provide and maintain a bi-lingual Free Little Lending Library to be placed in a predominately Latino neighborhood.

The 2025-2026 Grant Cycle has begun. Please be generous when you receive our newsletter or during the Bishop's Appeal. ECS wants to be able to help as many programs as possible in 2025-2026.

Letters of Interest for grant projects in the 2025-2026 funding cycle are due March 15, 2025. Requests for Proposals (actual funding requests) are due May 1, 2025.

The ECS Transformer Award is given to a congregation who works within their community to help bring their inhabitants to Christ. This year's awards are going to St. Barnabas, Mt. Shasta, St. Lukes, Galt and St. Frances, Fortuna. A check for \$500 accompanies the recognition.

This past year we have been considering how we might assist churches that would require funding over our ECS \$5,000 limit per year, per congregation, possibly partnering them up with other additional funding agencies, such our own Diocesan Foundation.

And new on the horizon to watch out for are two videos we are producing, to be utilized by our congregations. Both involve the feeding of hungry individuals within our communities. One video will describe how to build a garden for feeding the hungry, while the second video will describe how to run a food kitchen.

And ECS is 50 years old this year!

Episcopal Foundation of Northern California

Submitted by: Gregg Wickham, President

The Episcopal Foundation of Northern California was established in 1983 as an independent non-profit corporation. The Foundation's board of directors is composed of both lay and clergy members, who serve on a voluntary basis. The Bishop and Chancellor are ex officio members. We are stewards of a stock portfolio comprised almost entirely of investment funds individual parishioners in our Diocese have established as an important part of their estate planning, and they have entrusted the Foundation to provide stewardship of their investments.

The mission of the Foundation is to enhance and complement the philanthropic efforts within our Diocese. We pursue that mission in a number of ways.

- Routine distribution of investment earnings in accordance with the donor's instructions. Among these is our coordination with Episcopal Community Services to award the Anita Weaver grants, which aim to relieve homelessness among vulnerable senior populations.
- Stock transfers from an individual's estate to a parish or organization.
- Facilitate workshops for parishes and church lay leaders: We offer two workshops: one to help people organize their affairs and important papers, in the event of incapacitation or death. Our other workshop provides a framework for church leaders to establish and manage a planned giving program at their church.
- Offer grants to Diocesan parishes and organizations: Out of our unrestricted funds, the Foundation has established the Mustard Seed grants and the larger Foundation Grants, to support a variety of ministries in our Diocese.

Like any other board of directors of a nonprofit, we are always hoping to do more. And we have been doing more because of the generous financial support of individuals in our Diocese. And we are always on the lookout for new Board members, who would like to be part of our Diocese-wide ministry. We meet on Zoom once a quarter, and stay in touch by email and telephone.

81ST GENERAL CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Louisville, Kentucky took place from June 23 to June 29, 2024. The following people representing The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California attended:

Denney, The Rev. Robin

1 Clergy Delegate (Chair)

Richardson, The Rev. James (Jim)

2 Clergy Delegate

Dolan, The Rev. Dr. Pamela

3 Clergy Delegate

Woodward, The Very Rev. Matthew

4 Clergy Delegate

Elmquist, Mr. Jay

1 Lay Delegate

Coleman, Ms. Cynthia (CeeCee)

2 Lay Delegate

Juvé, Mr. Peter

3 Lay Delegate

Nykamp, Ms. Amy

4 Lay Delegate

Mertz, The Rev. Annie

Clergy Alternate

London, The Rev. Dr. Daniel

Clergy Alternate

Wakelee, The Rev. Canon Julie

Clergy Alternate

Casey, Ms. Miriam

Lay Alternate

Pierce, Mr. Bradford (Brad)

Lay Alternate

Traquair, The Rt. Rev. Megan

Bishop

Braak, Ms. Kati

Coordinator

Karimi, Ms. Michelle

Staff Support

Ferriot, Ms. Tina

Prayer Warrior

2024 General Convention Resolutions that were referred to the Diocese for action or consideration can be located on the General Convention website at: <https://generalconvention.org/>

GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTATION REPORT FROM THE 81ST GENERAL CONVENTION, 2024

The Rev. Robin Denney (chair), The Rev. Jim Richardson, The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan, The Very Rev. Matthew Woodward, Mr. Jay Elmquist, Ms. Cynthia "CeeCee" Coleman, Mr. Peter Juvé, Ms. Amy Nykamp, The Rev. Annie Mertz, The Rev. Dr. Daniel London, Ms. Miriam Casey, Mr. Bradford Pierce, The Rev. Canon Julie Waklee

Our Deputation: It was an honor to represent you as your Deputation to General Convention this year. The NorCal Deputation was extremely active, and we made a name for ourselves as an engaged and passionate group! We rotated with alternates frequently to share the work and make sure each voice was heard. Our deputation members sponsored and followed legislation, served on committees, gave meaningful testimony in committees and on the floor, and built-up relationships with other deputations and caucuses to further work we found important, on behalf of our diocese. We learned much about parliamentary procedure and appreciated the way it was invoked, at times, with humor.

Committee Work: We had two deputies serving on committees (Peter on "Stewardship and Socially Responsible Investing", Jim on "Racial Reckoning, Truth-Telling & Reconciliation"). Similar to the last General Convention, the bulk of committee work was done on Zoom ahead of the Convention. Those serving on committees or following legislation attended many hearings online in the three months leading up to GC81. Jim also served as Assistant Secretary to his committee, and helped draft several resolutions, including to continue the work of a task force developing liturgies in indigenous languages. Jim's committee met almost every morning during General Convention as well.

