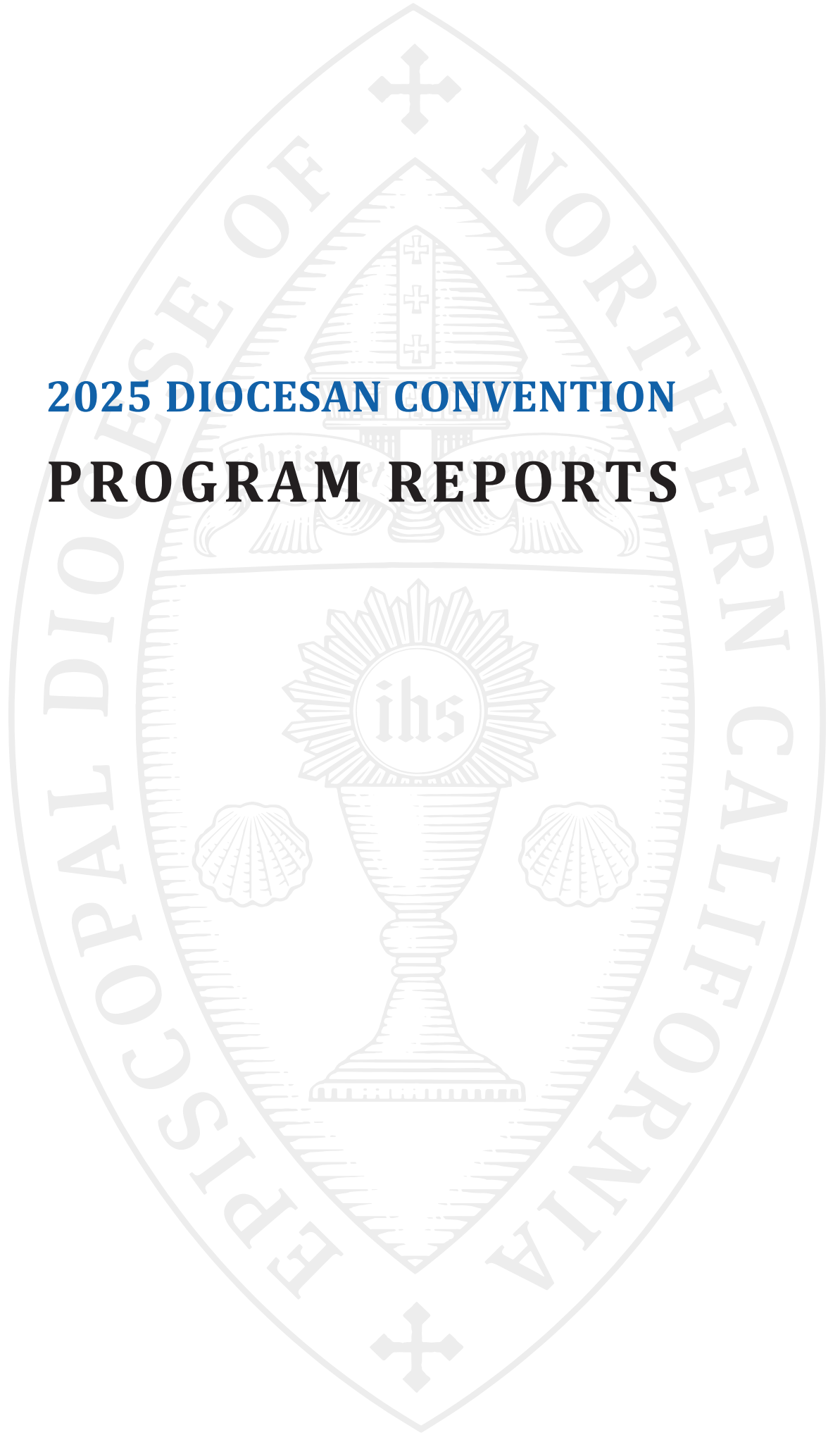




2025 DIOCESAN CONVENTION PROGRAM REPORTS



THE BELFRY

The Rev. Dr. Portia Hopkins

This year the Belfry has had its share of ups and downs. The campus ministry to U.C. Davis is thriving, with record-breaking attendance at dinner and worship, and a host of new programs also eliciting student interest and participation. Unfortunately, the attempt to initiate a robust campus ministry at Sacramento City College was not successful, and the site came to a close at the end of May 2025.

For the happier news, the Belfry at U.C.D. has had a wonderful year. The political events of the past year have been difficult for many students, particularly international students, those from immigrant families, and those who identify as LGBTQ+, especially trans students. I am so grateful that the Belfry has been able to be a consistent space of safety, community, and healing for all experiencing the difficulties of these times. It is not entirely coincidental that student-led activities have increased. We have had a crochet group and a journaling/scrapbooking workshop; have student-led morning and evening prayer, including Holden Evening Prayer and Oracion de la Manana (Episcopal Morning Prayer in Spanish); and student-led music during our regular Thursday worship and dinner. Last spring, students held a “Mock Conclave,” where each chose a papal candidate to research and presented their findings to the group, who then selected their choice for new pope (Pope Leo XIV wasn’t even on the short list!). While the world outside might feel even more uncertain than usual, I am very proud of students for finding new ways to enhance and create community and care for one another.

Robust student leadership is bearing fruit for the church—we have students who are serving as acolytes and lay ministers with local congregations, and even as delegates to Diocesan

Convention and Synod Assembly. There are at least three current students who are actively discerning toward ordination, one of whom is now doing a service year in South America with Young Adults in Global Mission. A graduate from a couple of years ago has been made a postulant in the Episcopal church and started seminary this fall. Engaging in the sacred in a new way has made a profound difference in their lives.

Besides increased student leadership, the Belfry is also a committed participant in a variety of ecumenical and interfaith enterprises both on campus and in the city of Davis. We have long been an active member of the Interfaith Campus Council, joining Hillel, Newman, the Baha’i and other Christian student groups to host the Movable Feast (progressive dinner), Speed Faithing (like speed dating, but with faith questions), Interfaith Picnic in the Park, and activities such as interfaith bowling and movie nights.

The Belfry’s strong ongoing partnership with the Episcopal and Lutheran churches in Davis provided a wonderful opportunity over the past year for some much-needed renovations to our physical space. Thanks to donations and a grant from Episcopal Young Adult and Campus Ministry, we had a new pergola built in front, which has doubled the space we have for dinners, along with new landscaping. In addition, St. Martin’s Episcopal Church provided a grant along with the plate offering from Christmas for us to renovate our kitchen and bathroom, including new floors, new sink, and a new induction range. The labor was done entirely by volunteers from St. Martin’s and by students, who learned new skills in the process. We even had enough funding left over to take care of a plumbing emergency that required jackhammering up our parking area to replace sewer pipes. So, the Belfry is renewed in ways both visible and, literally, underground.

Of course, the central activity of our common life at the Belfry is our Thursday evening worship and dinner. Our chapel is not large, comfortably seats are about 18 for worship and 16 for dinner—and we have regularly exceeded those numbers. By spring quarter, overflow students stood in the hallway outside the chapel for the service, coming in only to receive communion. Fortunately, our new front yard allows us to eat dinner outside when the weather cooperates, and some evenings students have stayed outside talking well after dark. Cooking for 30 every week is a bit of a trial, but all of us identify this as a wonderful problem to have, as every week returning students are spiritually nurtured and new students are invited into the sacred. I have begun offering a second quiet stand-alone (no dinner) Eucharist service every week for students who are made anxious by being in a crowded space, and a few students have been taking advantage of the opportunity. In addition, we have been doing contemplative prayer every Friday at noon, using a variety of lectio divina and Ignatian examen practices. And our ongoing Queer Theory Bible Study spent last year looking at some of the “greatest hits” of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, along with exploring the “clobber passages” (misogynistic and homophobic texts) from the perspective of queer, post-colonial, and feminist theories. This year we will continue the study with new texts.

As noted above, unfortunately the outreach at All Saints Church for Sacramento City College students has not managed to settle into a viable campus ministry. For a year and a half, we attempted to be a presence on campus, and for another year and a half, we fed massive numbers of students lunch every Wednesday—sometimes serving 70 or more meals. While it was wonderful to provide both food and community, any attempts I made to deepen relationships (Eucharist service, book group, sacred crafts, conversation groups, encouraging student leadership) did not prove of interest to the rather transient community of a junior college. For fall

2024, I cut back on lunches, offering open hours for study, snacks, and coffee, along with invitation to the groups mentioned above, but without a hot lunch, student interest was almost non-existent. (There was one student who showed up weekly to play Pokémon Go in the parish hall of All Saints Church, enough so that the site became a Pokémon battle hub, but that wasn't quite what we were looking for). The church and the Belfry working together were able to offer two large BBQ meals each semester for last academic year, which students appreciated, but again did not result in deepened relationships or campus ministry activity. It is with sadness that we concluded our outreach at the end of Spring 2025, which at least has the advantage of allowing me to spend more time in Davis, where numbers are growing so dramatically.

All of us at the Belfry--students, board members, and most of all me—remain deeply grateful for the support from Synod, Diocese, LuMin, our faithful partner churches, and many generous individuals. The kingdom of God is indeed present among us!



CAMP LIVING WATERS

Camp Living Waters is a week-long Episcopal summer camp. We are based at St. Alban's parish in Arcata and draw our staff members from the faith communities of the North Coast who lead, supervise and encourage campers and counselors.

We spend our days doing crafts, outdoor activities, swimming, Bible discussion, worship, and nightly campfire, with additional special activities throughout the week such as stargazing and archery.

Campers aged 9 to 15 make new friendships and explore their faith and ask questions; counselors also learn leadership skills in a supportive atmosphere. The week is spent living in and building a Christian community based on the values of love, faith, service and fun.

Our theme for Camp Living Waters 2025 was Love Your Neighbor. We learned about ways to love and support one another as we talked about our communities and how we build them together. Music was an oft-visited method to explore loving God and one another. We had six different musicians play for our morning worship services and evening campfire and had a special

ukulele performance from a number of our campers at our closing worship service. It was as moving as it was uplifting.

Those of you who read last year's report will be happy to know our Camp population continues to rise! Camp welcomed a number of new young campers and counselors this year, for a total of 31 youths.



PROGRAM REPORTS | YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

In the ongoing health and social aftershocks from COVID, we are excited to have more kids joining us for the week at camp. We have been working on new connections with groups in our communities, and this year we had our first participants (campers AND staff!) from Arcata's Catalyst Church. We also welcomed a new Camp Kitchen Director, Camp Medic, and several other new staff members. With higher numbers of both campers and staff, there are many more opportunities for friendship and joy, but also new logistical hurdles to overcome.

