2026 DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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The Belfry Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry to U.C. Davis
2025-6 Academic Year
The Rev. Dr. Portia Hopkins, Chaplain



The Belfry is a safe space
Where everyone is welcome
The Belfry is a brave space
Where everyone has a voice
The Belfry is a peaceful space
Where everyone can find their center
The Belfry is a sacred space
Where everyone is invited to encounter God

Our year at the Belfry was full of our usual activities, from the ongoing Queer Theory Bible Study (using post-colonial, feminist, and queer theory to explore the Bible) and Pub Theology to our regular Thursday gatherings for worship and dinner. We also try to have one big creative event per quarter. For Winter, we continued our longstanding tradition of making prayer beads during Lent. In both Fall and Spring we tried something new—a Queer Icon painting workshop in October, where students created an icon after someone who is meaningful to them, and tie-dying Belfry T-shirts in the Spring, using shirts donated by the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

Our work with the Interfaith Campus Council also continued and even deepened. The ICC has a couple of student participants who are interested in intense and respectful interfaith dialogue. So, while we continued our large social events—the Movable Feast progressive dinner, Interfaith Shabbat, community service projects—we also added on occasional student-led small dinners and activity times. The students who have attended reported robust and meaningful conversations across difference—something we all need more of in these times!

Another new endeavor for us was running a float in the Davis Picnic Day parade. We decorated my ancient Miata—including "eyelashes"!—and marched in the parade wearing our tie-die shirts. The blinking "eyes" on the Miata brought cheers from the crowds. And handing out candy and stickers didn't hurt either. New also at the Belfry as of last summer is Belfry Dog # 2. Rescued Golden Retriever Aria joins Scout the Heeler in providing comfort and joy—and a little occasional mayhem—at the Belfry.





The capstone to the year was the celebration of two student baptisms at the Belfry. Neither of the students came from a faith background, and both entered the Belfry with an interest in finding community rather than in exploring spirituality. But over time they found themselves drawn into a growing faith relationship, culminating in their decisions to become members of God's church family through baptism. With family, friends, and community members attending in addition to the Belfry regulars, our little chapel was overloaded with all those who gathered to celebrate. The community agreed to support the spiritual lives of those being baptized as the cries of "We do!" and "We will!" echoed throughout the chapel. Several people told me afterwards that they had never before experienced so much love in a single space.

Besides current students, we now have a number of Belfry students who have graduated and are finding their own ways of carrying the Good News out into the world. We have a Belfry grad who has finished his first year of seminary, another who is serving with Young Adults in Global Mission (and a second who served last year), and several who have taken their places on vestries or served as convention delegates. Recently I heard from a Belfry grad who is living and working in a college town. He found so much encouragement and love in the final exam goody bags prepared and gifted to Belfry students by a local supporting congregation (homemade cookies, snacks, tea bags, a personal note, and always some chocolate!) that he prepared similar bags for the students in the campus ministry he supports. All this reminds me that the work we do with students not only does not end when they graduate; it is shared out into the world in new ways as young people continue in loving God and serving their neighbors.

I remain deeply grateful to be able to care for young adults in a way that offers them an invitation to the sacred. Thanks to ongoing support from the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, LuMin, and the Sierra Pacific Synod, along with our many supporting churches and individual partners, the lives of young people in Davis are supported in a plethora of ways. Thank you for all you do to make this mission possible.





Camp Living Waters 2026
Julian Hardage-Vergeer, Camp Co-Coordinator

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 2026 was *One Body, Many Parts: Building Community in Christ*. A real strength of our ministry is the diversity of the community that Camp serves in terms of race, gender, and ability. We learned about the marvelous things we can accomplish acting as a community, and what it looks like to build a community out of people who are different from one another. Throughout the week we came together with many voices to make beautiful noise, during both morning worship services and evening campfire songs. With seven musicians joining us during the week, and several drum and music circles throughout, the sound of rejoicing was never far away.

Following last year's trend, our Camp population continues to rise! Camp welcomed a number of new young campers and counselors this year, for a total of 34 youth. While it is very exciting to grow our camp family, our number of new campers is beginning to outpace that of our teen counselors, requiring several of our young adult staff to valiantly serve on our counselor team to help us make up the difference.

We are immensely intensely grateful to the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California for supporting funding Camp Living Waters both financially and with staff, with Bishop Megan Traquair and Lupita Arim-Law joining us for part of the week. We are looking forward to the annual CLW Reunion at St. Alban's February 20-21, 2027. Put us in your calendar for Camp Living Waters 2027 July 25 to 30, 2027! We look forward to another week of fun and exploring faith next summer.

Sierra Service Project (Pathways)
Lupita Arim-Law, Diocesan Director of Faith Formation

This year we were pleased to partner with Sierra Service Project (SSP) involving 43 high school students across the diocese in ministry experiences. Through generous support from the Board of Trustees, we helped organize and provide financial support for both the high school students and 13 adult chaperones. Our participants served at both sites offered by SSP: one in Crescent City, Del Norte County, California, and the other on the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

The week-long programs are *service-learning* experiences. Participants *serve* the community and the SSP team, and they *learn* the safe operation of power tools, as well as exploring their relationship with God, the natural world and their place within it. The theme for summer 2026 was *Wonderfully Made and Wildly Connected*.

SSP's purpose is to build strong connections and resilience among communities by equipping volunteers with home repair skills and involving them in conservation projects. By providing the home repairs to historically underserved residents, SSP helps strengthen communities and enables individuals to safely age in place. SSP's mission is to: *"Build faith and strengthen communities through service to others."* [1]

To broaden the reach of this youth formation opportunity and increase participation from smaller churches throughout our diocese, the Office of The Bishop (under the leadership of the Director of Formation) now serves as the centralized diocesan coordinator for the Sierra Service Project experience. **Scholarships** are available to help offset costs for both youth and adult participants.

The following participated in 2026, providing youth and/or chaperones: St. Alban's, Arcata; St. Paul's, Benecia; Faith, Cameron Park; St. John's, Chico; St. Martin's, Davis; St. Mary's, Napa; Grace, St. Helena; Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento; and the Office of the Bishop.

The theme for summer 2026 was *Wonderfully Made and Wildly Connected*. The young people who work and lead SSP are all well-trained and extremely impressive. They ensure safety and that everyone participates in the experience. The days are packed with opportunities to serve (chores), fun, music, good food and a tight schedule. Upon arrival, work teams are created and the youth are mixed with other kids from various churches and faiths. Each day begins and ends with devotion; the evening devotion is led by a selected youth team. Lunch includes a "spiritual sandwich" reflection time.

EDNC is excited to continue its partnership with SSP. Dates for 2027 will be announced later this year. If you are a high school student or an adult interested in serving as chaperone, please consider joining us! For questions: lupita@norcalepiscopal.org

[1] Sierra Service Project – Building strong connections & resilience among communities since 1975

Youth Discipleship & Camperships

Lupita Arim-Law, Director of Faith Formation

Youth Discipleship is the intentional process of guiding young people to grow in their faith as Christians. It is one of the most important functions of our churches. The focus of Youth Discipleship is to support and walk alongside young people as they grow as disciples of Christ and leaders within their communities and the broader Episcopalian family. We participate in this journey by equipping, encouraging, and assisting our congregations identify and select the resources and tools that meet young people where they are in their faith journey.

We have a wide range of curriculum and activity resources, including an extensive selection found in the **VTS Forma library[1].** Our goal is to provide a vibrant team approach across the diocese as we develop and strengthen a shared ministry.

Our Diocesan Youth Discipleship program continues to invite young people to participate in the well-established **Episcopal youth summer experiences** including Sierra Service Project where high-school kids develop practical skills to provide home repairs for historically underserved residents all while participating in activities to grow in their own personal faith journey. Our diocese sent 43 youth and 13 chaperones to Sierra Service Project Summer 2026. The theme for Summer 2026 was *Wonderfully Made and Wildly Connected* (see Pathways Report). There were two locations offered to serve, one in Crescent City, Del Norte County and the second was at Navajo Nation in the state of Arizona.

We also invite and offer various camps found on our diocesan website[2], including our own diocesan managed Camp Living Waters in Redwood Valley (ages 9 -15). Camp Living Waters continues to be a great success, and we encourage our congregations to support and participate in this enriching and delightful experience for our youth. We also offer Camp Galilee in Lake Tahoe managed by the Diocese of Nevada (ages 8-16), St. Dorothy's Rest in Sonoma, and The Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg (ages 3 - Adult) both managed by the Diocese of California.

Camperships

Our campership program provides **financial aid** to a child or teenager to help cover a portion of camps costs, regardless of which mentioned camp is selected. We have funds available and strongly encourage more children and teens to experience the joy, wonder and lifelong memories that camp so generously provides.

[1] https://www.vtsplus.org/spaces/23091589/page
[2] https://www.norcalepiscopal.org/site/camps/

Companion Diocese

The Rev. Mack Olson

After our diocese sent a team to attend the Diocese of Honduras' annual convention in 2024, we were blessed to host both Bishop Lloyd Allen and Canon Connie Sanchez at our own diocesan convention in 2025. In their address to our convention, Bishop Allen and Canon Sanchez both shared a great deal about the challenges the church faces in Honduras, and detailed their many successes in a wide array ministries of their diocese, including their schools, orphanages, microfinancing, and HIV/AIDS ministries, to name just a few. Their address to convention strengthened our commitment to our companion diocese relationship, and we look forward to a possible return to Honduras in 2027 to continue to strengthen these bonds and grow in supporting each diocese's ministries.

Commission for Intercultural Ministries

Miriam Casey & Jo Ann Williams, 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.

Racial reconciliation training–workshops and Sacred Ground

Five workshops were scheduled for 2026, two hybrid and three virtual. The last workshop will be October 10th. To date, there were 84 participants, including 11 from the Diocese of California. Their feedback was very positive. Of the participants who completed feedback forms, 94% rated the workshop 4 or 5 out of 5. This year we added a focus on parishes throughout our diocese that are working to overcome systemic racism in our communities. This is one of the aspects of the program that participants liked most. The Commission for Intercultural Ministries received a $5,000 grant from Episcopal Community Services to develop a pre-recorded workshop to give greater flexibility to parishes who wish to present the workshop on their own time. Work will begin on this project in 2027.