Access to Communion: At the last diocesan convention, our deputation committed to taking on the work of finding a compromise resolution to move forward our diocesan desire to see the canon regarding access to communion changed or softened in its language. Jim and Robin took the lead on this. There was a lot of work done ahead of Convention, talking with different deputations around the country, and coming up with language that had the best chance of passing. Jim introduced Resolution D002, which asked the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) to come up with alternate language for the canon which reads "No unbaptized person is eligible to receive communion" and study the impact. The HOD committee on Liturgy Prayer Book and Music worked on the resolution and got it in a form they were willing to pass with only a few in dissent. However the bishops of the HOB Liturgy Prayer Book and Music committee voted the measure down because they thought it would take too much debate time in a year where time was limited and already needed for the PB election and other urgent matters. We however used our time at convention to make connections with other deputations who are interested in this issue, and had a chance to bring the matter to the new Vice President of the HOD, who was willing to work on it in the interim between conventions. If we are able to get the matter before the SCLM without a resolution that would happen before GC82. Otherwise, we will bring a resolution before you in the Diocesan Convention prior to GC82.

Migration with Dignity: The resolution proposed to our Diocesan Convention by Matthew and Jim on Migration with Dignity was merged with resolutions from a variety of other Dioceses. This became Resolution C031. It was amended to make sure that the ongoing work of the Office of Government Relations could be done in harmony with the resolution finally passed. It was adopted.

Care of Creation: Pamela and Miriam worked together to author a resolution D050 which required hearings in the budget committee as well as the Legislative Committee 15. Their legislation funds staff time and resources for carbon neutrality, and passed on the consent calendar (unanimously) in both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. They were also active in the Care of Creation Caucus, which was successful in highlighting and moving forward a number of resolutions.

Presiding Bishop Election: After time together as one body in prayer, the Bishops retired to the cathedral to elect our next PB, The Most Rev. Sean Rowe. The vote was overwhelming, and required only one ballot. We were delighted as deputies to get to vote to affirm their choice, and heard a moving speech from the PB elect, who focused on the needs of the whole church in this changing time, and his intention to adjust our structures to meet those needs. We also re-elected the President of the House of Deputies, Julia Ayala Harris, and elected a new Vice President, The Rev. Steve Pankey of the Diocese of Kentucky.

LGBTQ+: Jay represented us on the LGBTQ+ caucus, and we were moved and proud as a deputation to vote for some important resolutions which amended the definition of marriage in the BCP Catechism as between “two persons,” and raising the same-sex marriage rites to Prayer Book status (no longer experimental or trial use).

Calendar of Feasts: We were also delighted to finally succeed (after failing at GC80) to get Howard Thurman in the process of getting on the calendar (requires one more convention). A shout out to Jim for working with DioCal and getting this proposed by both our dioceses, which made the difference in getting it through the committee. We also finalized getting the Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris on the calendar, and the celebration of the Philadelphia 11 (particularly moving as this year is the 50th anniversary of women priests in TEC).

Partner Diocese: We were able to connect with the Diocese of Honduras Deputation. Canon Julie was able to spend time with their Canon as well, and further our friendship.

Respectfully Submitted, Your 2024 Deputation to
the 81st General Convention

HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT 2024

Canon Charles R. Mack, Historiographer

It shall be the duty of the Historiographer of the Diocese to collect and preserve as property of the Diocese such materials as can be obtained relative to the History of the Diocese, its Bishops, Parishes, Missions, institutions and undertakings and so to arrange, catalog, and classify all such books, documents, photographs and papers in his custody as to make their content accessible for reference and research. Canon 12.4.

Your Historiographer has custody of a wide range of historical materials and has used them for several historical research projects concerning clergy and congregations of the Diocese. In particular he has provided assistance to those investigating the history of Emmanuel Church Coloma, St. Clement's Rancho Cordova, Our Merciful Savior Placerville, St. Patrick's Kenwood, and the response of the Diocese to the internment of Japanese during WWII.

It is a pleasure to serve you in these matters.

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE

The Employee Practices and Benefits Committee (EP & B) for the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California provides guidance related to employment practices regarding paid staff of the Diocese to the Bishop and the Board of Trustees. The Rev. Tim McDonald, Margie Harrison-Smith and Anne Seed work closely with Office of the Bishop staff to accomplish this work.

In 2024 EP & B:

- Reviewed and revised the 2025 Congregational Range Sheet which was approved by the Board of Trustees at the August meeting.
- Reviewed the 2025 Annual Enrollment and did not make any changes to the Church Medical Trust offerings for medical and dental plans. This year we had the option of allowing individual churches to narrow the options offered for their staffs. Like many other dioceses around the country, we found this new possibility to be not fully formed and worried that it could lead to individuals losing their healthcare. We recommended that our diocese opt out of this option for 2025. Our proposal was approved by the Board of Trustees in September.
- Created a Sabbatical Leave Policy for Office of the Bishop employees. EP & B created a program where all full-time employees in good standing who have worked for the office for a minimum of 5 years are eligible for a paid 3-month sabbatical. This is a pioneering effort available to all staff (not just clergy) to recognize their hard work on behalf of the diocese. The Office of the Bishop (OOB) will grant a maximum of 2 sabbaticals per year, and they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Employees must work with their

supervisor to determine the timing of their sabbatical where it reduces the impact on OOB operations. We expect that the sabbatical is an opportunity for employees to refresh and rejuvenate with an expectation that they remain with the OOB for at least 1 year after they return from the sabbatical. If congregations are interested in offering sabbaticals for their staff (clergy and laity), please contact the Office of the Bishop.

In 2025, the EP & B will continue our work on standardizing clergy compensation and will look at the Supply Clergy Honorarium.