We are looking forward to putting some of the organizational lessons we learned this year into practice. We will be tackling these challenges next year without CLW's longtime Camp Coordinator, Emily Armstrong Buck, who will be taking a well-deserved sabbatical. Emily Nalley and Julian Hardage-Vergeer, who served as Co-coordinators with Emily Armstrong Buck this past summer, will serve as Co-coordinators again in 2026.

We are immensely grateful to the Board of Trustees from The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California for supporting Camp Living Waters both financially and with staff "Mr. Father Ken" Erickson and Kati Braak each joining us for part of the week.

Although dates have not yet been decided for the annual CLW Reunion at St. Alban's, you can tentatively put us in your calendar:

Camp Living Waters 2026

July 12 - 18

Note: these are still tentative placeholder dates

We look forward to another week of fun and exploring faith next summer!



PATHWAYS

The Rev. Ken Erickson

What is the current situation of migrants at the border, and how can we as Christians from North America respond in these times of elevated fear, resentment—and so much need? Pathways 2025 was a memorable trip to Tijuana, Mexico, where we were hosted for four days by Robert Vivar, Episcopal DSD Missioner for Migrant Ministries and educational coordinator for the non-profit Via International, to help us begin to answer these questions.

On Sunday, July 6, six diocesan youth and two clergy chaperones gathered at the Sacramento airport for an early morning flight to San Diego. Meeting us at the airport, Robert escorted us as we crossed into Mexico by foot, whereupon our bus driver for the week whisked us to Friendship Park at the ocean promenade. There amongst the crowds and beneath the towering 30 ft wall, we set up and participated in Border Church, an interdenominational communion service followed by a community meal. After our meal, Robert explained the recent history of the border wall, and the current situation among the migrant community. The stark contrast between the festival atmosphere on the Mexico side, and the desolate “no man’s land” on the American side was haunting. On the south side, the wall was painted in vibrant colors and stirring messages, bands were playing, vendors were selling food and trinkets, families were enjoying the beach, and people joined in song and dance. The north side was filled with barbed wire, border guards on 4WD vehicles, and an empty sea of sand, concrete and a second wall.

While in Tijuana, our group stayed within a compound run by Via International and the San Diego diocese. The compound houses Casa Hogar De Los Niños (Hodeni), an orphanage and after-school program, and Comunidad de Luz, a newly-remodeled 30 bed shelter that will serve migrant women and children. We were housed in the

retreat center on the fourth floor, where we slept and enjoyed meals prepared by the resident nutritionist, and the fifth floor was a spacious chapel where we held morning prayer and a community Eucharist.

From our home base, we went on many excursions throughout the city of Tijuana. Our group spent the second morning at a local school, where we met a group of children and youth whose families are migrants from Haiti. There was an organized soccer game in which we gamely participated, along with other school yard games and chalk drawing. The smiles and joy on the faces of the kids lifted our spirits. The support for these migrants by the community of Tijuana was inspiring, as the school administrators, teachers on their summer break, psychologists, medical and law professionals all offered their time and expertise to the families.

We also visited open air markets, the office US Deported Veterans Resource Center, and another shelter that houses migrants from around the world. Families live together in close quarters, with community meals and bunk beds stacked in tight proximity. A couple of the women shared their harrowing stories of fleeing violence and finding hope even as their dreams of immigrating to the US were dashed as they arrived at the border. We left impressed by the hope and determination of the people of Tijuana, and the faithful witness of many Christians there to the love of Jesus who calls all to himself.

In 2026, Pathways will be partnering with Sierra Service Project with two locations: Del Norte County here in our diocese, and Navajoland, where our former bishop, The Rt. Rev. Barry Beisner, serves as missionary bishop (provisional). The Board of Trustees has again committed to strong support for this program, and we will have room for 80 high school students from across the diocese. Programs will happen the weeks of July 14 and 21, 2026.

PROGRAM REPORTS | OUTREACH

COMPANION DIOCESE

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

The renewal of an active relationship with the Diocese of Honduras continues to be a bright spot in this year's diocesan work. In February, a contingent of six clergy (Bishop Megan, Canon Julie, and the Revs. Ken Erickson, Mark Dibelka, Christy Laborda-Harris, and Mack Olson) attended the Convention of the Diocese of Honduras at their diocesan retreat center near the Guatemalan border.

Highlights included Mark Dibelka presenting about our work on disaster preparedness (with simultaneous, on-the-fly translation by Mack Olson) making contacts with clergy serving parishes (Mack Olson, rector at St. Patrick's, Kenwood, began a partnership with the priest at another St. Patrick's, for example), and learning about the incredible work the diocese is doing both to raise up clergy to serve many very small rural churches, to address the impact of climate change (especially the lack of access to clean water), and to address other social ills (from extreme poverty, to domestic violence, to the continued presence of HIV/AIDS in heavily touristed areas).

We also had the opportunity to visit the Cathedral in San Pedro Sula on a day when the bilingual Episcopal school there was holding a regional science fair. Very impressive!

During our visit, we also connected with delegations from the dioceses of Alabama (a priest and a deacon) and the diocese of Central Florida (including Bishop Justin Holcomb).

We enjoyed lively worship and joyful fellowship and will continue looking for ways to strengthen our mutual bonds going forward.

PROGRAM REPORTS | OUTREACH

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Betty Harrison-Smith, President

Episcopal Community Services is a ministry arm of the Diocese of Northern California. Since its founding in 1970, ECS has assisted congregations who wish to make a difference in their communities. We accomplish this goal utilizing a group of financial grants that range from one to five years in length.

Our 2025-2026 grant cycle provided \$31,600 in grants to eight congregations and to the Diocesan Partners in Ministries of Health Team. Those eight congregations are Grace (Fairfield), St. Patrick's (Kenwood), St. Luke's (Calistoga), Epiphany (Vacaville), St. Paul's (Healdsburg), St. Paul's (Crescent City), St. Mary's (Napa), and Trinity Cathedral (Sacramento).

ECS is currently experiencing a growth in its development. Along with providing financial assistance to congregations for outreach, we are adding an educational component to our service. We are doing this in two ways:

- Producing a series of training videos, including the development of community gardens to feed the hungry, working with refugees and immigrants, and feeding large groups of hungry guests.
- Developing relationships with our Diocesan Ministry partners: learning about the services they provide and having discussions on how we might assist them in their work.

We are also visiting congregations. Grant checks are often delivered in person, presented to the congregation directly on a Sunday morning. We utilize this time to learn about our congregations and to talk about ECS and the work that we do.

In 2021 we developed The Rt. Reverend Megan M. Traquair "Transformer Award". These awards are given annually to smaller congregations in the Diocese who have made a real difference in their

communities, working outside their church walls, doing outreach. The winners of the 2025 Transformer Awards are:

St. George's, Carmichael St. George's is a hub of community transformation. They have turned a community garden on their church grounds into a refugee garden that now supports 16 gardeners. Their outreach reflects care for all of God's creation, from welcoming pets with a pet-friendly church environment to supporting local students with scholarships for college. St. George's also celebrates local artists through an annual Arts and Crafts Fair and connects with their wider community through active communication, including a new website and multiple social media platforms.

Holy Trinity, Ukiah Holy Trinity is a place of generosity and welcome. They raise funds for local charities, support the local food bank and feeding programs and participate in local conservation efforts to care for the environment. Their free community movie nights offer hospitality and fellowship while inviting neighbors to experience the warmth and love of the congregation.

St. Andrew's, Corning St. Andrew's lives out transformation by opening its doors to the community in profound ways. Their parish hall hosts recovery groups and children's dance programs, providing safe spaces for healing and growth. They also offer a work program for the Tehama County Probation Department and Community Service participants, helping individuals rebuild their lives through meaningful work and connection.

Lastly, we truly appreciate the donations we receive from congregations and numerous individuals. Our work would not be possible without your generosity.

We invite you to check out our website at norcalecs.org, to see what we are up to!

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

By action Convention, our annual budget requires that .007% of total annual diocesan revenue go to grants addressing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Grant funds available for 2025 total \$13,222. To learn more about the Sustainable Development Goals, visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

In 2024, grants totaled \$12,750 and went to the following ministries targeting the goals, as noted below:

Goals 1: End Poverty *End poverty in all its forms*
& 3: Good Health & Well-Being *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages:*

\$2000 to Trinity, Folsom, to support Powerhouse Ministries

Goal 2: End Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

\$2750 to St. James', Lincoln to support their community garden

\$5,000 to Incarnation, Santa Rosa for stove replacement used for feeding program

Goal 10: Reduced Inequality – Addressing Discrimination (10.3)

Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

\$1,000 to St. Paul's, Benecia for Dignity Day in Benecia.

Goal 10: Reduced Inequality – Migration (10.7)

Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

\$5,000 to St. Mary's, Napa, for migrant resettlement support.

ARCHDEACONS 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 Archdeacons have served at diocesan ordinations, and this year joyfully welcomed three new deacons. The Rev. Joanie Cahill, The Rev. Karen Hoida, and The Rev. Diana Deen are among the first cohort to complete the West Coast Collaborative's two-year diaconal formation program

*The Archdeacons facilitated the Transitional Deacon Experience program in 2025 engaging with three participants in lively monthly conversations centering around assigned readings and living out the diaconal vows taken at ordination.

*The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California currently has a total of thirty-seven Deacons licensed and/or canonically resident. Of the thirty-seven, 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 spring Day of Inquiry.

*This year Bishop Megan, the Archdeacons, and many 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.

BEST SKILLS, BEST CHURCHES

In September, our nonprofit leadership course for churches, Best Skills, Best Churches, began another season of partnership with the Arizona State University's Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation.

This year's cohort includes participants from within our diocese, as well as folks from the dioceses of California, Hawaii, San Diego, and Tennessee.

Students in the course cover six topics:

- Volunteers in Service
- Legal Aspects of Governance
- Effective Communication & Handling Conflict
- Marketing and Community Presence
- Financial Management for Effective Service
- Fundraising Aspects of Stewardship

Those who successfully conclude the course receive a certificate in nonprofit management from Arizona State.

Best Skills, Best Churches will be next offered in the Fall of 2027.