Sacred Ground

Participation in Sacred Ground Dialogue Circles has diminished in recent years in our Diocese. The national Sacred Ground team has gone through an extensive two-year process of curriculum update to make it more current and to add contextualization so that communities can relate the materials to their own communities. This updated curriculum was released this summer. Diane Williamson, the Diocesan Sacred Ground Coordinator, offered a webinar for diocesan facilitators giving an overview of the updated curriculum. St. John's, Roseville, is currently holding 4 online circles with 32 participants from throughout the Diocese using the new curriculum. The hope is that other churches in the Diocese will check out this revitalized curriculum and that there will be renewed interest in Sacred Ground in 2027 and beyond. For more information contact Diane Williamson at dianewilliamson864@gmail.com.

Indigenous Ministry

The purpose of Indigenous Ministries is to encourage and support local congregations in recognizing and forming meaningful relationships with their Indigenous neighbors, including the development of land acknowledgements. An interest group has been formed to further the effort. For more information, contact Miriam Casey at EDNCBBC@gmail.com.

African American Ministries

CIM continues its ongoing relationship with the CA Commission of Racial Equity which continues to provide vital connections for us relating to community contacts as well as current issues impacting the African American community. During Black History Month, Incarnation Church, Santa Rosa, hosted a hybrid event throughout the Diocese featuring the local Santa Rosa NAACP chapter president on racial justice experience in Sonoma County. Also speaking was Jennifer Snow, author of *Mission Race and Empire: The Episcopal Church in a Global Context,* through the perspectives of activists, priests and churches. St. John's, Roseville, continues its partnership with the Neighborhood Wellness Foundation in Del Paso Heights and its related impacts on communities of color.

Beloved Community Resource Newsletter

The newsletter has 642 subscribers with an overall 70% open email rate which is 38% higher than the industry average of 32% for faith-based non-profit organizations. Beginning in June 2026, the monthly newsletter began to publish quarterly due to CIM workload volume.

Advocacy

Parishioners attend the weekly Episcopal Public Policy Network legislative briefings, distribute the information in their congregations, and write their legislators in Congress. Several churches are engaged in the church's Vote Faithfully Voter Engagement Program. Parishioners have attended advocacy days in Sacramento and voiced their opinions as people of faith to their legislators. For more information, contact Bob.Wohlsen@gmail.com.

Immigration Ministries

Church and community teams in the diocese are working to assist immigrants and refugees in meeting the extreme challenges of the current difficult season. Immigration ministry leaders connect national and Provincial resources with the work in the diocese. More participants and funding are needed to effectively continue this vital work.

Rainbow Ministry

The Rainbow Ministry began in the summer of 2022 and exists to "celebrate and embrace the fabulous gender and sexual diversity of all God's people, fostering education, invitation, and connection throughout the diocese." Parishioners from a number of churches meet online monthly for planning, sharing, and coordination.

An ongoing project is the monthly online Oasis Support Group for 2S/LGBTQIA+ Episcopalians in the diocese.

We held the "Sacramental Welcome" Rainbow Spiritual Retreat at St. Patrick's Kenwood on Saturday, September 26, 2026, with 23 attendees, both queer and allies, including two persons from the Rainbow Covenant Commission in the Diocese of San Joaquin.

Our Leadership Team will now focus on planning a refined "Safe Zone Training" format, to enable local churches to be safe zones for 2S/LGBTQIA+ persons (adapting the materials from the General Convention recommended http://www.thesafezoneproject.com/).

We are grateful to Bishop Megan, the Board of Trustees, and our parent Commission for Intercultural Ministries for their continuing support. Our email address is RainbowMinistriesEDNC@gmail.com.

Ecumenical and Interreligious Report (Sept 2025 – Sept 2026)

The Rev. Dr. Daniel DeForest London

As the Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer for the diocese, my purpose is to encourage the search for the wider visible UNITY of Christ's Church and to support collegial relationships with members of other religions. I serve as the Province 8 Coordinator for the EDEIO (Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical & Interreligious Officers), with Province 8 comprising all the dioceses west of the Rockies, including Hawaii, Taiwan, Navajoland and Micronesia. In this report, I offer an illustrative, not exhaustive, list of ecumenical & interreligious ministries by focusing on those in the diocese with which I have been personally involved or made aware as well as those in the wider Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion, between September 2025 and September 2026. Please feel free to contact me at eureka.rector@gmail.com to share with me any ecumenical and interreligious ministries you would like me to highlight in future reports.

Ecumenical and Interreligious Highlights (Regional)

- In October 2025, I spoke on "The Zen of St. Francis" at Ensō Village, a Zen-inspired Retirement Community in Healdsburg CA. I also celebrated Eucharist in the community's Zendo. My presentation was later published in the Appendix of the book *Francis of Assisi and Related Writings* by Hermann Hesse (2026).
- In January 2026, in celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the North State Ecumenical Conference hosted a panel discussion on Christian unity, followed by an ecumenical worship service at Pioneer Congregational Church in Sacramento. The theme for the week was "One Body, One Spirit, One Hope - Ephesians 4:4."
- In February 2026, Bishop Megan wrote a letter to the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, expressing solidarity with the community after they were the target of an act of hatred and vandalism. "Please know that we hold you in our prayers," she wrote, "and that we are ready to offer whatever support would be most helpful in the days ahead. You are not alone."
- In March 2026, I went on a pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy to visit the remains of St. Francis, to spend time with Catholic priest Francis V. Tiso and Fr. Richard of St. James Episcopal Church in Florence Italy (where I guest preached), and to celebrate the Jubilee Year of St. Francis with thousands of other Christians from around the world.

- In mid-April 2026, I spoke on Spiritual Friendship and Cistercian spirituality at the monthly "What Moves You?" event (hosted by the Rev. Sally Hubbell of St. Paul's Healdsburg) in the 222's Moss Sculpture Garden, with Episcopalians, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, agnostics, Jews, etc.
- In mid-to-late April, my parish teamed up with the local United Methodist Church to co-sponsor a professor from BIOLA to speak at The Town Church on addiction and recovery, followed by ecumenical discussions on the subject at a local restaurant.
- In late April 2026, I participated and spoke in a gathering of local Muslims with Imam Abubakr Elgarguri. I spoke about St. Francis and his friendship with the sultan of Egypt, Al-Malik al-Kamil.
- In May 2026, faith leaders from Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Nazarene, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic and Unitarian Universalist congregations completed a training program sponsored by the Clinton Foundation to address addiction and recovery in Humboldt County, which experiences overdose rates alarmingly higher than California state and national averages. The participants of the "Empowering Faith Leaders" program (part of the Foundation's Overdose Response Network) formed a new cohort called HOPEFUL (Humboldt Overdose Prevention & Education Faith United Leaders).
- In June 2026, I participated in Humboldt Redwood Cursillo, which is especially ecumenical in Humboldt County, comprised of Roman Catholics and several other denominations (Episcopal, Lutheran, Nazarene, Pentecostal, Methodist, etc.). This was my first time making Cursillo and becoming an official cursillista.
- In August 2026, while serving as the chaplain at Fallen Leaf Lake, I ministered to Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, and, of course, several Episcopalians.
- In September 2026, I participated in a Symposium on Theology and AI at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos with representatives from the Unitarian Universalist Church, United Church of Christ, Waldensian Church, the United Methodist Church, Zen Buddhism, and Judaism.
- In September 2026, the Thomas Merton Redwoods Chapter reading group met at the Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour at Christ Church Eureka, drawing in Roman Catholics, Lutherans, and Franciscans from the county.

Ecumenical & Interreligious Highlights in Episcopal Church & Anglican Communion

- In October 2025, the Rev. Kirsten Guidero was named the Ecumenicaland Interreligious Officer for the Episcopal Church. She began an Ecumenical and Interreligious Monthly Call Series, held virtually on thethird Thursday of every month (12 PM to 1 PM Pacific) to discusstheology, best practices, and resource sharing.
- In April 2026, Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally and Pope LeoXIV met, prayed together, and commemorated 60 years of Catholic-Anglican relations, tracing back to the 1966 meeting between Pope PaulVI and Archbishop Michael Ramsey.
- In June 2026, the Presbyterian Church (USA) authorized the fourth round of bilateral dialogue with the Episcopal Church running from 2026 to 2032.
- In June 2026, the World Council of Churches convened its second "E-cumenical Youth Gathering" online for young ecumenists from aroundthe world to meet, share experiences, and strengthen relationshipsacross regions.
- In September 2026, the House of Bishops highlighted ongoing work and discussion during their gathering at Camp Allen TX toward achieving afull-communion part nership with the United Methodist Church
- As we look forward to General Convention 82 in July 2027, we prepareto take up the vote for full communion with the United Methodist Church, who adopted the full -communion agreement ("A Gift to theWorld: Co-Laborers in the Healing of Broken ness") at their GeneralConference in Spring 2024. We also prepare to move forward withchanging the church Constitution to include the possibility of LEPs (Local Ecumenical Partnerships), which are shared ecumenicalministries with de nominations with whom we are not in fullcommunion. This change will be pursued along with a canon that willlay out the nuts and bolts of how such ministries are formed andgoverned.

Read this report online with images and videos here: https://deforest.london/2026/10/01/ecumenical-and-interreligious-report-sept-2025-sept-2026/

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Betty Harrison-Smith, President

Episcopal Community Services (ECS) 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 current grant cycle (2026-27) is referred to as our "Year of Abundance." We distributed $55,250 to support congregations and community partners working to meet pressing needs across the Diocese! This year our funding supported food ministries, ministries that will focus on the well-being of vulnerable neighors, ministries shaping leaders and ministries advancing social justice.

We supported congregations that were reaching out to other ministries in new and creative ways. And, for the first time, we financially supported other diocesan ministries in their work(Cursillo, Health Ministries and the Diocesan Commission on Intercultural Ministries). For a full report on the details of this year's grants, we invite you to visit our website: norcalecs.org. ECS Board members have continued to deliver grant checks in person, when possible. The checks are presented to the congregations on a Sunday morning. We utilize this time to learn about our congregations and to talk about ECS and the work that we do.

