



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

85th CONVENTION

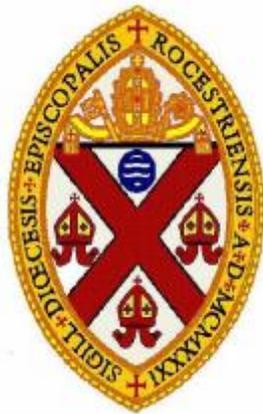
OFFICIAL REPORTS

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL
STANDING COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
DISTRICTS**

AND

OTHER COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

November 5, 2016



OFFICIAL REPORTS Convention 2016

Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

Published in the following order:

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**85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Commission on Ministry Official Report**

Name of Organization: Commission on Ministry

Officer(s): Chair – Rev. Kenneth Pepin , Co- Chair (Elect) Dr. Rob Ferris Secretary/Grants Coordinator – Ms. Keisha Stokes / Rev. Barb Fornalik

Additional Committee Members: Mr. David Galleher, Ms. Heather Yanda, , Mr. Allison Bourne, Rev. Suzanne Johnston, Ms. Claire Crump, Rev. Dahn Gandell, Ms. Marlene Allen, Rev. Krista Cameron, Rev. Kelly Ayer, Rev. Andrew D. White, Ms. Nancy Newton, Mr. James Garner.

Ex officio: The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh and Canon Johnnie Ross

Report:

It is both my joy and privilege to share with you the great work of the Commission on Ministry this past year. The work of the Commission is one of shepherding, assessing, listening, providing honest feedback and opportunities for those in the discernment process for leadership ministry in the diocese . We serve those seeking ordination as well as professional lay ministry. Our work is not done in isolation but rather in concert with the Bishop's office, Standing Committee, Seminary and our parishes.

This past year has been a blessing in that we have recommended to our bishop the following:

Ordination to the transitional diaconate and later to the priesthood to Mr. Troy Preston who is serving at

Christ Church Corning NY

Candidacy to the priesthood to Mr. Michael Laver, and Mr. Padriac Collins Bohrer

Candidacy to the diaconate to Ms. Patty Blaine

Postulant to the deacon order Dr. Stephen Robb

Postulant to the priest order Mr. Dale Van Wormer Jr.

In addition, this past year we have worked with twelve parishes who are working with aspirants in one level of discernment or another. We truly have much to be excited about as a diocese!

Recently, the Rev Johnnie Ross has joined our team as the bishop's representative to the Commission on Ministry as we look forward to his adding great insights and experience in our work together.

For the Commission,
The Rev. Kenneth R. Pepin

**85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Diocesan Council Official Report**

Name of Organization: Diocesan Council

Members: Clergy: The Revs. Lucy Alonzo, Kelly Ayer, Dan Burner, Sara D'Angio-White, Billy Daniel,
 Lynne Sharp, Chris Streeter, Josh Walters

 Lay: Margy Ashley, Carolyn Mok, Liz Porter, Linda Raide, Scott Seabridge, Deborah
 VanderBilt, Gwen Van Laeken, Vice-Chair; Dawn Wilkins

 Ex Officio: Prince Singh, Bishop; Susan Woodhouse, Secretary; Terry Butwid, Diocesan Treasurer;
 Phil Fileri, Chancellor; Bliss Owen, Assistant Diocesan Treasurer; Julie Cicora, Canon for
 Mission and Ministry (through 3/16); Todd Rubiano, Chief Financial Missioner; Matthew
 Townsend, Communications Missioner

Summary of Diocesan Council Minutes: November 2015 – October 2016

The agenda for each Diocesan Council meeting is prepared by the Steering Committee of Council and adopted at each Council meeting. In addition to the monthly summaries listed in this report, regular business at Council meetings includes:

- Meditation and prayer
- Approval of the Agenda/Consent Agenda (as prepared and presented by the Council Steering Committee)
- Approval of Minutes
- Highlights from the Bishop's Activities
- Budget and Finance Reports, including the year-to-date status of parish apportionments for approval subject to audit
- Reports to Diocesan Council from diocesan committees, staff and Council members
- Reports by working sub-committees of Council: Congregational Development Partnership Committee (CDPC), Mission Partnership Grants Committee (MPGC) and Budget Committee

November 2015: Due to the closeness of the meeting date to Convention, the first regular meeting of Council was planned for December.

A **Special Meeting** was held on November 10, 2015 to address a concern related to the HRA allocation in the proposed 2016 budget (proposed *Resolution A: Diocesan Health Benefits*). Following discussion, Council passed a motion to withdraw Resolution A. **MSP**

Following passage of that motion, the Budget Committee presented a proposal for the amendment of the 2016 budget to fund an increase to the HRA budget for one year. Discussion followed and the following resolution was adopted by council:

Resolution: To increase HRA funding to \$900 per person for 2016 only (\$19K) by decreasing unallocated mission grant funds (\$11,450) and office expenses (\$7,550). **MSP**

December 15, 2015:

The Bishop and Council welcomed new members and members met briefly with committees. Gwen Van Laeken was elected as Vice-chair of Council. **MSP**

Committee chairs gave an overview of their committee's work and introduced members. The Council Norms and Expectations were introduced and reviewed.

Committee Updates:

Congregational Development Partnership Committee -CDPC: A resolution for funding for St. Marks & St. Johns was introduced. Following discussion, the resolution was approved as follows:

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church, Rochester of \$15,000 total for the year 2016. Disbursement will be monthly beginning in January 2016. **MSP**

January 19, 2016:

The Canon for Mission and Ministry, Julie Cicora, shared news of her upcoming change in careers. She will become the Interim President of Rural Migrant Ministry's Board of Directors and will pursue a part-time clerical position focusing on evangelism.

Committee Updates:

Congregational Development Partnership Committee -CDPC, Mission Partnership Grant Committee -MPGC and Budget Committees provided updates on the work and processes of their committees.

February 24, 2016

The February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

March 15, 2016

Diocesan House Update:

Todd discussed the study on the future of D House noting that the Trustees have been studying the issue for the past year.

Committee Updates:

Congregational Development Partnership Committee -CDPC: Chris/Deb presented two resolutions for approval- St. Luke's Brockport and Christ Church Rochester. Following discussion, each resolution was approved as follows:

St. Luke's Brockport

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Brockport of \$18,000 for the year 2016. Disbursement will be monthly and retroactive to January 2016. **MSP**

Christ Church Rochester

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for Christ Church, Rochester of \$5,000 for the year 2016. Disbursement will be quarterly in March, June September & December. **MSP 1 abstention**

Mission Partnership Grant Committee -MPGC: Margy reported that application for Mission Grants will go live on the web in April. The group will meet in July to review the 2016 applications.