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

The Episcopal Diocese
of Northern California

ASU Lodestar Center
for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation
Arizona State University

nmi nonprofit
management
institute

CLERGY CONFERENCE

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

The Rev. Michael Lapsley, an internationally known and respected advocate for peace and healing, was our guest speaker when clergy from across the diocese gathered in May at the Bishop's Ranch.

Fr. Lapsley, who joined an Anglican religious order (the Society of the Sacred Mission) in New Zealand while in his late teens, has spent the rest of his life in his adopted homeland of South Africa. While supporting the anti-apartheid movement, he received a letter bomb that destroyed both hands and left him blind in one eye. After his recovery, his testimony in the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission led him to start work with both offenders and victims recovering from the years of trauma endured during those extremely difficult years.

His organization, [The Institute for the Healing of Memories](#), now includes international branches, which work with a wide variety of trauma survivors, from military and police, to indigenous peoples' groups, and more. Each participant received a copy of his memoir, *Redeeming the Past: My Journey from Freedom Fighter to Healer*.

During his time with we explored how we tell our stories, how we work with others who have suffered trauma, and how we use our gifts for the healing of the world. It was a profound time of deep conversation and reflection.

We also shared beautiful daily worship, and concluded with the annual renewing of clergy vows, and the blessing of the hands of the clergy.

As always, it was a gift to share fellowship, good food, and time for rest in a beautiful setting.

COLLEGE FOR CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

The College for Congregational Development is a national program within the Episcopal Church which brings together tools from organizational theory and congregational development. Most students take the two-year program in one-week segments. This year's participants attended the course in the Diocese of Spokane.

The Rev. Dr. Steve Hassett (interim rector at Ascension, Vallejo) completed the two-year program and the Rev. Katherine Fredrick, curate at Grace, Fairfield) finished her first year. Their training will benefit both the churches they serve and strengthen their work on the Congregational Development Group (report follows). We anticipate sending two to three additional members of the CDG team in 2026.

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

The Congregational Development Group has been working in several directions over the past few years – many members served as mentors for the **FaithX Vitality Improvement Project**, which concluded this year. Others are actively serving now as companions to churches participating in the **Capacity Discernment Program**, run cooperatively with leaders from the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod. (More about that just below).

Grants: CDG grants this fall will look different than they have in recent years. The team will be seeking applications for 4 grants focused on helping churches connect more deeply with the community where they are located. Taking the Congregational Vitality Assessment (CVA – a FaithX tool) and having current mission and vision statements (or committing to working with a team member to achieve this) are prerequisites for application. We hope that by the time you are reading this report the grant cycle will already be underway.

Capacity Discernment is a program shared with us by the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon and the ELCA Synod of Western Oregon. It is a 9-month curriculum that helps (in this year's case) small churches discern one of three pathways: transformation, partnerships, or "mission accomplished."

Congregations participating this year are doing so by invitation and include five from our diocese (St. Mary's, Elk Grove; St. Luke's, Crescent City; St. Luke's, Galt; Trinity, Sutter Creek; and Trinity, Ukiah. One Lutheran church is part of the cohort. Companion clergy include four Episcopal priests (Ken Erickson, Katherine Frederick, Steve Hassett, and Mack Olson) and two Lutheran pastors (Jim Abbott and Bob Swartz).

Each month, churches, companions, and "design team" leaders (Cn. Julie Wakelee, Rev. Katherine Frederick, and Pastors Amy Kinzle and Charlane lines from the ELCA synod) gather online for about 90 minutes for teaching and sharing times. Each month, church teams have follow-up homework with their companions – usually conversations with the congregation.

We are excited to continue this experiment in walking with churches as they explore options for the future. Stay tuned in 2026 for the next edition!

We are always looking for folks across the diocese with an interest in organizational design and congregational resilience. We are especially in need of lay members. We meet online bi-monthly, and in person once or twice per year. Active members at this time are the Revs. Cindy Woods (Arcata), Annie Mertz (Benicia), Mack Olson (Kenwood), Ken Erickson (OOB), Steve Hassett (Vallejo), Katherine Frederick (Fairfield), Emily Hyberg (Sebastopol). Earlier in the year, participants included the Revs. David Englund (Gridley) and Tammy Smith-Firestone (Chico) and Mr. Jim Evans (Auburn) and William McGrath (Sacramento).

DEANERY REPORT: 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 has been served by the Rev. Mark Dibelka as vicar alongside lay worship leaders and preachers; supply clergy has covered the later part of this year as their vicar has been on leave.

All Saints', Redding, served by the Rev. Aidan Rontani, is experiencing growth and new life. They are exploring new outreach opportunities that will insure both their mission and their financial stability. All Saints continues to support the refugee resettlement program in Redding.

St. Michael's, Anderson is served by lay leadership and regular supply clergy, including the Rev. Marly Adair and the Rev. Ann Sullivan.

St. Peter's Red, Bluff is in transition, with the Rev. Maryly Adair celebrating Eucharist twice a month and providing pastoral care alongside a strong lay-leadership team.

St. Andrew's, Corning has morning prayer on Sundays and continues to open its doors to community 12-step groups.

St. John's, Chico has new rector, the Rev. Tammy Smith-Firestone, with sustained growth over the transition process. The congregation continues to engage in collaborative efforts with community organizations and has developed its New Camino ministry by building relationships with Latino neighbors.

St. Nicholas', Paradise has been 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. The clergy search process has begun for a Church Planter.

Holy Trinity, Willows is served by vestry leadership and the Rev. Delia Faye as regular supply clergy.

The Alta Deanery expresses its gratitude to Bishop Megan, Canon Julie, Kati, Jacqi and the rest of the Office of the Bishop staff for their support. Resources from Faith X, New Caminos, and the West Coast Collaborative Lay Preaching Program have provided excellent tools for understanding our greater communities and equipping our leaders. As always, I want to give special thanks to vestries, lay preachers, lay worship leaders, study leaders, and those who provide lay pastoral care with calls and visits to parishioners. And thank you to the "retired" clergy who celebrate and provide pastoral support throughout the deanery.

DEANERY REPORT: CAPITAL

The Very Rev. Tom Gartin, Dean

The Capital Deanery is the largest by membership with thirteen worshipping communities, and the diversity of ministry we collectively offer is extensive. From hosting 12-step and other support groups, to feeding the hungry, organizing for social justice, engaging in many expressions and models of clergy and lay pastoral care, and raising up disciples; it's clear that God isn't hindered by any of the obstacles and shortages we may worry about day-today, and that God's Spirit is bringing hope and love to our communities in abundance.

Faith, Cameron Park www.faithec.org

Faith continues a new initiative to introduce regular opportunities for hands-on community involvement as we support local organizations and meet our neighbors, from hosting pet food drives to packing meals for Rise Against Hunger. In addition to our outreach projects, we hosted the local ecumenical Good Friday service, the Cub Scout Bike Rodeo, and will host the Hands4Hope Winter Boutique. We believe that walking through the door into church can open many more doors back out into the community where God's Spirit is moving among us and our neighbors.

St. George's, Carmichael www.stgeorgeca.org

St. George's vestry had a helpful Mutual Ministry Review, where we created new mission and vision statements. Our mission is to be a community of acceptance, healing, and love. Our vision is to become a vibrant, Christ-centered community where all find belonging, healing, and love that transforms lives. We also planned and created a Healing Garden that includes the Stations of the Cross and the 12 Steps. We continue our outreach through our Community Garden.

Trinity, Folsom www.trinityfolsom.org

Overall, things are going about as well as could be hoped in a transitional-sized congregation. The biggest change has been welcoming a new Rector. The church welcomes newcomers more Sundays than not, and has baptized three adults in the past nine months. Outreach, much of which is done with ministry partners, is prominent in parish life. We hope to continue attracting new members and building up our programmatic life, with particular focus on music and formation. We are also excited about the large residential development coming to the Folsom area south of US 50 in the next few years and beginning to plan our marketing efforts.



PROGRAM REPORTS | CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

All Saints', Sacramento

www.allsaintssacramento.org

All Saints Memorial Episcopal Church in Sacramento is a warm community grounded in faith, tradition, and service. Rooted in traditional Anglican practice, music is important to us. Our Christian Formation includes a weekly Morning Prayer service with a Discussion Group, book clubs, and Lenten study groups. Outreach ministries include visits with the homebound, and bagged lunches and compassionate support for our unhoused neighbors. Committed to creation care, we recently installed heat pumps, significantly reducing the parish's carbon footprint. All Saints remains a resilient and faithful community of worship and we look forward to serving future generations here in Sacramento.



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

St. Mary's, Elk Grove

www.stmaryselkgrove.org

St. Luke's, Galt

www.stlukesgalt.org

Our Saviour, Placerville

www.oursaviourplacerville.org

Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento

www.trinitycathedral.org

Trinity Cathedral is committed to loving and serving the people of Sacramento, the diocese and our congregants.

We mix contemplative prayer with action for justice in serving the homeless, and migrants. We worship in a variety of styles across three services each Sunday. We face transitions this year, but we do so with faith.



Right: Dean Matthew welcomed Senator Alex Padilla to Trinity Cathedral for a round table discussion on the need to support migrants in our current political environment.

St. Clement's, Rancho Cordova

www.saint-clements.com

St. Matthew's, Sacramento

St. Paul's, Sacramento

www.stpaulssacramento.org

Trinity, Sutter Creek

www.trinitysuttercreek.org

DEANERY REPORT: CENTRAL

The Very Rev. Cliff Haggengos, Dean

2025 has been a fruitful, as well as transitional year for the congregations that comprise the Central Deanery. We have enjoyed collaborating and supporting one another as all of us go about making disciples, raising up saints and transforming our communities for Christ.

It has also been a year of transition for a number of our congregations. John Vafis retired from St. Stephen's (Colusa), and the congregation has been ably served both by supply clergy, as well as faithful lay members leading morning prayer. They continue to be served with a faithful organist so the church is filled with music. They also continue their community involvement with other churches in serving lunch for those who are food insecure. St. Stephen's will be hosting their annual Chocolate Festival on December 7th.

St. Timothy's, Gridley has also experienced transition. Since the retirement of John Harris, the congregation has been served by David Englund and other supply clergy as they seek a new priest in charge. They continue to serve the community through their wonderful garden and "Preserving Food with Friends" program. They are also in the process of renovating their social hall so that they might have greater involvement with the community in Gridley.

St. James', Lincoln also gathers for Eucharist on Sunday and is served by a number of faithful supply priests. They have continued to offer their wonderful Special Needs Service three times a month. In addition, they serve the community through their Pantry, Community Garden, participation in the Lincoln Homeless Project, and through a variety of services and programs offered their collaboration with Grace Lutheran Church in Lincoln.