Board members are also meeting with Diocesan partners to learn about the work that they do within the Diocese. This past year we have met with representatives from Social Justice, Health, Rainbow, and Refugees and Immigrants. These meetings include an invitation to apply for funding from the next ECS funding cycle. This upcoming year we hope to meet with representatives of The Foundation, Youth and the Disaster Resilience.

In 2021 we developed The Rt. Reverend Megan H. Traquir "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. This year we decided to focus our Transformer Awards on a different segment within the Diocese: OUR YOUTH!

- The first recipient of the Transformer Award is the congregation of St. Mary's, Napa. Since 2008, St. Mary's has been taking its youth on Sierra Service Project Mission trips. In 2026 St. Mary's partnered with other churches and took a otal of 13 youth and 4 adults to Arizona. They worked repairing roofs and building ramps f or residents of a reservation. About 50 members of St. Mary's and their families showed up to see the team off, a testament to the value the congregation placeson this project. A check of $500 accompanies this award, to be used to support the project in the future!

- The second Transformer recipient is St. Paul's, Benecia. St. Paul's participates in Dignity Day, a biannual community event serving people experiencing homelessness in Solano County. St. Paul's provides shelf-stable meals, hygiene supplies and pet food t o the guests at Dignity Day. The children of St. Paul's are central to this project. They engage in fundraising throughout the year, they package the food, and distribute the food at the event. St. Paul's also hosts two large events to benefit the older youth in their community. They host s St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner and a chili dinner on the night of the Benecia Christmas Tree Lighting. These funds help send teens from Benecia High School to the Sierra Service Project Program, which helps to fulfill their school's volunteer hours commitment. A check of $500 also goes to St. Paul's, Benecia to help continue fundraising activities for their youth.

Lastly, the Episcopal Services Board of Directors want to say a big thank you to everyone who donates to ECS. Be on the lookout for information about our Fall Annual Appeal. We can assure you that every donation matters, no matter how small. Your support makes it possible for ECS to award grants that strengthen ministries and help communities build bridges with compassion, presence and hope!

Interested in serving on the ECS Board of Directors? Check out our website at norcalecs.org.

Episcopal Relief & Development

Catherine Maloney, Diocesan Ministry Partner

Episcopal Relief and Development continues its three primary areas of focus: women, children, and climate issues. In addition, they continue to provide disaster assistance in the US and globally.

In 2025, Episcopal Relief & Development worked with 80 program partners in 49 countries to reach and impact 3.8 million people. A few examples of that work include:

- 11,000 farmers were trained in climate-smart agriculture globally
- Participants in global savings and loan groups were able to save a collective $2.0 million dollars to increase the financial stability of their families and communities
- Offering safe learning spaces for parents and caregivers across Africa to cultivate nurturing mindsets, creating more healthy homes and communities where children thrive. In Mozambique where programs were in use, they effected a 92% decrease in harsh punishment and treatment of young children through better education for caregivers and parents.

In addition to their development work, Episcopal Relief & Development provides assistance during disasters both in the US and around the world. In 2025, they responded to wildfires in Southern California, Flooding in Kentucky and Texas, and Hurricane Melissa in Cuba, Jamaica, and Haiti. So far in 2026 they have also responded to flooding in Hawai'i, earthquakes in Venezuela, drought in Kenya, wildfires in Eastern Washington, and the efforts to prevent the spread of Ebola in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Financial gifts from individuals, parishes, and directly from our diocese, help to support these ongoing efforts, as well as coming back to provide assistance for our own communities when needed.

This year they have launched a series of toolkits for congregations for use in learning more about the work that they do and engage parishioners in supporting that work. I had the opportunity to travel to Oklahoma and gather with other ministry partners from around the country to learn about these materials and the exciting and rewarding work that Episcopal Relief & Development is engaged in around the world, and am excited to be able to share those tools and that information with congregations in our diocese who are interested in holding fundraisers or finding other ways to support the work that is being done.

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 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Grant funds available for 2026 total $13,222. Applications for these grants will be available in around the time of Convention. To learn more about the Sustainable Development Goals, visit https://sdgs.un.org/goals.

In 2025, 3 grants totaled $12,750 and went to the following ministries targeting the U.N. goals, as noted below:

Grant One $840 to St. Paul's, Benicia to support Dignity Day.
Goals 1: End Poverty End poverty in all its forms
Goal 3: Good Health & Well-Being (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages)

Grant Two $500 to St. Patrick's, Kenwood to support the ViVO Youth Orchestra.
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Grant Three. $11,882 to All Saints, Redding, to support development of a quality affordable childcare center at the church.

Goal 1: End Poverty End poverty in all its forms

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Christian Formation

Lupita Arim-Law, Director of Faith Formation

Lupita Arim-Law joined the Office of the Bishop team as Director of Faith Formation in May 2026. As part of her introduction to the diocese, Lupita attended the **Clergy Conference** in Healdsburg, where Bishop Megan introduced her to the attending clergy.

Lupita brings decades of faithful lay ministry in the United Methodist Church, especially in youth ministry. She's been an active member at St. John's, Chico for several years, and to round out her knowledge of resources in the Episcopal Church, Lupita is enrolled in the one-year online program at the Virginia Theological Seminary, pursuing a **Certificate in Lifelong Christian Faith Formation**. She will also attend a regional **Forma Annual Conference** at St. Paul's Commons, Diocese of Los Angeles in January 2027. The 2027 and 2028 Forma Conferences will be virtual. Plans for the **2028 Forma Conference** are to offer Diocese of Northern California as a regional gathering opportunity.

We offer a wide range of faith formation curriculum and activity resources, including an extensive selection found in the **VTS Forma library.** Our goal is to provide a vibrant team approach across the diocese. We will be creating a comprehensive list of resources that will include various categories sensitive to the various parish needs.

As mentioned in the Stewardship report, she launched a monthly **Formation and Stewardship Newsletter** earlier this year**.** The vision is to bring together both Formation and Stewardship leadership from across the diocese to connect, share ideas and experiences and explore new opportunities that nurture spiritual growth and strengthen our congregations in Christ.

Are you a formation leader in your church? Please let us know by filling out this form so we can share resources and celebrate what's going well:
https://form.jotform.com/norcalepiscopal/faith-formation-leaders

Deacons and lay preachers continue to be formed through the **West Coast Collaborative** (our bilingual, three-way partnership with the dioceses of El Camino Real and San Diego). We are grateful to have more graduates serving across the diocese!

You can find out more about her adventures with Sierra Service Project/Pathways and Camp Living Waters in her other reports.

Questions? Want to get more involved? Please contact Lupita: lupita@norcalepiscopal.org.

CLERGY CONFERENCE

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta, brought energy and inspiration to the 2026 clergy conference at the Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg. Bishop Wright, a dynamic leader across The Episcopal Church, led us on a thoughtful and engaging series of conversations centered on the twinned works of preaching and adult Christian formation.

Bishop Megan provided each participant with a copy of *Kindling a Desire for God: Preaching as Spiritual Direction* by Kay Northcutt, which explores the important role of preaching in the spiritual formation of the congregation.

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

Commission on Ministry

Rhonda Canby, Co-chair & Rev. Patty Park, Co-chair

The Commission on Ministry (CoM) in the Diocese of Northern California is pleased to provide this summary of our work over the past year.

The CoM is actively recruiting new members. We are canonically required to have 8 lay members and 6 clergy but presently have seven lay members and three clergy members. We encourage you to reach out to one of us or to the bishop's office if you know of any potential candidates. Our commission is now composed of the following individuals: Rt. Rev. Megan Traquair, Rhonda Canby (co-chair), Patty Park (co-chair), Earl Cunningham, Fernando Dizon, Rev. Katherine Frederick, Rev. Dr. Anny Genato, Malcolm McKenzie, Kate Muris, Leta Parks, and Don Taylor. With seat and voice are also The Rev. Canon Julie Wakelee, Ven. Pam Gossard, Ven. Margaret Grayden and Jacqi Seppi.

We schedule two Inquiry Days each year to aid in discerning calls to ordained ministry; they were held in February and August this year. We schedule as many Regional Discernment Groups (RDGs) as there are individuals wanting to move forward from Inquiry Day, and one or two Discernment Weekends for those who have completed RDGs and have been invited by the Bishop to move forward. From the most recent Inquiry Day, we have started one RDG and anticipate as many as six more. We needed only one Discernment Weekend this year and it is scheduled for mid-October. There are presently nine postulants, including two in the West Coast Collaborative preparing for the vocational diaconate, six at various seminaries preparing for the priesthood and one set to start seminary in 2027. We anticipate one ordination to the priesthood, three ordinations to the transitional diaconate, and one ordination to the vocational diaconate in January 2027; we anticipate one ordination to the transitional diaconate and three ordinations to the priesthood in July. Regional Discernment Groups continue under the direction of Rev. Dr. Anny Genato. Their work has refined and shortened the discernment weekend process and has also helped individuals who are unprepared or unsuited to make a graceful and early exit from the process. We have not had a Discernment Weekend in 2026.
Please do call on us if we can provide you with additional details.

Commission on the Environment (COE)

Miriam Casey & The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan Co-Chairs



Commission on the Environment members and leaders continue to be very engaged in many aspects of caring for our creation at the local, diocesan, and provincial levels. Here are highlights of this work.

Carbon Neutral 2030 Program

Forty (40) churches are participating in the program. Twenty-eight (28) churches, large ones and small ones, throughout the diocese are implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. These include changing lights to LED, installing SMART thermostats, strengthening their building envelope, removing gas fired HVAC equipment and replacing them with heat pumps, replacing gas fired hot water heaters with electric powered, replacing gas kitchen ranges with electric commercial ranges, installing solar and battery systems and switching to green power. COE is continuing to provide resources to the congregations. For more information contact Bob.Wohlsen@gmail.com.

Province VIII Creation Care Network and Conference

COE Co-chair, Miriam Casey, is a co-convener of the Province VIII Creation Care Network. This regional network brings together creation care activists across the province to share their work, ideas, and resources.