Budget Committee: Scott led an apportionment rate discussion. Council consensus was to stay with the current apportionment formula at this time.

Financial Updates:

YE 2015 Budget Performance

Todd reported that total operating expense for 2015 will be ~\$120K below budget noting that YE figures will not be final until the 2015 audit is complete.

Budget and Draw Year End Estimates

Todd indicated that the draw on the investments has reduced dramatically over last 5 years and noted an accounting change moving forward. Since the budget should reflect actual expense for the year, there will be no more accrual over several budget years as in the past.

2017-19 Preliminary Draw and Budget Projections

Todd reported that the Trustees have approved a preliminary draw of \$1.1M for 2017 and reviewed a slide that detailed projections through 2020.

April 19, 2016

The Bishop noted that the parochial reports have been received and, using some of the data, he offered a “state of the diocese” update relating to the mission statement and referencing some of the numerical data. Using a power point presentation, he shared some visual data, cited trends and observations that can be considered and noted that re-visioning seems to be having an effect.

Nominating Committee Resolution:

Since Council is charged with creating the Diocesan Nominating Committee, Gwen presented a resolution to fulfill that task. Following review, the resolution was approved as follows:

RESOLVED:

Whereas having a strong and diverse pool of candidates is essential to enabling good democratic and representative governance in our Diocese and in our Episcopal Faith, and

Whereas the Bishop and his team have identified strong members of the Diocese who have accepted the call to serve on the 2016 Nominating Committee and these members are eager to work on behalf of the Diocese to find strong and capable leaders, willing to be nominated for elected positions on Diocesan committees

Be it Resolved that Diocesan Council hereby affirms the appointment of the 2016 Nominating Committee for Convention. The appointed members include:

1. Barbara Deming - Rochester, Lay Co-Chair
2. Stacy Taylor - North East District - Lay Co-Chair
3. Carol Topping - South West - Lay
4. Mary Lou Hunt-Quintal - South East - Lay
5. Nina Johnson - Monroe - Lay
6. Philip Kasey - Dean
7. Deborah Duguid-May - Dean
8. David Hefling - Dean
9. Cynthia Rasmussen - Dean
10. Carol Stewart - Dean
11. Susan Woodhouse - Secretary
12. Kristy Estey - Staff Representative

Diocesan Council gives thanks for the service and commitment of the Nominating Committee and wishes them well in their diligent work. **MSP**

Financial Updates:

2017 Proposed Apportionment:

Todd and Scott reviewed apportionment data including the cap and floor and trend over last few years and noted the potential impact on several parishes for the 2017 budget year. Following discussion, Council approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council proposes 2017 Parish Apportionment of \$973,151, using the same income ranges, rates, caps and floors as applied in 2016, and as detailed in the accompanying charts (included in council packet).
MSP

Todd presented a preliminary first draft budget proposal for FY 2017 noting there are many options. Discussion followed and the first draft will be presented to council in May.

May 17, 2016

The Bishop spoke to the sudden death of Lisa Bodenstadt, former Interim Director of The Good Book Store. He also updated Council on the discernment of Trustees regarding D House suggesting that the study has been about asking stewardship questions, what God is doing in our midst and more about networking and less about centralizing. There will be dialogue as things move ahead.

South Wedge Mission Update:

The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff was welcomed and shared information about the mission. He suggested that the intention has been to form the neighborhood into a parish with emphasis on living into mission. They are now at the three-year point and are working with the Diocese and the LCA toward a church plant as a mission.

Financial Updates:

First Draft Budget Proposal – FY 2017:

Todd reviewed a 1st draft budget for 2017 showing a \$38K deficit and reviewed the issues related to the deficit: D&FMS Asking, Province II Assessment and Parish Dental Subsidy. He reminded Council that the idea of a first draft is to flush out the input/questions and that the budget for 2017 will not reflect any potential changes related to the possible selling of property. Once Council approves the draft, it can be circulated across the diocese for feedback.

Following discussion, Council approved the following resolution to adopt the first draft budget to be circulated with a letter of explanation of the process and year-to-year comparisons to emphasize transparency.

Resolved: Diocese Council approves distribution of the 1st draft 2017 Diocesan Operating Budget, with total Operating expenses of \$2,058,763 and an Operating deficit of \$37,611, for feedback from the Convention Delegates, Parish & Diocesan Leaders. **MSP**

June 21, 2016

Committee Updates:

Mission Partnership Grant Committee –MPGC: Margy reported that there were 37 applications to the committee requesting approximately \$242,500. Sustainable grants are still open. Grant applications will be reviewed next week.

Congregational Development Partnership Committee -CDPC: Chris/Deb reported that parishes are almost all requesting more than was in their plans, which would be significantly over budget (about 70K) and there will be difficult decisions to be made.

Budget/Province II Discussion: Scott reported on Province II assessment discernment process noting that the budget for Province II went up 75% over 3 years, and there was very little explanation. Provincial executive position pay increased significantly. Networks & Other Programs increased by 414%. Discussion followed and Council identified three options:

- 1) Continue with requested assessment payment
- 2) Pay this year but go down to previous assessment amount for next 2 years
- 3) Pay the previous assessment amount (\$3355 an amount assumed to have been passed in previous triennial budget) this year by taking it out of 2017 payment. **Option 3 adopted. MSP**

Executive Session:

Council voted to enter executive session to discuss an audit report from Zion-Avon. Following executive session, a previous resolution related to Zion Avon was amended to say “which has been approved by their Vestry” after the words “letter” in the bullet list under August 15, 2016. **MSP**

September 20, 2016:

Minutes to be approved at October 18, 2016 meeting of Diocesan Council.

Respectfully submitted,

**85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Standing Committee Official Report**

Name of Organization: The Standing Committee

Officer(s): Christopher A. Moore, President
Michael Hartney, Secretary

Committee Members:

Lay: Lois Geiss, Sarah Peters, Marino Fernandez, Neil Houghton (resigned)
Clergy: Rick Hamlin, Lesley Adams, Virginia Mazzarella

Report: The Committee met 13 times between November, 2015 and September, 2016. The Committee met at the end of September and is scheduled to meet in late October, 2016. The minutes for those meetings have not yet been approved.