St. Augustine of Canterbury, Rocklin has flourished this past year, strengthened by God's grace and guided by the inspiring vision of Pastor Anny Genato, who celebrated her graduation with a Doctor of Ministry degree in June. They also welcomed Deacon Joanie Cahill and seminarian Rosemary McLaughlin, launched a new ministry for college-age students and young adults. Their common life was enriched by a variety of profound worship and formation activities. Small groups, Centering Prayer, Bible studies, and book clubs to Yoga Devotion and Children's Church continued to deepen fellowship and discipleship. Outreach remained vibrant through support of The Gathering Inn, Acres of Hope, Kairos, and St. James Food Pantry, along with a joyful Cinco de Mayo fundraiser.

St. John's, Marysville has had a challenging year, doing the hard work of discerning that it was time to proceed with the sale of their property and dissolution of the parish. Despite the difficult challenge that such a decision entails, this grace-filled congregation worked hard to ensure that the Food Share program would continue (thanks to the willingness of Grace (Wheatland) to assume responsibility for this vital program serving the many needs of the community). St. John's has also provided a legacy of gifts to a number of the other congregations throughout the deanery.

St. Paul's, Oroville is dedicated to nurturing spiritual growth and community connection. As a cornerstone of the local faith community, it strives to share the love of God through worship and outreach activities. The church offers various services, including Eucharistic Adoration and weekly worship, which foster spiritual well-being and promote community engagement. St Paul's seeks to create a supportive environment for all who seek solace, guidance, or fellowship.

St. John's, Roseville continues to thrive and grow in the Westpark community of Roseville. The congregation gathers for three blessed services on Sunday and continues to serve the community in a variety of ways including support for The Gathering Inn, The Neighborhood Wellness Foundation and Grant High School, St. Vincent de Paul, and the HART ministry through collaboration with St. Matthew's (Sacramento). St. John's also provides space for a variety of neighborhood associations to meet, along with AA and Alanon groups, as they also offer bi-monthly support for Dementia Caregivers and Grief Sharing groups.

Grace Church, Wheatland kicked off the year by hosting a wonderful Celebration of their 150th Anniversary as a congregation. In addition to supporting NA and AA groups, the congregation also worked with St. John's Marysville and are now supporting the Food Share program that addresses a tremendous food insecurity issue in the local community.

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. It's community garden provides fresh produce to St Andrew's food pantry, the Salvation Army food distribution and the Yuba Sutter food bank. They have also started a Fifth Sunday joint service with St. John's Marysville, Grace Wheatland and Faith Lutheran Church, and also gather with those same churches for a "Game Night" offering a time to relax and enjoy more than a few good laughs. 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 palate of orange, red and purple ground cover and shrubs welcoming all to "Come and See".

As you can see, the nine congregations that comprise the Central Deanery continue to work collaboratively, looking for ways in which we are able to support our respective ministries. We continue to grow together in faith and ministry, letting the transforming love of Jesus Christ guide us as the Holy Spirit inspires us.

DEANERY REPORT: RUSSIAN RIVER

The Very Rev. Bob Scott, Dean

Good Shepherd, Cloverdale: The Reverend Tim McDonald continues to serve as the priest-in-charge. Good Shepherd has been experiencing steady, slow growth with attendance ranging from 30 to 45 each Sunday. The parish was successful in finishing several projects related to the FaithX program including working to identify city sidewalk and parking improvements for ADA purposes and helping to repurpose a church that is closing to become a resource center for the entire community.

<https://goodshepherdcloverdale.org>

St. Michael & All Angels, Fort Bragg: The Rev. Randy Knutson continues to serve both at St. Michael's and Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA); worshipping separately but working in what we call 'Shared Ministry'. Within this past year we have welcomed both our bishops to visit us. The congregations worship together about 6-8 times a year. We have also been at the center of Ecumenical Advent and Lenten Services in our region with seven different congregations worshipping on Wednesday nights. Another shared ministry includes a Shared Sack Lunch Ministry. Recently we have added once a month Free Community Meal.

<https://www.stmichaelfb.com/>

Shepherd by the Sea, Gualala: This Episcopal/Lutheran mission continues to be supported by the Advising Ministers Episcopal Rev. Portia Hopkins and the Lutheran 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. They also organize the annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. Two new ministries have been launched this year: a monthly Men's Group and an evening vesper service using Taizé hymns.

<https://www.shepherdbythesea.org/>

St. Paul's, Healdsburg: St. Paul's continues to be a vibrant parish led by the Rev. Sally Hubbell 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 every month from September through May. Bible Study is held each Wednesday. <https://www.stpauls-healdsburg.org/>

St. Patrick's, Kenwood: In October of 2024, St. Patrick's welcomed the Rev. Mack Olson as their new Priest in Charge. Some joyous moments in our parish included our annual Christmas concert, the return of our annual St. Patrick's dinner, and our continued support of the ViVO Youth Orchestra. St. Patrick's outreach ministries include food bank distributions, hosting a winter nomadic shelter, and puts together "blessing bags" for those in need. And finally, in the past year, we have continued to provide formation opportunities, retreats, book studies, art classes, and quiet days.

<https://stpatrickskenwood.org/>

St. John's, Lakeport: St. John's continues 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 continues to supply the first Sunday of each month through 2025. The thrift store provides 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 continues as interim rector. The parish completed its parish profile earlier this year and the call for a new rector has been posted. The parish has ministries in the areas of Peace & Justice, an Interfaith Food Pantry, the Petaluma Interfaith Community Climate Commission, and the Petaluma Community

Relations Council. The parish also offers a Taizé service, Sacred Circle Dance, and a Labyrinth walk.

<https://www.saintjohnseiscopalpetaluma.org/>

Incarnation, Santa Rosa: Incarnation continues to offer Sunday Open Table Breakfast, and to operate the Heavenly Treasures Gift and Thrift. This year the Parish Guild led several fellowship events that have contributed to a sense of joy and vitality in congregational life. The congregation celebrated a series of creative intergenerational liturgies, including two Sundays featuring children's leadership, and dinner eucharists for Epiphany and Ascension Day. Incarnation celebrated the ordination to the priesthood of parishioner Bill Glenn in July. Looking ahead, Incarnation plans to launch a capital campaign to initiate the parish's new Generational Campus Plan, including energy-efficient renovations and outdoor landscaping.

<https://www.incarnationsantarosa.org/>

St. Stephen's, Sebastopol: This June, the congregation celebrated the long-awaited Grand Opening of the Playground Café. This project is a capstone for more than a decade of property revitalization, which has included the addition of the Outdoor Sacred Space, Labyrinth, and Food Forest, among other ministry and beautification efforts. St. Stephen's is now a hub for the town where people can experience community, receive a free hot meal, be formed as youth Disciples at Godly Play, gather for Centering Prayer, cultivate the land with Friends of the Garden, and care for hungry neighbors at the Inter-Church Food Pantry. <https://www.ststephensebastopol.org/>

Trinity, Sonoma: Trinity is being served by an Interim ELCA Pastor during their time of transition. They will be examining how God is calling them to serve in their community to discern their future mission. Based on their sense of call they will discern the characteristics needed in a new Rector to lead them forward. They continue to provide meals for the community through the Meals on Wheels program that uses the facility.

<https://www.trinityepiscopalsonoma.org/>

Holy Trinity, Ukiah: The parish has enjoyed having Father Ed Howell serve as a consistent supply priest this year, with Eucharistic services every other week, the other Sundays featuring morning prayer led by lay leaders. Father Ed has been offering confirmation classes in preparation for several of our members being confirmed when Bishop Megan visits on October 12, 2025.

St. Francis in the Redwoods, Willits: The parish is led by the Rev. Betsy Bruneau and a strong lay ministry team. They now have a renewed music program in place and are working on their website. One of their Lay Ministers, Doreen Orme, is nearing the halfway point in her preparation for ordination to the Diaconate. The church continues to provide a home for Willits Daily Bread, who provides meals for those in need. The Willits Shelter Action Group is led by members of Saint Francis. A shower ministry has started with a mobile unit being brought from the Redwood Gospel Mission two afternoons a week.

<https://saintfrancisintheredwoods.org/>

DEANERY REPORT: SEMPER VIRENS

The Very Rev. K. Lesley McCloghrie, Dean

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.

St. Alban's, Arcata: had several leadership transitions; a sendoff for priest associate the Rev. Nancy Streufert at Epiphany; Pentecost saw goodbye to our part time Organist Noelle Allison, and we also celebrated the 23-year ministry of Parish Nurse Emily Arents, her baton passed to parishioner, and fellow nurse, Michelle Drollinger.

Provides much of the onsite staff for Camp Living Waters, as well as managing the finances and other administrative needs. Changes to the Safe Church requirements required many hours of additional administrative support to assure that all staff had done livescans and had completed all requirements. See report on Camp Living Waters

In June, we replaced the last three of our gas furnaces with heat pumps. This was the culmination of a three-year project. A raffle is underway to raise the remaining funds, and a celebratory dinner is planned for later this fall.

Safety and disaster preparedness - the parish phone tree has been used several times for earthquakes and winter storms. We offered a CPR/first AID training for staff and ushers.

Presence at several protests/rallies this year.

On a deanery wide note, there were 9 participants in Sacred Ground this year representing three of our deanery congregations and two participants from other Christian communities.

Christ Church, Eureka: Fr. Daniel spoke on a panel with a local rabbi and imam in a county-wide conversation about Israel-Palestine in September 2024.

With Betty Chinn and other churches, we served prime rib dinner to over 400 people

Fr. Daniel led an education day on the Gospel of John for the monks at the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge MA in December & participated in Ecumenical Gathering in Sacramento for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January

February, observed 140th anniversary of the Eureka Chinatown Expulsion, made donation to the Eureka Chinatown Monument.

March: Welcomed the Rev. Nancy Streufert as a new Associate Priest.

April: Participated in the Rhododendron Parade; parishioner Captain Scott Powers of the Coast Guard served as the parade's Grand Marshall.

May: Participated in the World Labyrinth Day Peace Walk,

June: Sacred Saunter in Trinidad commemorated the 250th anniversary of the first Holy Trinity Eucharist in Trinidad

July: Hosted a Life Planning & Legacy Workshop for deanery with EDNC board members Tony Yang and Peter Juvé and estate planning attorney.

August: The Rev. Mike Kinman guest preached and led workshop on reconciliation.