Ms. Casey and Province VIII co-convener, Bill Shreve, Diocese of El Camino, are co-chairs of the major action oriented Province VIII Creation Care Conference that was held on September 25 - 27 in Salt Lake City at the Diocese of Utah's Conference Center. COE members, Daniel Moyer and Bob Wohlsen, were presenters during the Air Session at the conference. Daniel shared Saint Alban's story of achieving electrification. Bob shared the EDNC Carbon Neutral 2030 program. Their presentations provided models for other churches and dioceses to follow. Perry Gray-Reneberg staffed an exhibit highlighting the EDNC Creation Care Network, an on-line tool for sharing resources between the churches within the diocese.

Pacific Coastal Eco Region

COE co-chairs The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan and Miriam Casey are co-leaders of the newly formed Pacific Coastal Eco-Region. The Eco-Region is a collaboration in Creation Care work between our diocese and the dioceses of California and El Camino Real. (Other co-leaders are Bill Shreve from the Diocese of El Camino Real and The Very Rev. Eric Metoyer from the Diocese of California.) Work of the Eco-Region will focus on environmental issues that directly affect our three dioceses–carbon reduction, nature-based approaches to carbon sequestration and eco justice. The Pacific Coast al Eco-Region is supported by the respective Bishops and part of a church wide program sponsored by the Episcopal Church Center's Creation Care ministry.

WEST COAST COLLABORATIVE EPISCOPAL SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY
The Rev. Katherine Frederick, Northern California Dean

The West Coast Collaborative Episcopal School for Ministry's mission is 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

2026 marks the West Coast Collaborative's (WCC's) fifth year and the first time I have reported to you as Dean on our year's work and challenges on behalf of your school for ministry. I would like to take a longer view of what we set out to do by building a local school of formation for this diocese and then consider how we have lived into this dream in our first five years.

As I have been reflecting on the theme of this convention, "Formed to Flourish: Beyond Sunday Faith" I realize that our program lives into that theme by forming people for everyday ministry centered around a life of deep faith and action in our communities. This theme evokes my own understanding of what WCC was envisioned as its calling. The gifts of the people in this and our partner dioceses of El Camino Real and San Diego, all perched on the western edge of a continent, come in as many and varied richness as the worldwide places we hail from. God has given us gifts for this particular place and time to feed the people of this diocese. What if some of our laity have the gift of preaching? What if the emerging leaders in our non-english congregations had access to formation in their own language? What if we had more deacons to lead us to better serve the needs of the communities around us? The West Coast Collaborative was intended to fill the gaps, to give us a way to raise up and form people to lead and serve in all these spaces.

So where are we five years in? I hope you know that the WCC has been able to answer "yes we can do that!" to big pieces of this dream. Over 75 lay people, including 13 in Spanish, have been formed to bring their unique voices as interpreters of scripture and proclaimers of God's Good News and prepared for licensing as Lay Preachers–at least five of them have found or affirmed, in this journey, a call to enter discernment for ordination as a deacon or priest. 17 people in process to be ordained as deacons have been shaped, equipped and found a cohort for their journey–7 are ordained and serving, with a potential for five more ordinations in 2027, and one has just been named Archdeacon in one of our partner dioceses.

After five years, our WCC dream is alive and well and our hope is to do more to fill the gaps between the giftedness of the people in our three dioceses and the formation they seek to answer God's call. The latest question we are asking is: What if there were deacon formation that meets the unique educational, language and cultural needs of our Spanish speakers? To this too we say, "yes we can do this! We are part of a Lily grant to fund the work of developing apprenticeship based Spanish language deacon formation for the WCC and in January 2027 our team will gather to begin shaping this innovative curriculum. Are there more gaps the WCC may be called to fill? Absolutely. Our structure–expertise in local formation, support and curriculum from the Iona Collaborative at the Seminary of the Southwest; funding and a Dean from each partner diocese; a faculty of mentors to lead this formation and guests to bring particular expertise raised up from clergy and lay professionals in our three dioceses–makes us nimble and well resourced to answer the emerging needs and challenges we face. Together we have done much, together we are positioned to do more going forward. God is indeed good!

I want to express my gratitude on behalf of the faculty, students and alumni of the WCC to Bishop Megan and the people and leaders of Northern California. You saw the gifts in our midst and dared to ask what if? You found and dedicated the resources to make this dream a reality. Your faithful stewardship in your home congregations, in this diocese and through the Bishop's appeal has allowed us to help form all these leaders, lay and ordained we see today in our midst. Thank you!

https://www.norcalepiscopal.org/site/wcc/ | www.wccollaborative.org

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, Katherine Frederick, at SFMDean@norcalepiscopal.org.



Diocesan Partners in Ministries of Health

Promoting Hope, Healing & Health to
Our Congregations & Communities We Serve

Susan Wahlstrom RN, Coordinator

I. Continue support/resources/consult, for 31 congregations throughout the Diocese, with healing and health ministries.

II. Nine hundred Living Compass Lenten Meditation booklets distributed throughout The Diocese. Six congregations provided Lenten studies using the resource. Grace-Fairfield distributed English & Spanish version at their community Ashes To Go.

Plans are in the works for providing 2026 Living Compass Advent Meditation booklets to Diocesan congregations.

III. In partnership with Trinity Cathedral provided leadership and resources for a Women's Retreat at Faith-Cameron Park in May. There were 62 in attendance from 9 churches in the Diocese. In May of 2027, a Women's Retreat is being planned at Mercy Center-Auburn.

IV. Continue collaboration with Episcopal Community Services. Mentoring Grant Project developed for Our Saviour-Placerville for Winter Emergency Shelter.

Mini-Grants available for Healing & Health Ministries projects in the Diocese. Go to www.norcalecs for request for grant proposal.

V. Support of Healing Prayer Ministries/Stations in the Diocese; provided resources to Faith-Cameron Park.

VI. Worked in collaboration with Rev. Anny Genato, of St. Augustine's-Rocklin, as part of Diocesan Spiritual Direction to develop a Lenten Quiet Day Liturgy. It was tilized all or in part in Deaneries throughout the Diocese.

VII. Created All Parish Book Study as part of Rev. Tom's Sabbatical for Faith-Cameron Park. We utilized the book "What Grows in Weary Lands:On Christian Resilience" by Tish Harrison Warren.

VIII. Raising up Recovery Ministries in the Diocese, Rev. Anne Dreyden McKeever, a Retreat Day was held on 9/26 and a 12-Step Eucharists provided at all Sunday Services at Trinity Cathedral. The Retreat Leader & Celebrant will be a national leader in Recovery Ministries, Rev. Coleen Tully.

Liturgy and Music

The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris and The Very Rev. Tammy Smith

In the fall of 2025, the Liturgy and Music Committee was responsible for the planning of t he worship services for our Diocesan Convention in Redding. These li turgies included morning prayer, noonday prayer, and a service of Holy Eucharis t. Resources used to plan these liturgies included our Book of Common Prayer; Enrich ing our Worship; Daily Prayer for All Seasons; a Eucharistic prayer originally from Sal al + Cedar included in the Season of Creation liturgical resources which invites us to include local geography, flora and fauna; Songs for the Holy Other; Wonder, Love, and Praise; Singing in Communi ty- Paperless Music for Worship, 1982 Hymnal, My Heart Sings Out, and Hear the Prayers th at Rise- A music Resource for Contemplative Prayer.

Our final day of convention marked the 7th anniversary of the Camp Fire. As such, we designed a morning prayer liturgy of remembrance and blessing of our wildfires. From the beginning of our convention gathering, we were invited to write memories and stories from all the fires in our diocese on paper sh aped like leaves and hang them on an atlas cedar tree. During this service we heard snippe ts of a variety of stories from our fires, we joined in a litany of healing adap ted from "A Service of Public Healing" in our Book of Occasional Services, and, finally, Bish op Traquair blessed the atlas cedar, representing th e Tree of Life from our reading from Revelation 22 and acknowledging and blessing our experiences of the fires. The atlas cedar has been pl anted at St. John's, Chico.

In May of 2026, we were responsible for the planning and execution of the worship at Clergy Conference at The Bishop's Ranch. This included two services of Evening Prayer/Compline and a service of Holy Eucharist with the renewal of ordination vows and the blessing of chrism and unction oil. A big thank you to Randy and Robin Knutson for leading us in a service of Holden Evening Prayer!

Stewardship

Lupita Arim-Law, Director of Faith Formation

Stewardship is an intrinsic part and reflection of how we are formed by our faith. That's why when Lupita Arim-Law joined the Office of the Bishop team in May, her work on faith formation also included getting acquainted with resources and theology related to how we hold and share what we have for the good of our church (stewardship).

This summer, Lupita led a well-attended three-part book series on *A Native Way of Giving,* featuring the book's co-author Rev. Michael Carney (a priest of our diocese, who is both talented and gracious). This book **is both a book on faith formation and stewardship**. Twenty-five complimentary copies of the book were mailed out to all registered participants. The three-part recorded series will be available for parish small -group studies.

To develop and strengthen a shared ministry, she launched a **Formation and Stewardship Newsletter** earlier this year. The vision is to bring together both Formation and Stewardship leadership from across the diocese to connect, share ideas and experiences and explore new opportunities that nurture spiritual growth and strengthen our congregations in Christ. To subscribe, please

Another book we are offering (free!) is *A Spirituality of Fundraising,* by Henri Nouwen. Nouwen reminds us that fundraising and financial stewardship are forms of **true ministry**. The book is highly recommended for stewardship committees and church leaders. His reflections reframe stewardship as inviting people to support what we love.

The diocese continues to support congregations with their stewardship efforts through our diocesan-wide membership with **TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship).** TENS is a vibrant and valuable resource for our congregations, offering consulting services, webinars, a resource library and so much more. We encourage our congregations to explore the TENS website [i] and take advantage of the many resources available. When prompted, enter the 2026 password: Matthew22:4. Lupita is happy to explore the website along with you.

Are you a stewardship leader in your congregation? We'd love it if you'd tell us more, using this link: https://form.jotform.com/norcalepiscopal/congregation-stewardship-contact.

You can always contact Lupita directly here: lupita@norcalepiscopal.org

[i] https://www.tens.org/

Best Skills, Best Churches

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

In spring 2026, the most recent cohort graduated from our nonprofit leadership course for churches, Best Skills, Best Churches, thus concluding another season of partnership with the Arizona State University's Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation.

The year's cohort included 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 ConlĀct
- 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.