The Committee consented to following Diocesan elections:

1. Diocese of Los Angeles: Bishop Coadjutor, to be elected 12/2/16
2. Diocese of Eastern Oregon: Bishop Diocesan, Patrick W. Bell
3. Diocese of West Texas: Bishop Suffragan, to be elected 2/25/17
4. Diocese of Northern Indiana: Bishop Diocesan, Douglas E. Sparks
5. Diocese of Pennsylvania: Bishop Diocesan, Daniel G. P. Gutierrez
6. Diocese of Western North Carolina: Bishop Diocesan, Jose A. McLoughlin
7. Diocese of Easton: Bishop Diocesan, Santosh K. Murray
8. Diocese of Central New York: Bishop Diocesan, DeDe Duncan-Probe

The Committee certified to the:

1. Ordination of Virginia Tyler-Smith to the Priesthood
2. Ordination of Andrew Van Buren to the Priesthood
3. Ordination of Christa Levesque to the Priesthood
4. Ordination of Troy Preston to the Diaconate and then to the Priesthood
5. Postulancy of Padraic Collins-Bohrer and Michael Laker
6. Candidacy of Patricia Blaine to the Diaconate

The Committee consented to the:

1. Nomination of Terry Butwid as Treasurer to the Diocese
2. Sale of Diocesan House
3. Transition of Good Shepherd, Savona from Mission to Parish status
4. Sale of property adjacent to Epiphany, Gates

The Committee worked closely with Bishop Singh and with the assistance of Bishop Burnett in developing Behavioral Covenants that will govern the Committee's relationship with Bishop Singh and vice versa.

More details can be found on the Diocesan website as minutes of meetings are published each month as they are approved.

85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester Trustees Official Report

Name of Organization: **The Diocesan Trustees**, including the Sub-Committees of Investment Review, Audit, Human Resources, Building & Property, and Prichard Scholarship Committee

Officer(s)

Name of Organization: The Diocesan Trustees, including the Sub-Committees of Audit, Building & Property, Investment Review and Prichard Scholarship. In addition, the Human Resources Committee is a shared resource for the Bishop, Staff and all of the standing committees of the Diocese.

Officers: **Chairperson:** Bishop Singh, **Vice Chair:** Susan Scanlon, **Chief Investment Officer & Chief Financial Officer:** Todd Rubiano, **Treasurer:** Terry Butwid, **Assistant Treasurer:** Bliss Owen, **Clerk:** Lyn Omphroy

Members: John Burr, Peter Corrigan, Gil Ferris, Peter Harter, Les Kernan, Beverly Smith, Doug Lyon, Charles Zettek.

Committee Members: A number of outside members served on sub-committees, strengthening the committees and bringing more representation from a broad group of congregations. Included were: *Human Resources Committee outside members:* Elizabeth Bakken, Sherry Ralston, John Karl, and Amy Moyer. *Investment Review Committee outside members:* William McKee, Greg VanLaeken, Peter Greaves-Tunnell and John Johnson. *Audit and Finance Committee outside member:* Aaron Kane. *Building and Property:* Jay Benesh, Richard Krapf and Tom Judson, *Prichard Scholarship outside members:* Marti St. George and Madeline Carpenter-Burke.

Structure: The Diocesan Trustees are supported by a number of standing Sub-Committees, including the Investment Review Committee, the Audit Committee, the Building & Property Committee, the Prichard Scholarship Committee and the Human Resources Committee. In addition to the four scheduled Trustee meetings, the Trustees continue to look for opportunities to collaborate with the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and the Commission on Ministry. Actions of the Trustees and all Sub-committees are found in the minutes of the Trustees located in the office of the Diocese. Committee meetings took place several times during the year.

Audit Committee:

A significant portion of the work of the Trustees is to complete canonical requirements including the Diocesan Audit and assisting with parish audits.

In the fall of 2015, the Audit committee requested RFP's for a new three year contract to conduct the audit for the Diocese. The Bonadio Group provided valuable counsel and support for many years as our Diocesan audit firm, and they were invited to participate in the RFP process. The committee received four proposals, including one from The Bonadio Group, who was our auditor for the past five years. Mengel Metzger Barr & Co., LLP (MMB) submitted the most cost effective proposal, and was highly qualified. Accordingly, the committee recommended and the Trustees approved engaging MMB for the new contract. MMB conducted the audit of the finances and assets of the Diocese for 2015. At its meeting of September 7, the Trustees unanimously passed a resolution to accept the 2015 Diocesan Audit and move the audit to Convention for review and approval. The audit is available for review on the Diocesan web-site.

Building and Property Committee:

The Building and Property Committee met several times over the course of the year. The committee worked on the following properties and assessed the requirements of each:

- Ardent Solutions partnership, enhancing the ministry in Belmont, NY
- Plans for Church Insurance inspections of 12 parish properties in 2016
- Future disposition of properties in Bolivar and Belvidere, NY
- Discernment on the future use of D-House

Investment Review Committee:

The current Investment Policy Statement (IPS *adopted February 3rd, 2014*) for funds invested in the Combined Endowment was reviewed and approved for its continued use by the Trustees. The Cutler Trusts were legally dissolved and the assets incorporated into the Combined Endowment, primarily as a restricted fund, providing more efficient management of the investments.

The portfolio performance since management was moved to Genesee Valley Trust (GVT) on 12/01/11 was an average annual return of 8.2% through July 2016. This performance is somewhat behind our benchmark; however, returns are ahead of our IPS goal of 6.5%. GVT rectified the issues with their sub accounting reporting and have gone with a much simplified unitized method. Continued upgrades to the reporting will be introduced in the 4th Quarter of 2016.

The Trustees continued efforts to ensure that the loan balances are in line with the current endowment level. The total balance of outstanding loans was just over \$2.4 M. as of 12/31/15, with loan capacity going into 4th Quarter of 2016 is over \$550,000.

Trustees discussed resolution C039 from General Convention regarding fossil fuel divestment & clean energy reinvestment and determined that it was neither practical or prudent to alter the current investment policies or practices of the Diocesan Combined Endowment.

Resolutions:

- 2016 Housing Allowances
- Signatory Approvals
- Approve continued use of the current Investment Policy Statement (IPS)
- Endowment draw for the 2017 Diocesan Budget
- Trustees accept the 2015 Diocesan Audit
- Epiphany Gates one (1) acre sale to Episcopal Senior Life Center
- Approve project plan for the sale of 935 East Ave., Rochester (Diocesan House)
- Broker Selection to market 935 East Ave.
- Provide Not to Exceed funding for the Professional Appraisal of 935 East Ave.
- Provide Not to Exceed funding for D-House Environmental Study
- Provide Not to Exceed funding for Property Assessment of three (3) buildings at Grace Church, Lyons

Prichard Scholarship Committee:

The Rev. Canon James B. Prichard Memorial Scholarship Fund was created in 1998 in loving memory of James Prichard, who served the Diocese of Rochester so faithfully and effectively for 17 years as Canon to the Ordinary. Its purpose is to assist clergy children of the Diocese with expenses associated with higher education.

The Prichard Scholarship Committee met and awarded 2 scholarships. The following young adults received a scholarship award for their continued education. Each received \$1,250.