September: we began celebrating the Season of Creation for the first time.

Hosted first ecumenical and interreligious meeting of the Clinton Foundation's "Empowering Faith Leaders to Address Addiction and Recovery" for Eureka.

PROGRAM REPORTS | CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

Thomas Merton Redwoods Chapter (Reading Group) began also in September.

St. Francis, Fortuna: Welcomed the Rev. Nan Slavin as a canonically resident Deacon with a celebratory Tea attended by Semper Virens Dean, the Very Rev. Lesley McCloghrie. Deacon Nan is a Registered Nurse and works as a Case Manager at Providence St. Joseph Hospital.

Continued our outreach to the migrant community in Fortuna by hosting ESL classes taught by English Express. Member Helen Winfrey worked with the director of English Express to offer Towards Citizenship classes, funded by a Tamales Dinner.

Participated in the Congregation Vitality Assessment (CVA) survey offered by FaithX. St. Francis was identified as one of five congregations to participate in a 5-year grant regarding the CVA with the West Coast Collaborative.

Provided safe meeting space for eleven Twelve-Steps groups.

Participated in ecumenical fellowship and worship (Blue Christmas, Lent Soup Suppers, Holy Week Tenebrae) with our Methodist, Lutheran and Presbyterian neighbors.

To expand our community, initiated Flavors & Friends, a monthly informal cooking demo on various cultural foods and initiated monthly worship services at a local senior home.

St. Paul's, Crescent City: continues to enjoy active lay leadership in worship and music. Participated in workshops to further enrich these ministries.

Ardent group of volunteers working to restore and expand decking, improvements to front of the church in assessment and design phase.

Participation in Diocesan "Cohort Discernment" program, and portion of "Vitality Assessment" survey. A more focused evaluation of our own concept of mission and program is being held in monthly discussions.

Preparations to become a community center for emergency preparedness, in consultation with the County offices for Emergency Preparedness, hope to provide resources for the greater community.

Continued visible and public support of the LGBTQ community, hosting a packed house for a "Day of Remembrance" for those who have died in that community. Provided "Safe Place" for young people of the LGBTQ community to meet this summer, as well as providing visible and monetary support to "Pride Day".

Active place for 12 step meetings in the city and county, with several meetings of NA, AA, Alanon on a daily basis, morning and evenings. Weekly we have social groups of both church members and others in the community who meet for knitting, and then also a writers group a biweekly basis. Writers' influence helped create a monthly "Offering of Letters" at coffee hour in which our members and even others meet to write postcards of support and admonition to our elected officials.

Ministry of "Warm Showers", hosted by Katie Benoit, continues to provide safe haven for touring cyclists, the bimonthly "Bag lunch for the homeless" program also continues.

DEANERY REPORT: SIERRA

The Very Rev. Brian L. Rebholtz, Dean

It is an honor to serve as Dean of the Sierra Deanery. I see in our six congregations a quiet but enduring strength. Stretching from Auburn to Alturas, the parishes of Sierra Deanery embody a faithful Episcopal witness through prayer, service, and community life, often in small towns and rural settings where the Church's presence is an important sign of faith, hope, and love.

At **St. Luke's, Auburn**, the congregation celebrates a rich, Anglo-Catholic faith that emphasizes theological formation and mission. Our High Church worship flows directly into local service (Auburn Interfaith Food Closet and The Gathering Inn) and into international partnerships (St. Luc's school in Haiti and St. Luke's hospital in the Holy Land).

At **Emmanuel, Grass Valley**, the growing congregation is experimenting with new forms of worship to offer alongside traditional BCP liturgy. Having recently celebrated 170 years of ministry, Emmanuel is an essential and beloved presence in the town of Grass Valley.

At **Holy Trinity, Nevada City**, the parish continues to host community meals and study scripture together, while developing outreach through music. Currently, Trinity's regular Evensongs and Taizé worship offer a space for prayer and contemplation not just for parishioners, but also for spiritual seekers and members of the wider community.

At **Christ the King, Quincy**, the congregation remains faithful in prayer and in outreach to their own community.

In the same way, the steadfast congregations of **Good Shepherd, Susanville**, and **St. Michael's, Alturas** extend our mission and reach into the northernmost corners of our Diocese, maintaining worship, fellowship, community events, and online services with inspiring perseverance.

Overall, the spiritual health and vitality of the Sierra Deanery is remarkable. Our congregations, whether large or small, are deeply faithful and centered in the Good News of the Gospel. I am thankful for the service of our active Priests, the Rev. Seth Kellerman, the Rev. Brad Helmuth, and the Rev. David Cohen. I am also grateful for our serving Deacons, the Rev. Patty Park, the Rev. Bill Hefti, and the Rev. Karen Hoida. Thank you for sharing the light of Christ in humble yet creative ways with the communities you serve.

DEANERY REPORT: WINGFIELD

The Very Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan

It is hard to believe that I have now been Dean of Wingfield for an entire year. It has definitely been a learning experience! I started off with very high hopes of visiting all the churches in the deanery, having individual meetings with all the clergy, and much more. My first lesson learned is that the title of dean does not come with any special powers to add more hours to the day or more days to the calendar. So, I am learning to pace myself and understand that what I hoped to do in one year it might take two or even three years to accomplish.

Even as I have learned to lower my expectations of my own capacity, I have also learned that Wingfield congregations and clergy operate at a very high level. Our churches range in size, worship styles, and architecture, but we are all graced with faithful and loving leadership, both lay and clergy. We were ably led for several years by the Rev. Perry Polk, and I want to thank him for the gracious way he has handed off dean duties to me.

Our deanery is composed of nine churches, listed alphabetically by location on our diocesan website as: 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. What the alphabetical listing obscures is the geographical range of these locations, from the southern border of our diocese up into wine country and across to those of us who very nearly touch Sacramento's outskirts.

Our geographic spread creates challenges for gathering in person, but our clergy are making the effort anyway. In 2025 we have had clericus meetings in Davis, Vallejo, and St. Helena, as well as meeting during the Clergy Convention at the Bishop's Ranch. In 2026, we should be having

gatherings every other month, and I hope to keep moving around to new locations every time.

There isn't space to go into detail about the happenings at all of our churches, but I do want to share just a few highlights.

According to the Rev. Karen Freeman, "Grace, Fairfield has been busy this year renovating meeting rooms to move forward in our vision of becoming a useful community hub. We've also made great strides in reducing our carbon footprint: we've replaced gas water heaters with point-of-use electric water heaters and installed a ductless mini-split HVAC system allowing efficient, independent control of the heating and A/C in each room." I got to meet with a small group that visited St. Martin's to learn about our own mini-splits and was truly impressed by the dedication and knowledge of the leadership at Grace.

St. Luke's in Woodland had a "monumental and spirit-filled year," including saying goodbye to their interim, the Rev. Debra Hawkins, and calling the Rev. Krista Heuett as their next rector. She reports, "We've had a lot of holy firsts as we continue to dream, pray, and discern our ministry together. We are transitioning from merely surviving to now thriving with new ministries, new ideas, and new vision for the future of St. Luke's. We are all excited to see where God calls us to serve, grow, and flourish together." There will be an installation ceremony on October 18; I am sure that will be a highlight for next year's deanery report. It has been a joy to welcome Rev. Krista as a new colleague in our diocese and our deanery.

This year also marks the 150th anniversary of Grace, St. Helena. What a milestone! Their many anniversary events include a conference with church innovator and scholar Dr. Rev. Dwight Zscheile, a book launch, a film premiere, culminating with a festival celebration on November 1. Somehow, amid all this, they have

made space to graciously host our Convocation gathering. What a blessing Grace is to their community and to all of us!

In the Summer of 2024, Church of the Ascension in Vallejo called the Rev. Dr. Stephen Hassett to serve as Interim Rector. Again, what a joy to get to know Steve as a colleague these past several months! He writes, "At our Annual Parish Meeting in February (and with Bishop Megan's permission), we voted to adopt an experimental model of governance called Vestry of the Whole: rather than recruit volunteers to serve on a separate board, the whole congregation functions as the fiduciary body of the parish: we meet every month after church with a potluck and conduct our business together. We retain the wardens, treasurer, and secretary as officers of the parish, and work with Rev Steve, but all members of the parish have seat, voice, and vote in our affairs. It's been a lot of fun!" He also reports on a calendar of FUNdraisers in the community, a whopping big Confirmation class of 14, a series of personnel changes, and their ongoing rector search, and concludes by asking for our prayers for our siblings in Christ at Ascension.

At St. Martin's, we are celebrating another Season of Creation and living into our stewardship theme that proclaims St. Martin's as a place to be welcome, be known, and be loved. One highlight has been the ecumenical and interfaith work that is happening in Davis. This has included everything from a Wednesday night Lent series held in collaboration with our Methodist and Lutheran neighbors, to a Vacation Bible Camp and Progressive Youth Coalition that include even more local churches, and two new organizations of which we are founding members: the Davis Interfaith Association and the Davis Interfaith Queer Alliance.

This is obviously not a comprehensive account of the Wingfield Deanery this year, but just a series of snapshots. Every congregation has had its own joys, challenges, and changes, and I hope to keep learning about them and finding ways to share them with the larger diocesan community.

I cannot end this report without noting two more important transitions. The Rev. Canon Mary L. Goshert Ekenstam passed into eternal life in June of this year. Her ordination at St. Martin's was groundbreaking, and she continued to serve as a mentor and friend to women clergy right up until the end. Rest in peace, dear Mary.

On a lighter and happier (but still bittersweet) note, Anne Seed has served as our deanery's representative on the Board of Trustees for several years now, and she is nothing short of a superstar. She is moving on from that position, and I know that all of us who have worked with her will miss her energy, kindness, and hard work. Thank you, Anne, for your selfless dedication to the Church.

The role of a dean includes working with the other deans and participating on the Board of Trustees. I think I can confidently say that all of us deans are working hard to stay connected and become a true community of colleagues. It is a pleasure and privilege to do this work as part of my commitment to the people of the Wingfield Deanery. I hope that 2026 will bring many opportunities for me to meet and work with more of the people of this diverse and faithful deanery.

FRESH START

The Rev. Ken Erickson

Fresh Start is a three-year program bringing newly ordained and newly called clergy together from across the diocese for practical helps and building community among new clergy colleagues. Participants this year included 20 clergy new to positions in the diocese in the past three years: three Rectors, three Priests in Charge, four Interims, five Deacons, two Curates, and three Assisting Priests. Canon Julie Wakelee oversees program, which was facilitated by the Rev. Ken Erickson and the Rev. Sally Hubble.