College for Congregational Development

The Rev. Stephen Hassett, Missioner for Church Vitality

The College for Congregational Development (CCD) is a consortium of leaders from across the Episcopal Church offering training and resources for teams of clergy and lay people serving their congregations. CCD was developed about twenty years ago in the Diocese of Olympia through the work of the Rt. Rev. Melissa Skelton and with the support of then-bishop of Olympia the Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel. Since then, the College has expanded to over a dozen dioceses across the Episcopal Church, and every summer they collectively offer week-long conferences in multiple locations. A two-year program produces "graduates" of the College, who remain connected to an ongoing community of practitioners and professionals supporting one another in cultivating healthy leadership for congregational vitality.

In 2026 the diocese sponsored the Rev. Mack Olson (St Patrick's, Kenwood) and The Very Rev. Tammy Smith (St John's, Chico) for a week of CCD training. The Rev. Stephen Hassett, Missioner for Congregational Vitality, also completed the process of becoming a Trainer in the College, and joined a team leading a week of the College in the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Rev. Steve is also in fruitful conversation with his counterpart in the Diocese of California, the Rev. Dcn. Laura Eberly (Canon for Congregations), as she develops plans to establish the College there. We look forward to opportunities for collaboration and partnership in service to the expansion of CCD's territory in California.

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

Many of our online training events this year fell more specifically under ministry areas (stewardship, communications, disaster preparedness, etc.) leaving Vestry Day as our primary big event.

This annual event equips clergy and lay leaders to both understand their roles and make the most out of their service together on Vestries or Mission Committees. It features a bible study and opening session for all with Bishop Megan. Breakout sessions allow teams to gather helpful details and update on employment practices, finances, running successful meetings, and our spiritual lives as leaders.

All elected leaders in our congregations are warmly welcomed and strongly encouraged to attend. The 2027 Vestry Day will be held in the first quarter of the new year. Stay tuned for details!

I would love to know what your church wants to learn more about. Our team wants to be equipping you in meaningful ways for ministry – to do that, we need to know, well, what you need to know!

I welcome your thoughts: julie@norcalepiscopal.org

Racial Justice Audit
Jo Ann Williams

Board of Trustees Racial Justice Audit Team Report 2026 - Cliff Hagenjos, Barbara Jewell, Jo Ann Williams, Miriam Casey, Canon Julie Wakelee, Daphne Vernon

The team met monthly for 6 months. Our task was to recommend next steps to the board based on the RJA recommendations report. We submitted our recommendation to the BOT at the September 2026 meeting. The recommendation was as follows and passed unanimously to be fulfilled in 2027.

"The **Board of Trustees Racial Justice Audit (RJA) team** recommends that the Board and Standing Committee participate in a **one-day racial reconciliation training**, followed by dedicated time for a collective debrief.

We believe this aligns directly with the RJA Implementation team's recommendations. Undertaking this training as a full Board will achieve several key objectives:

- **Fulfill Safe Church requirements** for all participating members.
- **Gather valuable feedback** on the training experience from a diverse representation of the Diocese.
- **Signal a strong commitment** to our missional goals through active, visible leadership from the Board."

Deanery Racial Justice Audit Reports

Capital Deanery – Tim Knight, Janet Salsman, Rev. Rik Rasmussen, Tynan Brooks
The Capital Deanery team met in July to begin the process of gathering information and contacts from the churches in this deanery. We are working on reaching out to these churches to see what racial justice work is being done and to recruit additional members to our group. Once that is completed, we will meet again. We have received confirmation that Trinity Folsom is in the process of planning for a Sacred Ground Circle to begin in January. Trinity Cathedral members are attending the Sacred Circle at St. John's, Roseville.

Central Deanery - David Brill, Maree Gauper, Diane Williamson

Our first step was to review the results of the survey by the Mission Institute (MI) and the quotes from survey takers. We took notice of the following three concerns:

(1) Over 90% of the survey takers self-identified as Caucasian which shows a true lack of diversity. (2) Lack of generational representation among survey takers. (3) Lack of survey takers (clergy, staff, and lay leaders) who have completed Sacred Ground; and even among those who have, the lack of remembrance of effect on them.

We feel that to make some of the suggested MI recommendations, further education on racial reconciliation is necessary. Fortunately, The Episcopal Church has Sacred Ground, which just went through a two-year review process and released their revitalized curriculum this summer. For those who do not wish to commit the time for an 11-week program, CIM offers a one-day workshop called "I Will With God's Help."
First, clergy and lay leaders need to complete the programs. How can parishioners be expected to participate if all leaders have not participated in them?
Increasing participation by further recruitment of new people is first and foremost. Every parish, who is able should offer Sacred Ground regularly; and those that are smaller should be made aware that they can join any Sacred Ground discussion circle offered by another parish in the deanery. Information on Sacred Ground and the one-day workshop are readily accessible on the Diocesan website.

Promoting new Sacred Ground sessions should be active, not passive. For example, St. John's, Roseville, implemented a very active recruiting process. Parishioners who had previously completed Sacred Ground were asked to wear lanyards that said, "Ask me about Sacred Ground," and had QR codes to a link to the website. Also, prior attendees were asked to speak at every service during one month to share what Sacred Ground meant to them. Their rector, Fr. Cliff Haggenjos, Dean of the Central Deanery, sent emails to clergy in the Deanery asking them to promote their Sacred Ground circles. This is something that could be easily implemented at every parish in the deanery. As a result of all of these efforts, St. John's now has four online circles scheduled with participants from around the Diocese.

Wingfield Deanery – Carole Hom
The Wingfield Deanery consists of nine parishes which are predominantly white. In July-August 2026, representatives of five parishes in the deanery responded to a survey about how their parish has engaged in activities to enhance racial justice. Based on their responses, all five parishes currently (or recently) participate in community service and outreach activities, host substance recovery groups, engage in interfaith or cultural activities, host or promote activities for children and youth, participate in the diocesan one-day racial reconciliation workshop or Sacred Ground, work to increase environmental stewardship, and offer programs in faith development. Several deanery-wide education programs are underway: in Fall 2026, two clergy from the deanery will offer an online confirmation and enquirer's class with participants from four parishes, and a deanery-level in-person Sacred Ground Circle is in the planning stages.

Addressing the findings of the Racial Justice Audit is challenging. But it is important work to do, to live into our Baptismal promise to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving

Archdeacon Report

The Venerable Pam Gossard and the Venerable Margaret Grayden, Archdeacon

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.

*A highlight of this year was an in-person retreat with the diocesan deacons, the Archdeacons, and Bishop Megan at the beautiful Mercy Center in Auburn on August 21-23. Fifteen deacons from around the diocese gathered with Bishop Megan for fellowship, prayer, worship, and to share words of wisdom and ideas with one another. Feedback from the post retreat survey was very positive and we hope to do this again in the future.



*The Archdeacons have served at the January and July diocesan ordinations. We currently have one postulant and one candidate for the diaconate attending the West Coast Collaborative's two-year diaconal formation program.

*The Archdeacons facilitated the Transitional Deacon Experience program in 2026 engaging with two 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-five Deacons licensed and/or canonically resident. Of the thirty-i.ve, twenty-two 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 also took part in both Diocesan Inquiry Days.

*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.

*In the last two years we have lost two beloved deacons, Bettye Reynolds and Richard von Grabow. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Congregational Development Team

Rev Stephen Hassett

The Congregational Development Team (CDT) of the Diocese of Northern California meets monthly to support clergy and lay leadership in healthy practices for effectiveness in ministry. Currently we pursue that agenda in three ways: offering grants directly to congregations that are engaging in fruitful ministry initiatives, coordinating regional teams of leaders to support one another in facilitating Mutual Ministry Reviews, and exploring longer-term and more comprehensive resources for equipping clergy and lay leadership with tools and strategies that support healthy community.

Congregational Development Grants focus on four key areas of congregational activity: liturgy, formation, outreach, and fellowship. These four expressions of Christian community are derived from the Greek terms that describe the church in the Book of Acts: *leitourgia (liturgy), didaskalia (teaching), diakonia (service),* and *koinonia (fellowship)*; so, we know that they authentically represent the Spirit-led purposes of Christian life in community.

Mutual Ministry Reviews are facilitated discussions among clergy and lay leadership which focus attention on the shared nature of ministry, and provide an appreciative framework for evaluating effectiveness. (Appreciative frameworks focus on what is working well rather than what is going poorly and have been shown to better support leadership processes that make good changes in an organization.) Cultivating regionally proximate clusters of leaders who are equipped to conduct these exercises means we provide congregations with a regular source of informed self-reflection and strengthen bonds of collegiality among church leaders working near one another.

This year, the Congregational Development Team's monthly meetings have included reading and discussing chapters of "Vital Christian Community: 12 Characteristics of Healthy Congregations." This book, written by two Episcopal priests who are part of the College for Congregational Development, provides resources and case studies that support good leadership and effective ministry. The CDT is exploring partnering with the College as a means of providing comprehensive access to those tools and resources for the whole diocese.

The current membership of the CDT is: Rev Stephen Hassett (chair), Jim Evans, Rev John Day, Rev Rik Rasmussen, Rev Cynthia Woods, Fernando Dizon (Board of Trustees liaison), Rev Annie Mertz, Rev Mack Olson. We are supported by Canon Julie Wakelee, Chloe Craig, and Lupita Arim-Law from the Office of the Bishop.

CURACY PROGRAM

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

In 2025, the Board of Trustees took a bold and faithful step, agreeing to fund at 50% for three years an initial cohort of curates (newly ordained clergy), each serving in a unique shared-call configuration.

Following an application and screening process, three teams of churches (St. Martins, Davis and St. Luke's, Galt; Trinity Cathedral and St. Paul's, Sacramento; and St. John's, Roseville and St. Matthew's, Sacramento) were selected.

Clergy applications were sought from those with five or fewer years of ordained experience.

The Rev. Maggie Rutherford, who graduated from Yale Divinity School in May, answered the call to serve ¾ time as curate at St. Martin's and, upon her priestly ordination in January, she will be the priest-in-charge ¼ time at St. Luke's, Galt.

The Rev. AnnaMarie Hoos, who had served an initial curacy in the Diocese of California, was called to a 50/50 shared call as associate priest at Trinity Cathedral and priest-in-charge at St. Paul's, Sacramento.