- Aaron Krapf
- Sarah Kohlmeier

HR Committee:

Each year, the HR Committee of the Diocese reviews compensation guidelines including clergy salary ranges, salary increases as well as health insurance benefits for active/retired employees. The committee also worked on updating the salary ranges for the Bishop, Canon, CFO and Communications/IT positions.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn A. Omphroy
Clerk, Trustees

DISTRICT REPORTS

85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester Northeast District Official Report

Name of Organization: Northeast District

Officer(s): The Very Reverend David Hefling, ObjN+, Dean

Committee Members: The clergy and people of the Northeast District

Report: The Northeast District clergy and lay members will have met three times since the last Diocesan Convention. Guest presenters have included Todd Rubiano and Matthew Townsend, representing the Diocese of Rochester, and the Rev. Sara D'Angio-White, representing Family Promise of Wayne County. We continue to disperse our district funds (\$4,000) to one ministry in each parish that applies. Presentations are made annually so that we can know the mission and ministry of our parishes more completely. The Northeast District also sponsors the Storybook Project, which is administered through St. John's, Canandaigua.

Clergy of the NE District are invited to gather on the third Thursday of each month along with Bishop Singh to share information, program ideas, challenges, and concerns. This year we have welcomed the Rev. Cam Miller from Trinity, Geneva, and the Rev. Dr. Maurice Charles, Chaplain of the Colleges at Hobart-William Smith into the fold. Regular attendees who add joyfully to our monthly gatherings include Maggie and Charlie D'Angio-White. During the absence of our Dean, the Very Rev. David Hefling, whose sabbatical runs September through November this year, the Rev. Andrew VanBuren is facilitating monthly meetings and the Rev. Andrew D'Angio-White is facilitating the annual fall District Meeting.

**85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Rochester/Monroe Districts Official Report**

Name of Organization: Monroe and Rochester District

Officer(s): The Very Rev. Deborah Duguid-May, Dean and the Very Rev. Cindy Rasmussen

Report:

The joint meeting of Monroe/Rochester District on February 16, 2016 was cancelled due to a blizzard.

The next meeting was held at St Stephens on April 26, 2016. We began with a potluck supper together. Karen Elam, deputy director of the anti poverty initiative spoke about their plan for addressing poverty in our counties. There was much discussion. Chris Moore, our Rochester warden tendered his resignation and Dick Laidlaw was elected to serve as the new Rochester warden. Gary Gocek presented the spring grant report. Lisa Bodenstedt was elected as the Rochester lay representative to the district grants committee and Suzanne Frisbee elected as the Monroe lay representative to the same committee.

Our third meeting was held on July 26, 2016 at Grace Episcopal Church, Scottsville. A time of silence was observed for the passing of Lisa Bodenstedt. Todd Rubiano and Scott Seabridge presented the diocesan preliminary budget for 2017 and discussion followed. There was also discussion on the sale of the Diocesan House. Peter Barker from St Thomas was elected to the grants board.

As combined Districts, the clergy of Rochester and Monroe district continue to meet with each other and the Bishop for Bible study and discussion. These have been well attended and very helpful to us as clergy,

(The Very) Rev. Deborah Duguid-May

Dean, Monroe District

(The Very) Rev. Cincy Rasmussen

Dean, Rochester District

85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester Southeast District Official Report

SouthEast District Report to Diocesan Convention: September 2016

The SouthEast District met, for a potluck supper and business meeting, four times: March 7th at St. Mark's, Penn Yan, June 6th at St. Luke's, Branchport, September 12th at St. James', Hammondsport, and on Oct 24th at St. Thomas', Bath. At each of these meetings we enjoyed fellowship with one another, reports on the activities and ministries of our various congregations, and hearing a report from Diocesan Council. Each meeting concluded with the service of Compline.

After wearing out several secretaries after years of service, the District decided to rotate the Secretary position each year, in an alphabetical rotation beginning with the June meeting. Nicole Landers, Branchport served through June when Marion Ivy, Corning was appointed. The other District officers are the Dean, Phil Kasey; Pat Selwood, Lay Warden; Lynn Sharp, Clergy Representative to Diocesan Council, and Linda Raide, Lay Representative to Diocesan Council.

Mission Grants for 2016 were awarded to:

- ☑☑Creation Week Camp, St. Mark's, Penn Yan- \$2500
- ☑☑Jail Ministry, Christ Church, Corning - \$500
- ☑☑Community Garden, St. Thomas, Bath - \$500
- ☑☑Sunday Supper Ecumenical Evenings, St. Thomas, Bath - \$500

We rejoiced with Church of the Good Shepherd, Savona on now being a Parish!

The District Mission Project for this year, decided at our first meeting of the year in March, was Episcopal Relief and Development, particularly their Syrian Refugee efforts. Since most of us struggle with our own church budgets, we are very pleased to be able to say that together we have sent \$4550.00 to ER&D.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Selwood, Lay Warden SED

**85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Southwest District Official Report**

Name of Organization: SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Officer(s): Mr. Bob Walker, Warden
Mrs. Mary Burns, Secretary
The Very Rev. Carol W. Stewart, Dean

Committee Members: Clergy and Delegates from Zion, Avon; St. Michael's, Geneseo; St. Peter's, Dansville; Trinity, Canaseraga; Christ, Hornell; St. Paul's, Angelica; Christ, Cuba; St. John's, Wellsville

The Southwest District meets seven times each year to share supper, fellowship, and the work of the church in our area. District grants are awarded twice each year, in the spring and fall, to serve the needs of varying ministries, ranging from holiday turkey delivery to playground supplies to food pantry and free community meal support. Members take an active role in appraising the Diocesan budget, and share love, concern and support for each other and all our parishes as we meet together.

**85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation, Inc. Official Report**

Name of Organization: Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation, Inc. (Sheen Housing)

Board Members: Kevin LoCicero , President; Sherri Catalano, Vice President; John Berry, Secretary; Charles Chapin, Treasurer; Michael Aiello; Joan Belgiorno, Elizabeth Biehler; Michael Connelly; Patrick Cusato; Jaime Frederes; Bruce Marché; Sumner Pearsall; Diane Stofer; Penny Wisneski

Professional Staff: Allynn Smith, Executive Director; Deborah Spillane, Housing Counselor; Linda Donohue, Bookkeeper; Rosemary Mackie, SSJ, Rehabilitation Specialist; Susan Camp, Rehabilitation Specialist

Report: Sheen Housing provides more than shelter. We are opening doors – providing a step up for vulnerable people in our Diocese.