The 2025 program began with Orientation to the Office of the Bishop on March 13, 2025. This was timely, as the Office of the Bishop had just moved into its new location on Fair Oaks Boulevard in January, and this gathering was a wonderful way to introduce clergy to the new space. The cohort was divided into two groups, which rotated throughout the day around the office to meet members of the Bishop's staff and learn about the resources and support in each area.

Topics covered included Disaster Resilience; Administration & Finance; the Canon to the Ordinary; the Bishop; Executive Assistant/Ordinations Coordinator; Church Vitality; Communications; HR, Benefits and Safe Church; Diocesan Investment Committee; and the Episcopal Church Foundation of Northern California. The gathering concluded with Evening Prayer.

The second gathering of year was held at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg on May 12-13, prior to the start of Clergy Conference. The program featured the Rev. Daniel London, Rector of Christ Church, Eureka and author of *Spiritual Friendship, Distilled*. Rev. Dr. London led the retreat, focusing on the writings of Aelred Rievaulx. After a brief introduction, we read the book aloud in a reader's theatre format and discussed each section. The book and our conversation were both light-hearted and full of valuable insight into the nature of friendship. There was also ample time set aside for rest, reflection and socialization. The consensus was that the time together felt like a real retreat, and the topic and sharing was a balm for the soul.

The third and final gathering for the 2025 Fresh Start cohort will be held on November 19 at St. Stephen's, Sebastopol. The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris, Rector of St. Stephen's, will introduce us to the church campus and lead us in a discussion about how the parish is exploring ways to expand what it means to be church in Sebastopol. We will gather in the morning for Welcome, refreshments and prayer, take a tour of the campus, eat lunch at the Playground Cafe, and discuss what it means to reimagine church in our time.

LATINO MINISTRY

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

It has been a busy year for advocating for members of the Latino community across our diocese. In late January, with heightened concerns about immigration raids, Cn. Julie Wakelee reached out to leaders across the diocese to form a **Migrant Support Team**.

It now includes lay and ordained members from each deanery and meets regularly to educate and equip leaders and their churches, and to provide information on how individuals can connect with organizations in their communities.

Early in the year, we held two zoom conferences featuring specialists:

- The first provided education to the diocese and other interested parties about how the immigration system works.
- The second provided educational material and practical helps to congregations concerned about how to respond if ICE comes to a church campus.

We continued to build on these resources, with members from across the diocese meeting regularly and contributing information to a new page on the Diocesan website, which is now a broadly-encompassing resource center, beautifully created by our staff team of Lisa Taylor (director of communications), Nicole Miller (communications consultant/webmaster), and Chloe Craig (executive assistant to the Canon).

You can find that page here:

<https://www.norcalepiscopal.org/site/migrant-support-network/>

Additionally, churches that attended the **New Caminos** conference held at St. John's, Chico in October 2024 have done great work with mini grants given to make their campuses more inviting to people in the Latino/a community. These projects span a broad range, from making signage bilingual to sponsoring a soccer team, hosting Las Posadas, and supporting local "know your rights" campaigns for immigrants.

St. Timothy's, Gridley, is still on a path toward hiring a bilingual, bicultural priest to lead them into being a congregation that more truly reflects the significant Latino population in their community. We have some great applicants and are starting the interview process soon, as we also navigate the process of obtaining R-1 visas for applicants. Many thanks to the Rev. Dr. David Englund, who led them in important interim work, and to the wardens Kathy Mahanna and Kelly Scott, and to everyone in the congregation who are carrying on during this long period of discernment.

NEW PARISHES AND MISSIONS

The Rev. Brian Rebholtz

There are no new parishes or missions.

SAFE CHURCH

Michelle Karimi

Participants from the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California completed 163 required Safe Church trainings in 2024 (*from January–October*), compared to 306 to date in 2025—an 88% increase!

In March, we introduced updated Safe Church requirements designed to simplify the process and align with federal and state laws. Many of the former *Safe Church*, *Safe Communities* courses remain available, recommended, and free, but are no longer required. Current requirements can be found in the Safe Church Guide on our website.

2025 Completions to Date:

- LiveScan Fingerprinting: 267
- CANRA Mandated Reporter Training: 166
- Sexual Harassment Training:
 - Supervisors – 32
 - Employees – 108

We are deeply grateful to the Safe Church Administrators across the diocese for their dedication to fostering safe and caring communities. As Diocesan Safe Church Coordinator, I will continue to serve as a liaison with the wider Episcopal Church, sharing updates, resources, and support as Safe Church practices continue to evolve.

To learn more about Safe Church, visit www.norcalepiscopal.org/site/safe-church/

TRANSITION MINISTRY

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

Things were moving in transition ministries this year! The following churches successfully concluded searches:

- St. John's, Chico – The Very Rev. Tammy Smith-Firestone
- St. Luke's, Woodland – The Rev. Krista Heuett
- St. Michael's, Carmichael – The Rev. Megan Anderson Gartin
- St. Patrick's, Kenwood – The Rev. Mack Olson (from PIC to Rector)
- Trinity, Folsom – The Rev. Brett Hays

The following are currently reviewing applications:

- St. John's, Petaluma

Still seeking candidates:

- St. Timothy, Gridley (bilingual/bicultural)
- St. Nicholas, Paradise (church planter, will start at St. John's, Chico)

As this report is being written, churches are applying to the 2026 Curacy Pilot Program, which will serve six churches for three years (3 sponsor churches, 3 partner churches).

Additionally, I am in active conversations with a number of churches about the possibility of sharing clergy in the year ahead.

I continue to be active in my cohort of Province VIII transition officers, which shares great resources, as well as companionship in this work.

**WEST COAST
COLLABORATIVE**
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
FOR MINISTRY



**COSTA OESTE
COLABORATIVA**
ESCUELA EPISCOPAL
PARA EL MINISTERIO



WEST COAST COLLABORATIVE EPISCOPAL SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY

*The Rev. Sr. Kathy Lawler, Northern California
Dean*

It is the mission of the West Coast Collaborative Episcopal School for Ministry to support people responding to the Holy Spirit's call to ministry by:

- Lowering barriers to engaging formation
- Forming students in regular, synchronous, cohort-based community
- Providing students excellent, pragmatic formation

It's been another exciting year of living this mission! We continue with our ongoing programs of formation preparing people for ministry as Preachers and Deacons across the

three WCC Dioceses: San Diego, El Camino Real, and Northern California.

There are currently nine people in formation for the Diaconate, six first year students and three in their second year. Early 2025 saw the ordination of students from our first full cohort to graduate from the WCC's two-year Diaconal Formation Program.

The WCC is truly a collaborative effort. We benefit from the great expertise brought to the school by Deans and Mentors from across the three dioceses. The breadth of this expertise spans spirituality, history, theology, ethics, walking with students in field placements, diaconal history and practice, the Book of Common Prayer, leading prayer, liturgical theology and practice, scripture, homiletics,

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even chanting! In 2025, the Northern California contribution expanded by two, adding The Rev.

Kate Sefton to the diaconal program mentors and Mr. Mark McMillen, a WCC graduate, to the preaching mentors. This brings our total mentor contribution to four, including The Rev. Kathy Lawler, Dean, and The Ven. Margaret Grayden, both of whom serve as diaconal program mentors.

Beyond our people and programs, the most exciting news of the year is the significant, five-year grant received by the WCC from the Iona Collaborative and Lilly Foundation to develop a culturally, educationally, and linguistically appropriate Diaconal Formation program in Spanish. Stay tuned for more news as we build and begin this program in the upcoming few years!

If you are curious to learn more about the WCC program offerings, check out our website at www.wccollaborative.org. For further information, you can reach out to the Northern California Dean, Kathy Lawler, at SFMDean@norcalepiscopal.org.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION MINISTRY

*The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee on behalf of The Rev.
Ken Erickson*

In January, Interim Missioner for Church Vitality Ken Erickson attended the national **Forma Conference**, where he met practitioners from across our denomination, and brought back resources to inform our ministry. (Does your church send someone? We'd like to keep the conversation going after the conference!)

As we have in prior years, we continued to provide **seasonal materials** for worship and study via our website and electronic communications. Bishop Megan was delighted to again endorse the use of the Season of Creation materials for use in Sunday worship.

Most notable, the **West Coast Collaborative** continues to grow and thrive as this three-way partnership with the dioceses of El Camino and San Diego continues the excellent work of forming deacons and lay preachers (now in English and Spanish!). The fruits are already being seen in benefits to our churches!

Clergy on the Office of the Bishop staff (foremost, of course, Bishop Megan herself!) visited, preached and taught at churches across the diocese, which is always a treat for us. We pray it is helpful to you, too.

COMMISSION FOR INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES

Miriam Casey and Jo Ann Williams, Commission Co-Chairs

Mission statement: Striving to reflect the diversity of heaven by living into the long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice of the Beloved Community in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

Racial Justice Audit

Please review the separate report for the Racial Justice Audit.

Continuing Fearless Faith: Pilgrimage to Tule Lake Concentration Camp

A diocesan committee raised awareness of the internment of Japanese during WWII at the Tule Lake Concentration Camp, located in the northern part of our diocese. Forty people made a pilgrimage to the Concentration Camp on September 12, including Rev. John Kitagawa. His father, the Rev. Daisuke Kitagawa, organized religious services at the camp during the incarceration.

Racial reconciliation training

Please review the separate report for Racial Reconciliation Training.

Beloved Community Resource Newsletter

The newsletter has 662 subscribers with an overall 70% open email rate which is much higher than the industry average of 35% for faith-based non-profit organizations.

Advocacy

Diocesan advocates attend the weekly Office of Government Relations Legislative Briefing and widely distribute information and action alerts about legislation and policies that directly relate to church policies. In addition, information on issue focused webinars and educational opportunities from OGR and partner advocacy organizations are shared.

Immigration Ministries

The ministry changed its name from Refugee Resettlement to Immigration this year to more accurately identify the work of the ministry with all immigrants, not just refugees. Ministry teams continue to assist refugees from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Syria and assist immigrants in their communities who are threatened with deportation.

African-American Ministry

The Commission is offering a webinar (October 18) about the Neighborhood Wellness Center in Sacramento. The Center provides services for students at Grant High School and others in the community.

This ministry is also connected to the California Commission on Racial Equity to identify opportunities to support racial justice in our diocese.