As with any new program, sometimes things take longer than expected, so we are still looking for the right fit for the third team of churches, but we know God is faithful and we look forward to welcoming the curate for St. John's and St. Matthew's soon.

Note: The Rev. Rosemary McLaughlin, ordained to the priesthood in June, is serving a two-year curacy at St. Augustine of Canterbury in Rocklin. This is via a program funded by her seminary, not the diocesan pilot program (and we're glad to have her!).

2026 Report | Alta Deanery

The Very Reverend Tammy Smith

Alta California is a predominantly rural deanery made up of eight congregations in the five counties of Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Butte, and Glenn, running along the I-5 corridor from Mt. Shasta to Willows and a branch of Highway 99 into Chico and Paradise. Our congregations have committed lay leadership, strong parish fellowship, and serve their communities with love. Two of the eight congregations have rectors; one, a quarter-time vicar, and the rest are led by supply clergy and lay leaders. The strengths and challenges of our congregations are described below:

St. Barnabas, Mt. Shasta is served by the Rev. William Stomski as quarter-time vicar, alongside lay worship leaders and preachers.
All Saints', Redding, served by the Rev. Aidan Rontani as rector. For late summer and fall supply clergy from the deanery have been celebrating and preaching while Rev. Aidan is on sabbatical.
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 served by the Rev. Maryly Adair celebrating Eucharist twice a month and providing pastoral care alongside a lay-leadership team.
St. Andrew's, Corning offers morning prayer Sunday mornings and continues to open its doors weekly to community 12-step groups.
St. John's, Chico is served by the Rev. Tammy Smith-Firestone as rector, with the Rev. Annie Ryder as Associate Priest.
St. Nicholas', Paradise is in hiatus for Sunday worship and is in the search process for a church planter. The building continues serve the community during the week.
Holy Trinity, Willows is served by the Rev. Delia Faye as regular supply clergy alongside vestry leadership.

The Alta Deanery has reinstated quarterly clericus meetings to provide support, and we will meet together as a hub for convention at All Saints', Redding. We are considering deanery events for Advent and Lent to support the fellowship, training, and growth of our congregations. I ask that all of our congregations faithfully pray for the search for a Church Planter for St. Nicholas', Paradise that the good work God has started and that our Diocese has supported through the Camp Fire and recovery would continue.

I would like to give my thanks to Bishop Megan, Canon Julie, Kati, Jacqi and the rest of the Office of the Bishop staff for their support to the vestries, ministries, and lay leadership of our congregations. I thank God for our capable, dedicated lay preachers, lay worship leaders, study leaders, and those who provide lay pastoral care with calls and visits to parishioners. And I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the "retired" clergy who celebrate and provide pastoral support throughout the Alta California deanery.

2026 Report | Capital Deanery

The Very Reverend Jana M Branson

The Capital Deanery consists of 13 churches in the Sacramento area, as well as Rancho Cordova, Folsom, Cameron Park, Placerville and Sutter Creek. Here are some highlights from a few of these churches about their work in 2026.

St. Luke's in Galt recently welcomed The Rev. Maggie Rutherford, who is a transitional deacon into a leadership role. She is serving at St. Luke's parttime.

Faith Episcopal Church in Cameron Park has established a regular outreach ministries to support their local community. These include a pet food drive and a Jazz Concert to support SHARE food cupboard. They have also conducted a churchwide Bible Study during their rector's sabbatical.

St. George's in Carmichael celebrated 60 years of ministry. They started a new community outreach committee for charitable outreach.

All Saints Memorial in Sacramento is completing a major remodel of the Parish Hall and electrical updates. All Saints continues to offer sack lunches to those experiencing food instability, and a community garden space to members of the greater Sacramento community. All Saints offers a weekly Morning Prayer and Bible Study group with several dedicated participants. A weekly Soup Supper and Study Group was offered during Lent.

St. Michael's in Carmichael installed a new Rector. The Rev. Megan Anderson-Gartin is completing her first year there. St. Michael's has an Episcopal Day School associated with it. There was a transition in leadership at the school this year. They are ending the year in a healthy financial situation.

St. Clement's in Rancho Cordova participates in the local food pantry, providing volunteers and food supplies. They provide a weekly adult formation and Sunday School for children. St. Clement's also partners with 4 Paws 2 Freedom, who train service dogs.

Trinity in Sutter Creek's Vestry has voted to close the church, after completing the Capacity Discernment program.

Trinity Cathedral raised funds toward the Cathedral renovation project, enabling them to move the project forward in design and implementation. They also expanded their youth and family ministries, which is flourishing in numbers and formation. They also expanded their advocacy work in Sacramento in the area of immigrant justice and LGBTQ+ outreach.

It is a pleasure to serve as Dean for the Capital Deanery.

2026 Report | Central Deanery

The Very Rev. Cliff Haggenjos

2026 has been a fruitful year for the congregations that comprise the Central Deanery.

St. Stephen's (Colusa) has worked this year to keep the doors open as they look to recruit a part-time priest. They have worked with Stephen Hassett to recognize their stories of hunger and deep gladness and delve into sources of transformation to develop their mission statement. They continue to serve a local nonproitĀto provide lunches for those who are food insecure. The Chocolate Festival, our annual fundraiser, will be held in December.

St. Timothy's (Gridley) welcomed The Rev. Dr. Alvaro Pinzon as their new Priest in Charge. He has quickly worked to establish a new website, www.sttimothysgridley.org, a new Soccer school, bible studies in English and Spanish, and Open Holy Eucharist at 12:00 pm, and a Golden microphone for our Digital Radio "Aliento de Dios Radio Plus" in Medellin Colombia. www.alientodediosradioplus.org.

St. James' (Lincoln) reports that their Outreach Ministries are thriving. The Pantry has served more than 6,000 meals. The Pantry and Senior Living Center also serve seniors living at home. The Community Garden rents garden boxes by season or year for families to grow produce, including corn, tomatoes, squash, and native herbs. Special Needs Welcome Ministry has enjoyed a season of joy, fellowship, and connection. Weekly worship is held Sundays at noon, with Bible lessons for children who often bring Food Pantry donations. "Free Clothing Give-Away" provides gently used adult and children's clothing for free quarterly distributions. A free coats, jackets, and sweaters give-away is planned for November 6th. Fall Bible Study**:** "Four or Thirty-Four? How Many Gospels?" meets Sundays at 9:00, with in-depth discussion Wednesdays at 10:00. Grace Lutheran Lincoln members join us on Wednesdays.

St. Augustine of Canterbury (Rocklin) has seen a year of mission, growth, and discernment. They have continued living into their identity as "A Safe Place for People Seeking God" while asking a new question: How do we become a people sent to share God's welcome with our neighbors?

A major milestone was the Rocklin City Council's approval of Sierra Wilds, a 120-unit affordable workforce housing community on a portion of our property. They have also welcomed the Rev. Rosemary MacLaughlin for a two-year curacy, with particular focus on pastoral care, young adult formation, and community engagement. Rev. Rosemary, with the support of the Dean and others, is exploring the creation of a new young adult community in the Central Deanery. This community is designed for young adults ages 18–35 — people

looking for connection, whether they are actively involved in a church, exploring spirituality, or simply carrying questions about faith. Early responses point to a clear shared desire for genuine friendship, honest conversation without pretense, mentorship, and a community that is explicitly welcoming — paired with a realistic, low-pressure rhythm of gathering, most often once a month, in a mix of formats from shared meals to faith and theology discussion. We are also exploring an ecumenical partnership with the Lutheran church through its Gather young adult network, to widen the community beyond a single congregation or denomination and connect with others already doing this work.

Formation at St. Augustine's remains central through Journey to Jesus, Bible studies, retreats, and other opportunities for spiritual growth. The parishioners have continued to serve the community through The Gathering Inn, St. James Food Pantry, Acres of Hope, Days for Girls, and other local organizations.

St. Paul's (Oroville) has continued to share the love of God through worship and outreach activities. As members of the Cooperating Christian Churches of Oroville, they work to feed and house the homeless in collaboration with the Rescue Mission, Salvation Army and Kingdom Table. St. Paul's is also grateful to the Rev. Bill Rontani, who has retired after many years of faithful service.

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) stepped up to continue the FoodShare Program established by St. John's Marysville. FoodShare currently provides groceries for over 500 people per month in partnership with the regional Foodbank and Habitat for Humanity. Grace Church also provided 100 gallons of milk to the local winter holiday food program and repurposed the ReStart boxes to Bedroom Bins. The congregation is currently working with EDNC to initiate the search for a quarter-time priest, and after 152 years finally completed their By-laws!

St James (Yuba City) continued its collaboration with neighboring churches by organizing the Fifth Sunday services that bring together three Episcopal churches and one Lutheran congregation. Worship is followed by a wonderful potluck featuring goodies from each church. The congregation also converted a playground from days past to an area with five raised beds adding to the harvest from the garden supplying fresh produce to local foodbanks. They also began a monthly Game Day gathering church members from other Episcopal churches as well as neighbors of St James congregants. Bingo Day was a rousing success.

2026 Report | Russian River

The Very Reverend Bob Scott

Good Shepherd, Cloverdale: The Reverend Tim McDonald continues to serve as the priest-in-charge and Bob Scott as deacon. Good Shepherd has been experiencing steady, slow growth with attendance ranging from 30 to 45 each Sunday. The parish embarked on a substantial restoration (particularly, the sacristy) and repainting of the church. The three signature crosses that adorn the roof of the church were also replaced. New ministries include a new 24/7 food pantry for those in immediate need and a food delivery service for those afraid or unable to go to local food banks. 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'. The congregations worship together about 6-8 times a year. One shared ministry includes a Shared Sack Lunch. The parish also hosts a Free Community Meal once a month. https://www.stmichaelb.com/Ā

Shepherd by the Sea, Gualala: This Episcopal/Lutheran mission continues to be supported by the Advising Ministers Episcopal Rev. Dr. 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. The Make A Difference fund supports Coastal Seniors and various community groups. In April, SBTS participated in the worldwide Holden Evening Prayer Service celebration. Two other ministries continue 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 and Assistant Priest Ken Erickson supporting two services on Sundays, a midweek service held at a local art gallery as well as a monthly Lectio Divina in partnership with a local arts non-proĀt. 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. The parish also offers Sunday school for preschool and school-age children, Wednesday Bible study, a book club, ECW group, and a Men's Group. https://www.stpauls-healdsburg.org/

St. Patrick's, Kenwood: The Rev. Mack Olson continues to serve as Priest in Charge with Paul Mallatt serving as Deacon. Bible study takes after Wednesday worship, Compline on Thursday afternoons, and there is also a Friday morning Zoom Men's Bible Study. St.