Our mission at Sheen Housing is to create and sustain healthy, safe, affordable and accessible housing for low-income individuals, families, seniors, veterans and persons living with disabilities. We help people by building hope and a pathway to self-sufficiency. We strengthen households and communities by providing comprehensive assistance through a wide range of housing services and development programs. The end result is financially stable households, sustainable housing, and improved health, job and education opportunities in our 13-county service area.

Stable, safe housing is essential to the health outcomes of all people, of all ages. Its absence is particularly damaging to children, the elderly, low-income families and other vulnerable populations. Sheen Housing addresses the many ways in which housing and health intersect to promote successful, healthy and sustainable outcomes.

The year alone we touched the lives of over 597 individuals, families, seniors, veterans and persons living with disabilities through our home rehabilitation, home ownership and housing development programs. We could not do it without your help. Your support and investment in Sheen housing has repeatedly played a key role in our success. Thank you for your generosity and partnership.

We extend our thanks to Bishop Prince Singh for his fervent support and assistance. We are most grateful for our talented and dedicated Board of Directors. We are fortunate to have a passionate and professional staff.

We give thanks for our parishes, community partners, health and service providers, benefactors, kindred government agencies and to all guests attending and supporting our annual event. This allows us to do so much more, extending our capacity to achieve our goals with compassion and creativity.

We extend an invitation to interested individuals to join our unwavering efforts to secure safe, healthy and affordable housing for all. Please contact us if you are able to share your expertise, time, concern and financial assistance. We can promise you many challenges and hard work, but also many rewards and successes as we meet the housing need of our Diocese. We look forward to building hope together.

Sheen Housing
935 East Avenue, Suite 300
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 461-4263
www.sheenhousing.org

Like us on facebook: www.facebook.com/bishopsheenecumenicalhousing

**85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Christian Leadership/CRCDS**

Anglican Studies at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Each week during the academic year, the Episcopal students at CRCDS meet for Anglican Formation. We say our prayers, support one another and discuss subjects related to our spiritual lives and vocation. We talk about all aspects of the Episcopal Church. We discuss poetry, practice various kinds of meditation, and reflect on world events. We also welcome a variety of speakers to our class. This year we will host parish priests, our new Canon Johnnie Ross, representatives from the COM, and the Bishop. These guests enrich our program enormously, and we are grateful for their willingness to spend time with us. In addition to gathering together each week, the students lead All School Worship in the Episcopal tradition several times each semester.

You may have heard that CRCDS is moving from its present location on South Goodman Street and intends to be in a new, yet to be determined, location at the beginning of the 2018- 2019 academic year. The move is an outgrowth of the school's strategic planning, which is focused on creating a thriving and sustainable model for 21st Century theological education. The school will continue to offer MA, MDiv and DMin degrees, as well as expanded offerings for clergy, lay church leaders and the general public. The school is already investing in new models of theological education, including distance learning and the creation of learning communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the gift of having CRCDS in our community. The professors are scholarly and compassionate, the students are diverse but united in their desire to serve God, and the classes are lively. If you think you might be interested in starting a degree program, or if you simply want to take or audit a course, please feel free give me a call. I would be delighted to give you a tour and discuss course options.

Winifred Collin
winifredcollin@gmail.com

85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer: Official Report

Interfaith and ecumenical activity continues to be very active in Rochester.

I serve as diocesan representative on the Commission on Christian Muslim Relations (CCMR) and also on the Commission on Christian Jewish Relations (CCJR). Both of these commissions meet monthly and prepare a variety of educational and community events serving their various constituencies. The CCMR sponsors a variety of interfaith conversations for the general public. This year the CCMR decided to embark on a program to pair Christian families with Muslim families in order to help break down stereotypes, foster understanding of Islam and build bridges. The families who volunteered for this program were guests of the ICR at their annual Interfaith Iftar in early June.

The CCJR devoted its time during 2015-2016 to continuing the interfaith dialogue that has been on going for many years in that group on a variety of issues and topics of contemporary concern, including the increasing tensions between liberal mainline Protestants and the American Jewish community over issues relating to Israel and Palestine. The CCJR also hosted its 20th year of monthly Jewish Christian Bible study, which draws a dedicated crowd of nearly 80 people each month. I was a presenter at one of those sessions along with Rabbi Kelly Levy of the Jewish Community. I was also appointed to serve as a PartnerForPeace with a Jewish rabbi, where we commit to regular conversation and study together on the issues around Israel and Palestine, with the hope of creating safe spaces for civil dialogue on that contentious issue.

I also serve as one of two diocesan representatives on the board of the Greater Rochester Community of Churches Faith in Action Network, which meets monthly. The Rev. Dr. Peter Peters also serves on that board. In March, the diocese, in conjunction with FAIN sponsored the eighth annual ecumenical Good Friday Stations of the Cross walk. That event was extremely successful, with over 200 walkers from seven different denominations, including a significant contingent of young people in attendance and garnering television coverage on all our local TV stations.

I also serve on the Advisory Board and the program committee for the Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue at Nazareth College. In the past year, I have done lectures at several CISD educational programs including the Global Citizenship Conference for high school students in March 2016, attended by over 500 high school students from Rochester and upstate New York. I served on the program committee for that conference. The Hickey Center sponsored a major conference in May on environmental sustainability, with scholars from all over the world offering papers on issues involving the environment with a religious or theological analysis. I served as moderator for one of those panels and am serving on the committee that will select the papers that will be published into a book out of the conference.

In October 2015 I attended the Parliament of the World's Religions in Salt Lake City, Utah. At that conference I was on a panel with Dr. Muhammad Shafiq and Dr. Susan Nowak from Nazareth College and a speaker from Union Theological Seminary discussing the Common Word Document, a statement issued in 2007 by 138 Muslim scholars to the Christian world which has spawned many dialogues and interfaith endeavors ever since. I also advised a team of my college students who presented two workshops of relevance to young people at the Parliament. While at the Parliament I networked with other Episcopal EDEIO representatives who were there. The Parliament is the premier interfaith gathering in the world, bringing together people from 50 religious communities in 80 countries.

This past year Bishop Singh also convened a group of interfaith leaders in Rochester to discuss how faith communities can contribute to the Anti-Poverty initiative in Rochester and how we can, as an interfaith community, respond to racism, violence and poverty in our city. At a large gathering of interfaith leaders in late summer, Bishop Singh was tasked with calling together a committee of interfaith leaders to discuss reframing and restructuring interfaith work in Rochester. I will be one of the members of that committee going forward as we try to streamline the enormous amount of interfaith work that is done in this city.