Rainbow Ministry

The Rainbow Ministry launched Safe Zone training for clergy, lay leaders, and parishioners in the diocese, using versions of materials from TheSafeZoneProject.com, designed to help churches to be welcoming safe zones for members of the 2S/LGBTQIA+ community. The Rainbow Ministry also launched the OASIS Support Group, an online monthly gathering for 2S/LGBTQIA+ parishioners in the diocese.

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COMMISSION FOR INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES: RACIAL JUSTICE AUDIT

Lynn Zender and Jo Ann Williams, Co-chairs

We are happy to share initial responses to the findings of the audit performed by the Mission Institute from the Board of Trustees team for the [Year 1 audit of diocesan leadership](#) and from the Regional Deans for the [Year 2 audit of deaneries and churches](#).

YEAR 1 (2023) AUDIT OF DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP – Daphne Vernon, the Very Rev. Cliff Haggenjos, and Barbara Jewell

Our first meeting was scheduled for August 5th with regular meetings to follow. During our first meeting, we agreed to honor the RJA recommendations that our team should have 8-10 members. We brought this to BOT, requesting more people to join our team of three. We received recommendations and sent out invitations to join our team in September. We hope to welcome new team members and start working on recommendations in October/November 2025.

YEAR 2 (2024) AUDIT OF DEANERIES AND CHURCHES

Alta Deanery – The Very Rev. Tammy Smith-Firestone, Dean

Preaching in the Alta Deanery is addressing racial justice issues facing our country, especially immigration. Racial reconciliation is also being addressed through their outreach programs, including “New Camino,” by building relationships with Latino neighbors by sponsoring a local soccer league. They participate in the refugee resettlement program and provide immigrant support by creating awareness and participating in political events. They also look to having a Deanery-wide Sacred Ground course in 2026.

Capital Deanery – The Very Rev. Tom Gartin, Dean

Although there are various active social justice ministries being done within the Capital Deanery, the Deanery as a whole has not yet formed a unified response to the RJA. There is a need from the diocesan level to set the vision that helps everything necessary to fall into the right place with the right mix of creativity, practicality, and hope to assist leadership with responding to the audit findings. Work needs to be done to consolidate diocesan priorities into a cohesive strategic plan so that responding to the Racial Justice Audit has the place it deserves in our shared life in ministry.

Central Deanery – The Very Rev. Cliff Haggenjos

The Racial Justice Audit offered a number of insights for the Central Deanery to consider so that we might deepen our understanding of what it means to live as a Beloved Community. These included expanding education and leadership, supporting small congregations and accessibility, adjusting diversity efforts based on member interest, and seeking feedback for future improvements. To date the primary mechanism has been to offer Sacred Ground via Zoom throughout our deanery. In the year ahead, we look to build upon this work as we gather Sacred Ground graduates to discuss next steps built upon what we have learned.

Russian River Deanery – The Very Rev. Bob Scott, Dean

Rev. Bob distributed deanery audit reports to parishes and instructed parish leads to see what they could do given the difficult political environment, i.e., take some small bites; what could be accomplished in the short term. He committed to writing short articles from Sacred Ground materials for insertion into parish newsletters. At a deanery clericus meeting, he asked everyone to consider what they could do to

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start conversation on next steps and sent MI's list of ideas for racial and social justice activities for their consideration.

Semper Virens Deanery – The Very Rev. Lesley McCloghrie, Dean

St. Alban's Arcata: Arcata House partnership, LGBTQ+ community, Liturgical Spanish language, Bolivian family in congregation, True North Organizing Network.

Christ Church Eureka: 1885 Chinese Expulsion, HAPI, Sandy in Honduras, LGBTQ+ community, Forgotten Initiative Foster Care program

St. Francis, Fortuna: 'Immigration 101'. Know your Rights' webinars, work with Centro del Pueblo, Towards Citizenship classes,

St. Paul's Crescent City: works with True North Organizing Network.

Sierra Deanery – The Very Rev. Brian Rebholtz, Dean

St. Luke's working group is developing a St. Benedict's Guild to help us better welcome unhoused people in our area, many of whom are non-White. We will provide training for new members, connect unhoused parishioners with local services, and raise awareness about the epidemic of homelessness in Placer County.

Wingfield Deanery – The Very Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan

The Wingfield Deanery clergy are committed to doing a "deep dive" into the report in early 2026 and consider more collaborative efforts and conversations. Many of our parishes already offer one or more of the following: Spanish-language services and/or inclusion of Spanish in liturgy, Dia de los Muertos and Las Posadas celebrations, ongoing Sacred Ground circles, participation in CIM, COE, and the Immigrant Support Network, speakers and book studies dealing with racial justice issues, acknowledgment of Juneteenth in liturgy and preaching, and much more.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Rhonda Canby 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, Rhonda Canby (co-chair), The Rev. Patty Park (co-chair), Earl Cunningham, Fernando Dizon, The Rev. Katherine Frederick, The Rev. Anny Genato, Malcolm MacKenzie, Kate Muris, and Leta Parks. 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 are hoping to add an additional two clergy and two lay members over the next few months.

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. One of our Discernment Weekends this year was held at Trinity Cathedral, but we plan to return to meeting at an off-site retreat center going forward.

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 its nature before being invited to a

Discernment Weekend. We now have 10 aspirants looking forward to starting the ordination process.

The West Coast Collaborative Episcopal School for Ministry formed three new vocational deacons who were ordained this year. The WCC is a combined ministry of the Dioceses of El Camino Real, Northern California and San Diego, and provides innovative 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 began 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.

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Miriam Casey, the Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan and Bob Wohlsen

The Mission, Purpose, and Work of the Commission on the Environment

The Commission on the Environment is a group of individuals from across the diocese who are passionate about caring for God's creation. Our efforts are inspired by our Christian calling and responsibility to love God and love our neighbors (human and more than human) as ourselves. We meet monthly on Zoom, offering updates, sharing information, and gathering best practices and regularly offer webinars on topics relating to our carbon neutrality work and commitments.

Spiritual Formation through Worship and Study

In addition to the information and education we share through our monthly gatherings, we regularly contribute articles to the diocese's e-news and to the Becoming Beloved Community newsletter. We have also been invited to share our pathway to carbon neutrality in other dioceses, including in Los Angeles, San Diego, West Texas, Vermont and Missouri.

Closer to home, we completed the "Love God, Love God's World" curriculum in 2025 and have encouraged churches to participate in Earth Day celebrations, St. Francis Day, and other events that highlight the importance of creation care both within the church and to the broader community. In May we welcomed the Rev. Payton Heogh, Program Director of the Center for Spirituality in Nature, to lead a Rogation Day event. Many of our congregations, supported by our Bishop's endorsement, are making great use of the new Season of Creation approved liturgical materials. Among many other initiatives we could list, at least two of our churches have offered studies focused on *The Serviceberry*, a book about nature and the gift economy by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Carbon neutrality by 2030

At our 2022 Convention, the Diocese of Northern California set a goal for its churches to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. To date, 39 churches have joined the program, and several churches have moved forward with projects to increase their energy efficiency and achieve this goal. In addition, recently the Commission collaborated with the diocese to apply for a \$20,000 grant from the Spirit Airline Foundation to support carbon reduction at St. Michael's, Carmichael.

Advocacy

Commission members advocate to their federal and state legislators to support legislation and policies that support the church's creation care ministries. This has included participation in an advocacy day at the state capital in June.

Province 8 Creation Care Network & beyond

Members of the Commission on the Environment made significant contributions to the Province VIII Creation Care Network. We provided programs on our 4-step process for achieving carbon neutrality, energy efficiency assessments and funding for carbon reduction efforts. We are currently partnering with others to plan a Province 8 Creation Care Conference in 2026. We have also been part of the Green Caucus, a nationwide project to connect those working on creation care efforts between our triennial General Conventions.

Communication: Forming a Mighty Network

Communication has been a strong focus of our work this year, as you can see how often we mentioned articles and webinars produced or distributed by our Commission. We work closely with the Office of the Bishop team to keep our communication up-to-date and are grateful for their assistance, especially on our web page. Additionally, we are very excited to have launched a major new communication tool via the Mighty Networks platform.

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ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS MINISTRIES

(SEPT 2024 – SEPT 2025)

The Rev. Dr. Daniel DeForest London

It's an honor to serve as your Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer and I am grateful to our previous Ecumenical Officer, the Rev. Bill Rontani, for his wisdom, counsel, and leadership in this role over the past several years. The purpose of the Ecumenical Officer is to encourage the search for the wider visibility of Christ's Church and to support collegial relationships with members of other religions. I'm connected to a network called EDEIO (Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical & Interreligious Officers) and I was recently appointed as the EDEIO Coordinator for Province 8, which comprises all dioceses west of the Rockies, including Hawaii, Taiwan, Navajoland and Micronesia. In this report, I offer brief highlights of ecumenical & interreligious ministries and affairs within our diocese as well as within the wider Episcopal Church, between September 2024 and September 2025. This list is meant to be illustrative and not exhaustive.

Ecumenical and Interreligious Highlights in the Diocese:

In September 2024, I spoke on a panel alongside a rabbi and imam in a county-wide conversation in Humboldt on Israel-Palestine.

In November 2024, the Fairfield Clergy Action Network hosted an annual Thanksgiving meal for the needy. Karen Freeman+ is an active member of the Clergy Action Network and the rector of Grace Fairfield, which rents out church-campus space to an American Baptist congregation and a non-denominational Spanish-language congregation.

In December 2024, St. Michael and All Angels and Trinity Lutheran Fort Bragg offered an ecumenical Advent service.

In December 2024, Grace St. Helena hosted an ecumenical Quiet Christmas service (akin to a Blue Christmas service), as they have been doing for 15 years.

In January 2025, in celebration of the Week of Christian Unity, the North State Ecumenical Conference hosted a panel discussion on the Nicene Creed, followed by an ecumenical worship service at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Sacramento. +Megan Traquair, Bill Rontani+, Matthew Woodward+, and I were among the participants.

In February 2025, clergy from the ELCA and the Roman Catholic Church participated in the Open House and brief Blessing Service to celebrate the Office of the Bishop's new location.

In March 2025, five Sacramento churches (Lutheran, Methodist, UCC, Presbyterian, Episcopal) hosted Lenten vigils that focused on mercy, unity, dignity, truth, and humility; and offered a sacred space for prayer, especially for migrants and the LGBTQ+ community.