Patrick's outreach ministries include food bank distributions, hosting a winter nomadic shelter, and assembling "blessing bags" for those in need. https://stpatrickskenwood.org/

St. John's, Lakeport: St. John's, Lakeport is served by three long-term supply priests: The Rev. Dr. L.A. King on the first Sunday, the Rev. Wendy Watson on third Sunday, and the Rev. Ed Howell on fourth Sunday. Sr. Warden Leila Haddad leads Morning Prayer on the second Sunday. When a fifth Sunday happens (only four times per year), the parishioners choose other churches to visit. So far this year we have attended Holy Trinity in Ukiah and Galilee Lutheran in Kelseyville. The thrift store sustains the parish inÃancially and, along with the food pantry, provides community outreach. http://www.saintjohnslakeport.org/

St. John's, Petaluma: The Rev. Andy Lobban began his tenure as Rector on January 1 of this year and was formally installed by Bishop Megan Traquair on June 20. The parish has ministries that touch local Afghan families resettled in the region, the local food pantry, local elementary schools, and emergency shelter and supportive housing for seniors. The parish also offers a Taizé service, Sacred Circle Dances, weekly Centering Prayer, and a monthly Labyrinth walk. https://www.saintjohnsepiscopalpetaluma.org/

Incarnation, Santa Rosa: This past summer Incarnation completed a $4.2 million capital campaign which will allow energy-eficientĀrenovations of Farlander Hall (the parish's 1963 fellowship hall) and outdoor spaces throughout the campus. In November the parish will welcome Dr. Andrew Chislett as new director of music. Incarnation continues to offer Sunday Open Table Breakfast and to operate the Heavenly Treasures Gift and Thrift. The Rev. Stephen Shaver serves as rector, with the Rev. Bill Glenn as associate pastor. Phina Borgeson and Pamela Moore serve as deacons and Gail Cafferata, Jamie Knutsen, and Ellen Wondra (priests) serve as assisting clergy. https://www.incarnationsantarosa.org/

St. Stephen's, Sebastopol: The congregation continues to enjoy the fruits of the property revitalization efforts which were completed about a year ago. The Playground Café, Outdoor Sacred Space, Labyrinth, and Food Forest, among other ministry and beautification efforts have drawn in congregants and nearby neighbors alike. St. Stephen's ministries include a free hot meal program, Godly Play, Aging with Grace group, Sacred Song Circle, Centering Prayer, Friends of the Garden, and the Inter-Church Food Pantry. The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris continues to serve as rector and Kate Sefton as deacon.
https://www.ststephenssebastopol.org/

Trinity, Sonoma: Trinity is being served by an Interim ELCA Pastor during their time of transition. They continue in examining how God is calling them to serve in their community and to discern their future mission. This year they have sponsored a series of free movie

nights for the community. 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 and the other Sundays morning prayer led by lay leaders. New ministries include bag lunches for the unsheltered, a monthly potluck, and a new Sunday school program. Fundraisers are held at Christmas time; proceeds go to the Ukiah Senior Center. https://www.holytrinityukiah.com/

St. Francis in the Redwoods, Willits: The parish is led by the Rev. Betsy Bruneau and a strong lay ministry team. One of their Lay Ministers, Doreen Orme, is scheduled to be ordained a Deacon in January, God willing and the people consenting! 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, and they continue to work toward a shelter in town; a Navigation Center in the local Methodist Church is opening soon. A shower ministry is continuing with a mobile unit being brought from the Redwood Gospel Mission two afternoons a week. https://saintfrancisintheredwoods.org/

2026 Report | Semper Virens Deanery

The Very Rev. K. Lesley McCloghrie

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

St. Alban's, Arcata: This year saw many different activities within the parish. Work with the Clinton Initiative Overdose Response Network continued, including instruction on the use of nasal Narcan. in March Deacon Cindy participated in the organizing of the Cal Poly Social Justice Summit - Destigmatizing Addiction. Saturday May 23, was the funeral of The Rev. Dr. Susan Armstrong, former priest associate at both St. Alban's and Christ Church, Eureka, also Priest in Charge of Christ Church. In July, our young people from the Pathways Group and others, headed to join the Sierra Service Project in Crescent City, 'Adventures in Del Norte - the Sierra Service Project'. September saw the celebration of Deacon Cindy Woods' ministry at St. Alban's. With permission from Bishop Megan, Cindy is entering a period of discernment.

Christ Church, Eureka: is also working with the Clinton Initiative Overdose Response Network, and on May 3, held 'Recovery Sunday', Katie Jo Slaughter from the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services was our Forum speaker. In March, the Rev. Dr. Daniel London, Rector, traveled to Italy, visiting Assisi on the 800th Anniversary of the death of St. Francis. He also preached at St. James Episcopal Church in Florence. May saw the beginning of the installation of solar panels with accompanying battery backups, this also involved replacing the roof on the education building. The project is now complete. Ceiling fans were installed in the nave to help with ventilation. Over the summer work also began on the construction of an outdoor labyrinth. The labyrinth is now ready for use and will be blessed by The Rt. Rev. Magn Traquair on Saturday, October 3. During the year there have been many memorable concerts at Christ Church, including from Concert Organist, Damin Spritzer, 'American Folk Hymnody', from Grey Brothers, Paul Gossard, and Nan Voss-Herlihy, and a performance of the Opera, 'Echoes of Eureka', composed by Eric Tuan. This tells the story of the 1885 expulsion of the Chinese residents of Eureka. The opera was performed by the Vox Aurea Choir (Golden Voice) from Jyväskylä, Finland. Choir members and chaperones were hosted by parishioners, and given tours of Eureka, including the Sequoia Zoo, where the choir sang from the Skywalk.

St. Francis, Fortuna: using questions for the congregation drawn from our study of 'The Agile Church' by Dwight J. Zscheile. We rewrote our Mission and Vision Statements. Deacon Cindy Woods facilitated a working session to help us craft a new mission statement: *Rooted in Christ, Welcoming with Love, Fed to Feed Others.* Further work was done by Mission Committee to develop a Vision statement on these three points. In January, we adopted Bishop Megan's suggestion to study the Bible using 'The Path' published by Forward

Movement. New members and commitments have bloomed as we have journeyed through the Old Testament. One new member was baptized and confirmed when the Bishop Megan visited in October; another was confirmed and now serves on Mission Committee. In Spring of 2027 we are planning an Education for Ministry (EfM) online group. Our outreach to immigrant neighbors continues with weekly ESL classes, taught by English Express and Towards Citizenship class. Significant deferred maintenance projects at the Vicarage were completed: painting, installation of tankless hot water heater and energy eficientĀfurnace. In February, we bid farewell to Deacon Nan Slavin as she moved to Indiana to be with family.

St. Paul's, Crescent City: has continued their support of those suffering from addictions by providing a space for various AA, NA, OA, and Al-Anon meetings. Meetings are held seven days a week. Our bicycle ministry, serving cyclists from all over the world, continues. We provide a place to sleep indoors, to take a warm shower and to use our kitchen for making hot meals. Our parish supported the LGBTQ + plus community in Crescent City, providing the majority of funds for the Pride Day event held in June. We hosted all the community, for our third annual Trans Day of Remembrance, mourning together and paying tribute to those trans brothers and sisters, who have lost their life in the past year due to violence. We hosted the Methodist Church Safe Space group when their facilities have not been available. One of our major ministries is feeding the homeless community. We have continued to prepare 35 lunches twice a month for the unhoused. These lunches are served on Tuesdays, at the same location where shower facilities are available. In addition, we provide other goods and services that are needed by this same group through our collaborations with Mission Possible.

2026 Report | Wingield Dean ery

The Very Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan

It has been a busy year in Wingfield! I couldn't fit in all the wonderful things that were shared with me, so these are highlights grouped around some prominent themes. I'm honored to serve as the dean of Wingfield and hope to have more regular clericus meetings and more all-deanery in-person meetings in the coming year.

Engaging the wider community

St. Paul's, Benicia: Community meals, Dia de los Muertos, "pop up" social events that are also fundraisers, e.g., bingo night, World Cup watch party, outdoor movie night
St. Martin's, Davis: Community meals and food pantry, hosts the local Trans Day of Remembrance service, offers hospitality and parking for students moving into dorms
Grace, Fairfield: Participated with the Fairfield Clergy Action Network to provide Thanksgiving meals to low income and homeless persons *
St. Mary's, Napa: Partnership with our local elementary school, including a school supply drive, raising money for field trips, and a class presentation; work with our local shelter to provide support such as filling backpacks and a free pop-up coat shop
Grace, St. Helena: The Common Table connects Grace with the wider St. Helena community through thirteen free meals a year that gather 120 to 180 people at each meal, and at least 40% of the use of the building goes to community groups
Epiphany, Vacaville: Weekly community meal program to feed and care for our neighbors. Local events like the Halloween Stroll and Merriment on Main (served more than 350 cups of hot chocolate!)
Ascension, Vallejo: Initiated a process to enter into partnership with three organizations that serve the community; secured grants to provide for renovation of our classroom and meeting spaces in preparation for occupancy by our community partners

Collaborating with another faith community

St. Paul's, Benicia: Annual Interfaith service with the local Jewish congregation
***Grace, Fairfield:** Collaboration with Epiphany in Vacaville and other churches to provide lunches to the needy
St. Martin's, Davis: Entered into curacy program with St. Lukes, Galt; co-hosting a class on AI with participants from other Davis congregations and the Belfry; co-hosting an online Confirmation class with other churches in the deanery, plus St. Luke's, Galt
***St. Mary's, Napa:** Partner with the Methodist church, sharing a children's ministry staff person, doing fellowship events, outreach events, special worship, monthly Taizé services, and a robust refugee support ministry together.
Epiphany, Vacaville: Joined with Unity Church of Vacaville for an ecumenical Thanksgiving service
Ascension, Vallejo: Partnered with **St Paul's in Benicia** to conduct joint Holy Week services (Maundy Thursday and the Easter Vigil); joined other Solano County churches in a shared booth at the Solano Pride festival in Suisun City

Churchwide programs and events

St. Paul's, Benicia: Rector Annie Mertz elected as a deputy to General Convention
St. Martin's, Davis: Rector Pamela Dolan elected as deputy to General Convention; parishioner Carole Hom helped with revisions to the Sacred Ground curriculum; collaborated with Trinity Cathedral on offering Sacred Journeys course

St. Mary's, Napa: Lay deputy and lay alternate elected for General Convention 2027; raised over 9K for a school in the diocese of Jerusalem, in a fundraiser organized by a youth member of the parish; Rector Robin Denney serves on the Standing Commission for World Mission and the Mexico Bilateral Committee for TEC
Epiphany, Vacaville: Chartered a Brotherhood of St. Andrew chapter, which now meets monthly; Daughters of the King chapter is sending a member to its national convention; parish leaders studied "Invite. Welcome. Connect." this summer.