In all of these activities, I represent the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester and endeavor to see that we are a serious player in the emerging and vibrant interfaith community in Rochester and in the national and international arena. Interfaith dialogue and education are critical in today's world and I serve in these roles to ensure that this diocese is well represented at all the critical interfaith events that happen in this local community and in ECUSA.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Canon Dr. C. Denise Yarbrough

85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester Episcopal Senior Life Communities Official Report

Name of Organization: Episcopal SeniorLife Communities (ESLC)

Officer(s): Loren J. Ranaletta, President/CEO

Committee Members: Courtney McGinness, VP of Community Outreach, Diocesan Communications Committee

Name of Organization: Episcopal SeniorLife Communities (ESLC) Officer(s): Loren J. Ranaletta, President/CEO

Committee Members: Marino Fernández, ESLC Pastoral Assistant, Diocesan Standing Committee; Courtney McGinness, VP of Community Outreach, Diocesan Communications Committee; Patti Cummings, ESLC Development Assistant, Diocesan and Convention Volunteer

Programs: The Episcopal Church Home, The Center for Rehabilitation, River Edge Manor, Brentland Woods, Rockwood Center, Seabury Woods, Beatrice Place, Valley Manor, Pinehurst

Report:

Episcopal SeniorLife Communities is pleased to partner with many in order to continue our good work – parishes, corporate supporters, donors, volunteers, staff, residents, and family members are the key to our success. Together, we are meeting the needs of seniors in unique and innovative ways as a direct response to consumer expectations, and community engagement remains at the forefront of our efforts. Our vision remains strong as we create relationships and communities that inspire active, purposeful, and fulfilled lives.

Neighborhood Program Expansion

The overall Neighborhood Program goal is to promote wellness through health education, physical activity, socialization and healthy eating as an avenue for seniors to maintain independence and remain active in their communities. Since last year, we have launched our sixth Neighborhood Program in the Honeoye Falls/Mendon area (based out of our Pinehurst campus) to add to our existing Neighborhood Programs in Henrietta, the South Wedge, Northeast Greece, the Westside (Gates, Chili, Ogden, Spencerport) and East Avenue area. Overall data is showing that 95% of members are living healthier lifestyles since being involved in our Neighborhood Programs (i.e. increased fruit/vegetable consumption; increased steps/day; increased health knowledge; etc.).

The ESLC Transportation Service – a volunteer-based initiative – remains an important aspect of our Neighborhood Programs, and provides seniors around our communities an invaluable resource to remain independent. We continually work with Lifespan of Greater Rochester to train volunteers, and are accepting new volunteer drivers.

We have also expanded an intergenerational program – referred to as GAP (Generations Align Project) – which brings seniors and youth together, and is designed to improve the self-esteem and sense of purpose for both generations. We have established numerous community partnerships to support this effort, including: Making a Connection Academy (MAC), part of the Rochester City School District; Rochester City Schools #19 and #20; Greece Central School District; and The City of Rochester Department of Recreation and Youth Services. Through this program, seniors have social opportunities to help maintain independence and youth develop a relationship that encourages learning. Both generations gain knowledge of nutrition and ways to improve their overall health.

Another important aspect of our Neighborhood Programs is community gardens. This was the third year of the gardens at our Northeast Greece location/Neighborhood Program and more than 2,387 lbs. total have been harvested there (700 lbs. in year one; 1,029 lbs. in year two; 685 lbs. to date this year). We have added additional gardens at The Episcopal Church Home and produce is available for residents, family, community members, staff and guests. These gardens were installed with those youth involved in GAP, and under the direction of a master gardener.

Participation numbers for our Neighborhood Programs are growing steadily with 150+ community members throughout Monroe County. In 2015 alone, 1,355 health and wellness classes were offered through this programming. We are pleased to have the support of many community partners, including Church of the Epiphany, who are vital to the success of these programs.

Pastoral Care

The mission of the pastoral care program within ESLC is to provide meaningful and consistent pastoral support to residents, family, staff and neighborhood members of all faiths. The Pastoral Care Department has recently added a full-time Pastoral Assistant, Marino Fernández, who has assimilated quickly into the organization and with the guidance of The Rev. Bryon Roy, ESLC Chaplain, continues to navigate his spiritual journey. With the addition of this position, we are able to increase the frequency of worship services and discussion groups, as well as the personal visits, which mean so much to our residents and families.

In addition, funding from last year's annual golf tournament was designated to support the ESLC Spiritual Care Program through the purchase and installation of video equipment, allowing for remote access/viewing of programs being offered in The Chapel of the Good Shepherd at our satellite campuses. Seniors have greatly benefitted from these enhancements as our reach has increased with the addition.

Staff Growth

ESLC is building and implementing a workforce engagement plan, and is committed to the overall health and well-being of all staff. There are many wellness opportunities throughout the year including employee health and wellness fairs, Blue 4U screenings (blood test health screening – participants receive insurance discount), bi-monthly blood pressure screenings, public market days for employees to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, monthly lunch and learn sessions, and workshops on financial and emotional health. In the spring, ESLC participated again in the JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge at RIT. We continue to partner with Strong EAP, offering a free program to employees who are in need of counseling and therapy. In addition, ESLC has partnered with Summit Federal Credit Union (?) to establish a new employee loan program to assist employees in qualifying for financing – the program has proven to be beneficial resource to many staff. Numerous other funds are available to support staff in a variety of ways. All of these initiatives assist us in supporting the importance of good health and wellness of our workforce, which is currently 611 strong.

Gratitude

We are extremely grateful for the overwhelming support shown by those who generously give of their time and resources to ESLC. More than \$115K was raised through our 20th Annual Golf Tournament, and more than 200 golfers took part in the day and even more joined in for dinner. Also, 420 volunteers donated 9,799 hours of volunteer time the past year. Together, we are helping seniors and are truly making a difference! We thank you for your continued support and partnership on the journey of providing the utmost quality of care for seniors in and around our communities.

Our Future

As we look to the future, we reflect on our heritage playing a key role as we move forward. We are committed to carefully preserving the integrity of our long-time quality services and take further steps towards building our most valuable resource – our workforce. The year has been a period of thoughtful planning, and strengthening of those services and partnerships that have been instrumental in all we do . . . all while maintaining our excellence in programs. As we know, seniors desire options, so we will continue to explore growth opportunities for those with varying backgrounds, means, needs and interests. We will remain committed to our social obligation as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization. Also, we will sharpen our focus on health and wellness programming designed to equip seniors with knowledge and opportunity so they can lead healthy, independent lives. All of these efforts will enhance our reputation as being one of the most trusted resources for seniors and their families.

The ability to broaden our vision and mission into new areas would not be possible without the support of those closest to us. Together with many, we are truly making a difference in the lives of seniors now and for years to come.