In March 2025, Lutheran Bishop Jeff Johnson visited Trinity Lutheran Church and St. Michael & All Angels in Fort Bragg, two congregations pastored by the Randy Knutson+.

In March 2025, Christ Church Eureka hosted an ecumenical Lenten study on the Nicene Creed, in celebration of the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea.

In April 2025, Faith Cameron Park hosted an ecumenical Good Friday service while Grace St. Helena hosted an ecumenical Good Friday Taizé service on their labyrinth.

In June 2025, the Fairfield Clergy Action Network, which hosts food distribution centers, held an annual Juneteenth celebration.

In September 2025, St Martin's Davis and Christ Church Eureka celebrated the Season of Creation, a season which was established in 1989 by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and recently endorsed by General Convention. The Season of Creation spans from September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, to October 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis.

In October 2025, I will be speaking at Ensō Village, a Zen-inspired Retirement Community in Healdsburg, on "The Zen of St. Francis: An Episcobujew's Reflections on the Poverello."

Ecumenical & Interreligious Highlights in the Episcopal Church:

In November 2024, The Episcopal Church (TEC) participated in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan and joined dozens of other faith-based organizations in signing the "Interfaith Call to Action" stressing the moral imperative for climate justice, transition away from fossil fuels, and protection for the most vulnerable communities.

The year 2025 marked the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, an anniversary which inspired several commemorating events and programs among TEC and ecumenical partners around the globe.

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 (Jan 18 - Jan 25) was "Do you believe?" (John 11:26) and focused on the 1700th anniversary of Nicene Creed.

In February 2025, the Episcopal Church joined dozens of other faith-based organizations in a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration and claiming that the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions in and around places

of worship without a juridical warrant infringe upon the first amendment right to freedom of religion (specifically the sacred obligation to welcome the stranger).

In March 2025, EPIC (Episcopalians and Presbyterians in Conversation) met on Long Island to continue conversations about an Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries.

On April 20, 2025, both Eastern Orthodox and Western Christians celebrated Easter on the same day, a relatively rare coincidence, occurring once every 3 to 4 years.

In May 2025, Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe joined a 19-member Anglican delegation to attend Pope Leo XIV's Inaugural Mass, in which the pope said that "his first great desire" was for a united church and a "unity which does not cancel out differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people."

In May 2025, the United Methodist Church - Episcopal Church dialogue met to begin strategizing the path toward the full-communion vote at the 83rd General Convention of TEC in 2027. The dialogue is chaired by +Betsey Monnot of Iowa.

In June 2025, TEC and ELKB (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria) established a formal relationship of full communion, building on their existing ecumenical dialogue and the Augsburg Agreement.

In August 2025, a group of Episcopalians engaged in ecumenical fellowship through music and art at the Wild Goose Festival in Harmony, North Carolina.

Read this report online with images and videos here:

<https://deforest.london/2025/09/30/ecumenical-and-interreligious-report-sept-2024-2025/>

EPISCOPAL FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Tony K. Yang, MPA, PhD, 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 voluntarily. The Bishop and Chancellor are ex officio members. We are stewards of a stock portfolio comprised almost entirely of investment funds that 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.

To further strengthen the work of parishes across the dioceses, the foundation is attempting to develop endowed funds that offer a sustainable and impactful approach to financial support. By establishing endowed funds, the Foundation can create a permanent source of income that grows over time, ensuring that resources are available to meet both current and future needs. These funds, built through contributions from individuals, families, and organizations, are invested with care and stewardship, with earnings distributed routinely in accordance with donor instructions. Endowed funds not only provide stability for parish ministries and outreach programs but also encourage a culture of long-term philanthropy and legacy giving within the diocesan community. Through strategic growth and transparent management of these endowments, the Foundation can empower parishes to expand their ministries, respond to emerging challenges, and pursue innovative projects that enrich the spiritual and social fabric of the Diocese.

As the Foundation moves forward we are interested in increasing our philanthropic goals and needs. We are actively engaging in dialogue and discussions across the Diocese to begin active fundraising work across Northern California to seek to endow funds for a variety of congregational and spiritual needs. We hope to work with everyone across the Diocese in this effort.

The mission of the Foundation is to enhance and complement philanthropic efforts within our Diocese. We pursue this mission in several 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.

1. Stock transfers from an individual's estate to a parish or organization.
2. 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.
3. 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.

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The Foundation has awarded **\$20,000** in grants to the following churches/ministries in 2025:

St. Luke's, Calistoga was awarded \$3,000 to educate immigrant children via their Interfaith Refugee Support Ministry.

The Commission for Intercultural Ministries received a \$2,000 grant for congregational discipleship, evangelism and serving and supporting immigrants via the Tule Lake Concentration Camp Pilgrimage.

Grace, Saint Helena was awarded \$5,000 to host "The Future of the Church Conference" with Dwight Zscheile.

St. Clement's, Rancho Cordova was awarded \$1,500 for Zoom Church Technical Improvements.

St. Mary's, Napa received \$4,000 to serve and supporting Immigrants via their Interfaith Refugee Support Ministry.

Grace, Fairfield has received \$2,500 for an on-demand electric water heater for parish kitchen in support of Diocesan Carbon Neutral Goal.

Epiphany, Vacaville has received \$2,000 for community meals to support immigrants, and LGBTQ+ ministries.

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. Our meetings are open to invitees to join. Feel free to reach out to info@norcalepiscopalfoundation.org

INDIGENOUS MINISTRY

The Rev. Cn. Tina Campbell

This is my first report in two years, as I recovered from surgery and a fall last year. I will be including activities from 2024 and 2025.

Last year I participated in an online book study of Bp. Charleston's book, [The Four Vision Quests of Jesus](#). I was also invited to preach at St Augustine's Church in Rocklin and then led a 6 week in-person book study of Bp. Charleston's book.

There have been ongoing conversations as some of our congregations have developed Land Acknowledgements. These include:

St. Patrick's Kenwood

St. Paul's Healdsburg

St. Stephen's Sebastopol

St. Martin's Davis

In 2024 I participated in three I Will With God's Help workshops presenting the Indigenous portions of the program. This year I have participated in two of the workshops.

Most recently I was invited to help review proposals for Becoming Beloved Community grants. Our diocese received one of these grants in 2020 that funded our work on Land Acknowledgements with the Cathedral and Incarnation, Santa Rosa.

I am working with Miriam Casey (Commission on Intercultural Ministry) to help build an Indigenous Ministry Task Force that can support ministry diocesan wide.

During the recent Season of Creation I offered a book study of Robin Kimmerer's book, [The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World](#). While not well attended I continue to believe this book offers an excellent way to understand Indigenous thinking about Creation and what the generosity of Nature has to offer as a generous and appreciative way of living.

Finally, I continue to facilitate a weekly Zoom call with Indigenous missionaries from across the Episcopal Church. This group has met since Covid and has been renamed the Good Medicine Hour, marking it as a safe place to discuss issues around Native people and Indigenous Ministry in the Church.

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LITURGY AND MUSIC

*The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris and
The Very Rev. Tammy Smith-Firestone*

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Shaver stepped down from leadership of the Diocesan Committee for Liturgy and Music after his leadership of the worship for our revival in April of 2024. The Rt. Rev. Megan Traquair invited the Rev. Christy Laborda Harris to serve as diocesan liturgist and the Very Rev. Tammy Smith-Firestone agreed join the committee.

The Rt. Rev. Traquair requested that in their planning of liturgies for the diocese they work to include music from broad resources and demonstrate creative ways of leading the daily offices. It was her hope that our joint diocesan liturgies, while offering opportunities for rich and meaningful corporate worship, might also equip our diocesan leadership as they discern what resources are most suitable and life-giving in their local contexts.

In 2025, the Liturgy and Music Committee was responsible for the planning of liturgies at clergy conference in May at The Bishop's Ranch. This included two services of Evening Prayer and a service of Holy Eucharist with the blessing of chrism and the renewal of baptismal vows. The committee is also responsible for the planning of our worship at this Diocesan Convention.

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MINISTRIES OF HEALTH

Susan Wahlstrom RN, Coordinator

- I. Continue support/resources/consult, for **31 congregations** throughout the Diocese, with hope, healing and health ministries: Including **St. Alban's-Arcata** raising up a new Parish Nurse; and exploring Health Ministries at **Emmanuel-Grass Valley**.
- II. Provided training for Healing Prayer Ministers at **St. John's-Petaluma**. Their plan is to have a monthly Healing Service with outreach to the community.
- III. A Mini-Grant was provided for **Church of the Incarnation** by Rev. Paul Mallatt to support workshops on End-of-Life with resources.
- IV. There were over 1000 **Living Compass Lenten Meditation booklets** distributed throughout the Diocese. Six congregations developed Lenten programs with the resources. **Grace-Fairfield** distributed English & Spanish version at their community "Ashes To Go."
- V. With the vision of Rev. Anne McKeever continue to provide training through a grant/resource from the Clinton Global Initiative to "**Empower Faith Leaders to Address Addiction & the Overdose Crisis.**" A workshop was presented at **Trinity-Cathedral**. Rev. Anne will have resources available at our exhibit at Diocesan Convention.
- VI. On planning team for **Women's Retreat** held in collaboration with **Trinity Cathedral** in May at Mercy Center-Auburn with total 55 attendees.
- VII. Continued collaboration with **Episcopal Community Services**. Obtained \$2000 to continue funds for Health Ministries Mini-Grants. In addition, mentor ECS grant projects with a focus on healing and health ministries.
- VIII. Support to provide a Mini-grant for **Grace-Fairfield** for an AED at their church.
- IX. Support of Healing Prayer Ministries/Stations in the Diocese; provided resources to **Faith-Cameron Park**.
- X. Networking zoom with **Diocesan Episcopal Spiritual Directors**.
- XI. By invitation provided First Aid for the **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Tule Lake**.
- XII. Rev. Perry Polk provided Dementia/Caregiving workshops to **St. Alban's- Arcata** and **Christ-Eureka**. Rev. Perry will travel to provide workshops for your church.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

In 2025, the Diocese continued to support congregations with stewardship through sharing resources via a membership with TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship), offering an online conversation with the head of TENS (Mr. Davey Gerhard), consultations with congregations, and print resources.

We continue to offer the following at no cost to churches that request them: *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, by Henri Nouwen and *A Native Way of Giving*, co-authored by our own Rev. Michael Kearney, who assists in Nevada City.

Goals for 2026 include creating a best practices team across the diocese. If you are interested in this work, please contact Canon Julie Wakelee: julie@norcalepiscopal.org.