Social justice and creation care
St. Paul's, Benicia: Sent parishioner Anne Seed to the national LGBTQ+ conference
St. Martin's, Davis: Rector Pamela Dolan serves on the Green Caucus, participant in the Creators for Creation pilot program; underwent a comprehensive energy audit; restarted a parish Green Team; held its 7th Sacred Ground circle & hosted a racial reconciliation training for the Diocese
Grace, Fairfield: made great strides towards our Carbon neutral goals by installing mini-splits for heating and A/C, plus solar panels on the roof!
Grace, St. Helena: Kept the Season of Creation with a liturgy drawn from the Episcopal Church's new celebration guide; established a Good News Garden with native plants; Grace Outreach supports partners near and far, including a ten-year relationship with Cristosal, whose executive director, Noah Bullock, visited Grace in person this year
Epiphany, Vacaville: The vestry named two top priorities: expanding our feeding ministry and putting a new roof with solar panels on the church
Ascension, Vallejo: Incorporated the Season of Creation materials in our worship from Sept 1 to Oct 4

Something meaningful we celebrated
St. Paul's, Benicia: New projects include the restoration of our sanctuary space: refinished floors, new carpet, refinished pews, new cushions (those are a favorite!), and updated lighting, with a surprise bishop's signature thrown in for fun!
St. Martin's, Davis: Welcomed Curate Maggie Rutherford and celebrated her ordination to the transitional diaconate; expanded our Sunday offerings by adding a Taizé service monthly and a Pizza Church service, also monthly. Lots of baptisms and confirmations.
Grace, St. Helena: Celebrated 150th anniversary on November 1, 2025; entered a season of worship discernment, using Indaba conversations to listen across the congregation; combined summer services brought real renewal
Epiphany, Vacaville: In early 2026, the Vestry voted and Bishop Megan approved The Rev. John Heidel as Rector after two years as Priest-in-Charge; our "Wings Like Eagles" vestry retreat set priorities, including feeding program, music, youth & family ministries
Ascension, Vallejo: Welcomed Bishop Megan for a visitation, and to confirm, receive, and reaffirm 13 people in the Episcopal Church; renewed commitment to the Vestry of the Whole model of governance; celebrated the Feast of the Ascension with a community dinner and Celebration of New Ministry as the congregation selected to call Rev Steve as Priest in Charge; major renovation project and fundraising strategy
St. Luke's, Woodland: Started a Dinner Church which is being featured during Diocesan Convention (keep an eye out for the video!)

Fresh Start

The Rev. Stephen Hassett, The Rev. Sally Hubbell, The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

In the liturgy of ordination for a priest, the Examination includes the question "Will you be diligent in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ?" The ordinand responds "I will."

Fresh Start is the name given to a two-year program of support for new clergy, both deacons and priests, as well as clergy in a new call, no matter how long they have been ordained. The ministry is overseen by Canon Julie Wakelee, Rev Sally Hubbell, and Rev Stephen Hassett.

Several times a year, clergy participating in Fresh Start gather for fellowship, prayer, and to fulfill the promise to "seek the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ." In 2026, Fresh Start offered four gatherings for participants: one by Zoom, and three in-person, including an overnight at The Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg (attached to the beginning of diocesan clergy conference), and a two-night retreat at St Columba's in Inverness (coming up in early November).

The overnight retreats allow leaders and participants to offer a richer and more expanded program of support for clergy in their ministry, and more time for clergy to get to know one another as colleagues: over meals, during free time, or in shared activity. The leadership of Fresh Start seeks to offer material for reflection, study, and learning for the sake of strengthening clergy leadership in their vocation and ministry. This might take the form of more practical matters like administration and governance, or it might be an invitation to deeper prayer and contemplation on the teachings of Jesus.

Pray for the leaders and participants of Fresh Start as they work together to support the practical and spiritual health and well-being of our clergy leadership. The 2026 cohort included the following people:

Newly called The Rev. Bret Hays (rector, Trinity Folsom); The Rev. Krista Heuett (rector, St. Luke's, Woodland); The Rev. Dr. Alvaro Pinzon (priest-in-charge, St. Timothy's, Gridley)

Newly ordained The Rev. Diana Deen (deacon, Grace, St. Helena); The Rev. Bill Glenn (assisting priest, Incarnation, Santa Rosa); The Rev. Karen Hoida (deacon, Emmanuel, Grass Valley); The Rev. Rosemary McLoughlin (curate, St. Augustine, Rocklin); The Rev. Maggie Rutherford (curate, St. Martin's, Davis and St. Luke's, Galt); The Rev. AnnaMarie Hoos (assistant priest, Trinity Cathedral and priest-in-charge, St. Paul's, Sacramento).

Latino Ministry

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

The wonderful, big news in this ministry for 2026 is the arrival of The Rev. Dr. Alvaro Pinzon as Priest-in-Charge at St. Timothy's, Gridley. Beginning work in March, Rev. Pinzon and the St. Tim's community have already launched a children's soccer program that includes wellness and faith formation, and by the time you read this at Conventions, they will have begun regular weekly services in Spanish — the next step in this faithful congregation's dream of becoming truly bilingual and bicultural.

Funding for Rev. Pinzon's appointment is shared evenly (for three years) between the congregation and generous support from the Board of Trustees (via funds from the Missional Fund, formed by the Board to use monies generated through the sale of diocesan property no longer in use).

This fall, members from St. John's, Chico, and St. Timothy's, Gridley will travel to Camp Allen in Texas to attend *Nuevo Amanecer*, the biennial national conference for Latino Ministry.

Work has continued across the diocese with the Migrant Support Network, providing resources and connections for churches and migrants in need. The team, with representatives from almost every deanery, continues to meet regularly, hearing updates on legislation, regional needs, and opportunities for service.

We were honored to be invited guests to a national zoom call on April 21, highlighting our network's structure and accomplishments. Our presentation team included Bishop Megan, Canon Julie, Deacon Cindy Woods (Semper Virens rep), Shireen Miles (Capital rep), and Bob Wohlson (Russian River rep).

Please visit this ministry's page on the diocesan website for more information: https://www.norcalepiscopal.org/site/migrant_support-network/

If you'd like to get involved, please email Canon Julie: julie@norcalepiscopal.org.

2026 Convention Report | Safe Church

Michelle Karimi, Diocesan Safe Church Coordinator

Safe Church Training Update

Participants from the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California completed 300 required Safe Church trainings in 2026 to date:

- LiveScan Fingerprinting: 190
- CANRA Mandated Reporter Training: 167
- Sexual Harassment Training:
  - Supervisors – 31
  - Employees – 102

The existing policies for Children and for the Prevention of Exploitation and Harassment were established by The Episcopal church in 2010. In reviewing these policies, the Employee Practices & Benefits Committee (EP&B) found the existing diocesan policies did not adequately address vulnerable adults (*defined as mentally vulnerable individuals and anyone over 65*), resulting in a critical gap. The committee discussed and recommended to the Board of Trustees, who agreed to adopt the current national Episcopal Church's Safe Church proposed policies directly and simply apply the diocese's own labels/branding to them. This change will bring our diocese into compliance with the national church, addressing policies for both Children as well as Vulnerable Adults. This update will also ensure our policies are aligned with the requirements of the State of California. All paid church staff, as well as volunteers, will need to comply with the required trainings. To do otherwise puts congregations and the diocese at risk.

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/

Clergy Transitions

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

It is my privilege to serve as the diocesan officer for transitions, and I continue to enjoy my work with both churches and clergy as they go through the process of discernment. In 2026 we added a diocesan curacy program (see separate report), hired our first intentionally bilingual/bicultural priest (for St. Timothy's, Gridley), and began conversations with several churches who will be looking at searches in 2027.

Part of this work includes meeting, in person and online, with my colleagues across Province VIII and The Episcopal Church. New for me this year is a recurring Zoom call for all transition officers across the denomination. A highlight was meeting for the winter Province VIII gathering in Fairbanks, Alaska (cold, but beautiful!). We learned not only about how transition work is different when some churches can only be reached by small airplanes and heard from a tribal leader about her experience in the infamous Indian boarding schools. Her story was full of pain, but also great faith. I was reminded, again, how much is entrusted to us when we agree to be leaders of faith communities (lay or ordained).

New calls in 2026

The Rev. Andy Lobban, Rector at Petaluma

The Rev. Dr. Steve Hassett, from interim to Priest-in-Charge, Ascension, Vallejo (¾ time) and Missioner for Church Vitality, OOB (¼ time)

The Rev. Dr. Alvaro Pinzon, Priest-in-Charge, St. Timothy's, Gridley

The Rev. AnnaMarie Hoos as Assisting Priest, Trinity Cathedral and Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul's, Sacramento (Diocesan Curacy Program)

The Rev. Maggie Rutherford, Curate at St. Martin's, Davis and Cleric-in-Charge, St. Luke's, Galt (Diocesan Curacy Program) (She anticipates be ordained to the priesthood in January)

The Rev. Rosemary McLaughlin, Curate, St. Augustine's, Rocklin (Two-year position through Church Divinity School of the Pacific)

Continuing interim work:

The Rev. Cindy Beck at Trinity, Sonoma