**85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
OASIS Official Report**

Name of Organization: OASIS: the Diocesan ministry for and by the LGBTQ members of the Church

Officer(s): Chair, Robert E. Crystal

Committee Members: VAR

Report:

The last year has been one of regrouping and discernment. With the Supreme Court decision affirming the validity same-gender marriages nationwide, much of the energy and urgency we once saw has left the LGBT movement as a whole. While we still march as a diocese in the local Pride Parade, there is more that we want to do.

There are still instances of discrimination, and there are still examples of the suffering, even death of gay and lesbian youth and especially the vulnerability of the non-conforming youth, be they transgender, effeminate boys or masculine girls. What can the “Church near us” do to love, support and defend our vulnerable children? How can we let them know that they are our own?

Also rising up is the issue of the LGBTQ elderly. The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley has hosted a program called “Shoulders to Stand On” which has featured early pioneer Fr. Walter Szymanski among others. The STSO has been accumulating historical items and gathering data. One thing that is obvious is that the LGBTQ community around us is aging. OASIS will be working to identify ways that “the Church near us” can protect and include the elders of the LGBTQ community and let them, too, know that they are our own.

We ask the entire Diocese to help us in our ministry: encourage the LGBTQ members of your parish to join us; seek out and report to us instances of LGBTQ discrimination/bullying; plan on joining the Diocesan party marching in July of 2017.

Robert Crystal Rochester, NY

To suppose that God Almighty has confined his goodness to this world, to the exclusion of all others, is much similar to the idle fancies of some individuals in this world, that they, and those of their communion or faith, are the favorites of heaven exclusively; but these are narrow and bigoted conceptions, which are degrading to a rational nature, and utterly unworthy of God, of whom we should form the most exalted ideas.

~ [Ethan Allen](#)

85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester Prison Ministry Advisory Board Official Report

Name of Organization: Diocesan Prison Ministry Advisory Board

Officer(s): Britton Hopkin -- Chair

Committee Members: Precious Bedell, Robert Crystal, Rochelle Curtis, Janet Farnsworth, Barbara Fornalik, Richard Frey, Keturah Gilbert, Wes Harris, Delores Johnson, Clarie Kremer, Richard Laidlaw, Gloria Lundberg, Barbara Sandburg, Elsa Schaefer, Sandra St. Martin, Kathy Walczak, Eleanor Welz, Mary White

Meetings: Jan. 16, 2016: Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY
April 2, 2016: Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY
June 18, 2016: Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY
Oct. 22, 2016: Ferris Hills, Canandaigua, NY

Mission Statement: Promote within parishes of the dioceses an understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by the incarcerated and re-entering men and women and their families, and to encourage and support ministries within our parishes to assist this community.

Report:

The Prison Ministry Advisory Board promotes volunteering and involvement of churches within our diocese in helping prisoners and their families. In addition, where the need arises, we occasionally start or manage new ministries. Our website can be accessed at www.prisonministry-edr.org. We publish an e-newsletter several times each year that can be accessed from our website. Currently, board members / friends of the board are reaching out to over 1000 area prisoners through involvement with many non-profit agencies including: Catholic Family Center, Compeer, Judicial Process Commission, Literacy Volunteers of Rochester, Northeast District Storybook Project, Rochester Storybook Pilot Project, Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, Safer Monroe Area Re-entry Taskforce (SMART), Step-by-Step of Rochester, Boy Scout, and Girl Scout Programs. In addition, one of our members (Christ Church, Corning) celebrates the Holy Eucharist and visits with groups of prisoners in the Steuben County Jail.

Highlights Since the Last Convention:

Notable highlights of our board's activities and / or activities of our members and friends who collaborate with us since the last convention, are listed below.

Startup of Rochester Storybook Project at Monroe Correctional Facility:

This is modeled after the very successful Northeast District Storybook Project which serves people housed at the Ontario County Jail. With the Storybook Project, selected prisoners read children's stories into a digital recorder. The recording (in CD format) is sent along with a new book of the same story to the reader's child. The child can then read along with the parent as though the parent were home. St. Peter's is also joined in this project by participants from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Brockport; Christ Episcopal Church, Rochester; St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Rochester; and St. Luke's and St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church, Rochester; Spiritus Christi Church, Rochester; St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church, Rochester; Victor First Presbyterian Church, Victor; and Webster Christian Reformed Church, Webster.

Our project began its "Pilot" phase (small scale operation recording just female participants to demonstrate operational feasibility and work out any "bugs" in the system) prior to obtaining approval for full scale operation utilizing male and female participants, this last February, 2016. As of this writing, we have obtained approval to begin full scale operation with both men and women beginning this October 2016. The "Pilot" phase as well as the beginning of the full production operation has been funded by a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

To date, our project has been well received by our recording participants who are grateful for the opportunity to use these recordings to stay connected with their children during the separation from their families. We have also heard from guardians that the children love hearing their parent's voice reading them stories and at the same time receiving their very own storybook. Staff at the Monroe Correctional Facility (MCF), have been highly enthusiastic and supportive of our project. Our volunteers for this project greatly appreciate the support they have been given by the MCF staff, and have found the "Pilot" phase very helpful in producing a well-organized and efficient operation.

Our Coordinator and Directory, Britt Hopkin, has received much help and advice from the Northeast District Storybook Project, including its director, Claire Kremer (also a member of our Prison Ministry Advisory Board), and visited a recording session they were conducting with female participants in the Ontario County Correctional Facility in Hopewell NY this June. The help and support we have received from the Ontario project has been critical to our operation, and is deeply appreciated.

Northeast District Storybook Project at Ontario County Correctional Facility

The Northeast District Storybook Project continues in very high production as it is concluding its 11th year of operation. The new documentary film about Claire's project, "Turn the Page" was screened at the Little Theater in Rochester this last February, and is now in nearly completed form. As part of the publicity leading to the screening, Claire was interviewed on the Evan Dawson program aired by WXXI in Rochester, and also on the "Need to Know" TV program also produced by WXXI. In addition, the Canandaigua Times interviewed Claire about her project, and then won a national award based on the article. The production of the film, and Claire's broadcast appearances have been tremendously helpful to helping the Rochester Storybook Project obtain volunteers and other support.

Prison Re-entry and Aftercare Ministries (PRAM) / Youth Intervention and Aftercare Ministries (YIAM) – St. Thomas, Rochester

This June, the Prison Ministry Program at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Rochester, held a series of three lectures given by members of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Psychiatry regarding needs and services for prisoners before, and during re-entry back into their community. The first lecture was presented by Dr. Catherine Cerulli and entitled "Pipeline to Prison", which details the many ways people can get caught up in the criminal justice system. The second lecture was given by Dr. Diane Morse, MD, and dealt with the special needs that women have as they return back to their communities from incarceration. A program specially set up for women was featured, entitled Women's Initiative Serving Health (WISH). The third and final lecture was given by Dr. Steven Lamberti, which detailed the psychiatric needs of prisoners during incarceration and in aftercare. Summaries of the first two lectures can be obtained by visiting the Prison Ministry Advisory Board's website www.prisonministry-edr.org and click on "Newsletters". This is an archive of all of our e-newsletters.

PRAM St. Thomas, continues to provide programs which focus on relationship building, and responds to letters sent in by inmates. PRAM also works with volunteers from other service providers such as Volunteers of America / Step-by-Step of Rochester, as well as the University of Rochester Medical Center.

YIAM St. Thomas provides Scouts Beyond Bars programming which works closely with both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. These programs are aimed at children who have a parent who is (or has been) incarcerated. This work aligns with established scout units and utilizes trauma-informed care for the children to help them create stability and structure in their lives.

YIAM St. Thomas is also working with 16-17 year old youth incarcerated in the Downtown Jail in Rochester, and is aimed at supporting a more successful reentry process for youth offenders. Much of the programming for YIAM is based on a modified version of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).

Prison Re-entry and Aftercare Ministries – Ascension Church

PRAM—Ascension through the work of Bob Crystal is leading Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry and is operating group programs for adults in the Monroe Correctional Facility (MCF) based on the "Houses of Healing" series published by Lion Heart Press in 8 week cycles, and is leading a similar series also from Lion Heart Press, "Power Source" in the Monroe County Jail (MCF) in Downtown Rochester for incarcerated youth charged with adult crimes.

Ascension Episcopal Church hosts the Cephas support group for Rochester every Tuesday evening for released people and their families. They have been doing this since 2006. Ascension also hosts classes for CASAC and Social Work licenses, and also maintains regular correspondence with inmates in various state and federal facilities. PRAM Ascension is looking to begin a ministry of transportation of family members from downtown Rochester to the three nearby facilities: Livingston / Groveland, Attica / Wyoming, and Albion / Orleans facilities. They need a bus, a driver and funds for insurance and gas as well.

Belmont and Corning: Gloria Lundberg is continuing the Step-by-Step programs in the Allegheny County Jail in Belmont, and Jan Farnsworth of Christ Church, Corning is continuing to celebrate Holy Eucharist in the Steuben County Jail in Corning.

E-Newsletters Published this Period

We have redesigned our Newsletter archive on our website: www.prisonministry-edr.org. All past e-newsletters are listed by year and title in the Newsletter Archive accessed by clicking on the "Newsletter" button of our website, and are available for downloading in PDF format. The newsletters published during this current period include:

Sept. 2015: "Wesley's Mother's Group": Describes a support group for mothers of incarcerated youth.

April 2016: "Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Incarcerated Youth": Details a program offered by PRAM St. Thomas (see above) for incarcerated youth at the Monroe County Jail (MCJ).

June 2016: "The Rochester Storybook Project": Describes the formation and operation of the Rochester Storybook Project now operating in the Monroe Correctional Facility (MCF).

July 2016: "Pipeline to Prison": Summary of Lecture given by Dr. Catherine Cerulli at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in June 2016 detailing the many ways (often unfortunate) that people can get caught up in the criminal justice system.

September 2016: "Women's Initiative Serving Health": Summary of Lecture given by Dr. Diane Morse describing a new program at the University of Rochester Medical Center for serving justice involved women as they re-enter the community.

Financial Needs for 2016: Continue funding at \$1,500.

Visit our website: www.prisonministry-edr.org - Sign-up for our e-newsletter on our website.

Respectfully submitted,
Britton Hopkin - Chair

Name of Organization: Diocesan Public Policy Committee

Officer(s): Dorothy Romanet, Chair

Committee Members: Dorothy Barnes, Robert Crystal, Barbara Deming, Christian Haller, Carolyn Mok, Janice Nash.

Report:

The Public Policy Committee presented its annual Workshop & Luncheon on April 9, 2016 at St. Mark's & St. John's. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the topic and presenters had to be suddenly changed. We then received incredible support from Bishop Singh, Matthew Townsend, and Kristy Estee in identifying three new speakers for a revised version of the main topic of poverty. Instead of entering into a Poverty Simulation, we were quickly able to enter into discussions concerning poverty and where it intersects with race. A total of thirty-seven people, including Priests, laity, a probationer, and diocesan Staff attended the Workshop. Three speakers each took time for questions. Our first speaker was Mitch Gruber, Director of Programs & Innovations at Food Link. Our second speaker was Edward Doherty, author of the 2013 Poverty Report. Our afternoon facilitator was Bishop Singh. He asked theologically based questions dealing with personal transformation that leads to seeing the face of God in others.

We continue to focus on discerning new ways to interact with Priests and laity in our 8-county Diocese, on preparing an informative web-site, and seeking new ways to journey with and be supportive of others in advocating for justice. Anyone wishing to call attention to an issue in their District where we might collaborate is welcome to contact the Chair.

Name of Organization: United Thank Offering (UTO)

Report:

The mission of UTO is to expand the circle of thankful people and encourage intentional, daily thankfulness for the abundance of God's blessings. UTO is a spiritual and financial partner in the mission work of the Episcopal Church. All UTO funds collected each year are distributed in grants which support a variety of domestic and foreign missions.

Ongoing goals for UTO in the Diocese of Rochester include:

1. Work toward 100% participation in Convention In-gathering
2. Promote successful grant applications from the Diocese of Rochester
3. Contribute updates/reminders for publication on Diocesan website and in Diocesan e-newsletter

Over the past several years, the UTO Ingathering funds from the Diocese of Rochester have averaged between \$11,000 and \$14,000. In the past several years, UTO grants to our Diocese have averaged \$20,000+. We have much to be thankful for!

In past years \$203,508 in grant monies has returned to the Diocese of Rochester.

Year	Recipient	Project	Amount
2004	Church of the Epiphany, Gates	Walkway to Senior Center	\$7,500
2004	Diocese of Rochester	Youth Ministry	\$15,000
2005	St. Peter's, Henrietta	Roof for Parish Hall	\$19,000
2006	St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene	Right On School Peace Initiative	\$7,500
2008	St. Peter's Geneva	St. Peter's Arts Academy	\$19,700
2010	St. Stephen's Rochester	Parish Kitchen Upgrade	\$39,980
2011	NEAP - Liturgia Rural Workers Education Center	Van to transport clients	\$16,500
2012	St. Thomas' Bath	Kitchen Renovation	\$53,132
2014	St. Mark's & St. John's Rochester	Building a Safe/Healthy Neighborhood: One Family at a Time	\$25,196

TOTAL \$203,508

Faithfully,
Susan Woodhouse,
Diocesan Coordinator for UTO