



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

82nd CONVENTION

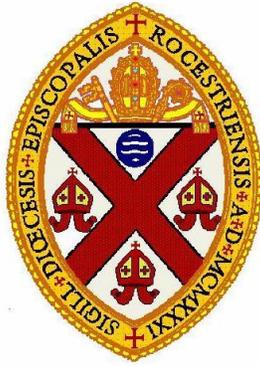
OFFICIAL REPORTS

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

AND

OTHER COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

November 9, 2013



OFFICIAL REPORTS Convention 2013

Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

Published in the following order:

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- Commission on Ministry
- Diocesan Council Summary of Minutes
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All other Official Reports of the Diocese:

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BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Commission on Ministry: Official Report

Name of Organization: Commission on Ministry

Officer(s):

Chairperson: The Rev. Jennifer Zogg

Secretary and Grants Coordinator: Ms. Susan Dow

Lay Committee chairperson: Mr. Dave Galleher

Deaconate Committee Chairperson: The Rev. Richard Krapf

Priesthood Committee Chairperson: The Rev. Jennifer Zogg

Committee Members:

Mr. Alison Bourne, Ms. Libby Campbell, Ms. Susan Dow, Rev. Ruth Ferguson, Mr. David Galleher, Rev. Richard Krapf, Ms. Nancy Newton, Ms. Keri Omphroy, Rev. Ken Pepin, Ms. Heather Yanda, Rev. Jennifer Zogg, Rev. Peter Bryant, Rev. David Hefling, Rev. Dennie Bennett (as of June 2013), Mr. John Clinton Bradley, Ms. Liz Porter, Ms. Claire Crump, Rev. Linda Leibhart

Report:

This year we continued our work in our subcommittees related to each order of ministry and approved a number of Continuing Education grants for clergy and lay employees in the diocese. The Lay Committee drafted a lesson plan they plan to take around to parishes to educate congregations on identifying their ministry in daily life. The Deaconate Committee presented the Bishop with a proposal for strengthening formation of deacons, primarily in the area of pastoral care, as well as improving mentoring for current deacons and clarifying the role of deacons in this diocese. They will move forward on implementing this plan in the coming year. The priesthood committee oversaw the facilitation of the first year of a peer mentoring group for newly ordained clergy led by the Rev. Jennifer Zogg and the Rev. David Hefling. This group was very successful and will continue to meet in the coming year in a supportive capacity. The priesthood committee also helped the whole COM begin a discussion with the Bishop on assessing the gifts and skills we need in clergy based on the needs of our particular congregations. The COM completed the revision of the Vocation Discernment Handbook with much support and assistance from the Rev. Peter Peters. It is now published on the diocesan website. We hosted two interview days, as is our new pattern, in late November and early April, for applicants at various stages of the ordination process. We approved the ordination to the Priesthood of the Rev. Sara D'Angio-White who is serving as Associate Rector at Christ Church, Pittsford. At the end of this year we have one Postulant and one Candidate for the Vocational Diaconate and three Postulants for the Priesthood and several aspirants in discernment.

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Diocesan Council Minutes Summary: Official Report

Summary of Diocesan Council Minutes: October 2012 – September 2013

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 (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.

During the 2012-2013 year, Council further refined the nature of its work and including its two sub-committee structure: Congregational Development Partnership Committee (CDPC) and Mission Partnership Committee (MPC). Each committee engaged in work related to its goals.

October 16, 2012:

Council's business in October included reports from the Bishop highlighting his recent activities, year-to-date financial report, action on a resolution related to Church of the Incarnation Penfield and three proposed resolutions for Council to recommend to Convention.

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a congregational development grant for Church of the Incarnation, Penfield of \$28,400 for 2012. Disbursement will be \$10,400 in October, \$9,750 in November and \$8,250 in December to support the programs detailed below. The grant is intended to provide financial resources to develop programs and tools to better engage the community for growth, while making progress on their plan to achieve financial stability with a healthy, self-sustaining church. **MSP 2 abstentions**

Proposed Resolution to dissolve Our Savior, Bolivar

Resolved, that Diocesan Council recommend to the 81st convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester that the Mission known as **Our Savior, Bolivar**, because it has ceased to fulfill the obligations and responsibilities of a Mission, be dissolved, its executive committee be dissolved and its assets be dedicated to the furtherance of Episcopal Ministry as deemed appropriate by the Office of the Bishop of Rochester.

MSP

Proposed Resolution to Dissolve St. Andrew's Friendship

Resolved, that Diocesan Council recommend to the 81st convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester that the Parish known as **St. Andrew's Friendship**, because it has ceased to fulfill the obligations and responsibilities of a Parish, be dissolved, its vestry be dissolved and its assets be dedicated to the furtherance of Episcopal ministry as deemed appropriate by the Office of the Bishop of Rochester. **MSP**

Proposed Resolution to Dissolve St. John's Mt. Morris

Resolved, that Diocesan Council recommend to the 81st convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester that the Parish known as **St. John's, Mt. Morris**, because it has ceased to fulfill the obligations and responsibilities of a Parish, be dissolved, its vestry be dissolved and its assets be dedicated to the furtherance of Episcopal ministry as deemed appropriate by the Office of the Bishop of Rochester. **MSP**

November 20, 2012:

New members to Council were introduced and welcomed. Ongoing members reviewed Council's work during the 2011-2012 year and the group engaged in an overview of a Diocesan Mission and Vision the work of its committees – CDPC and GPC. A resolution related to St. Michael's Geneseo was reviewed and approved.

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Grant for St. Michael's, Geneseo of \$25,700. Disbursement will be in the month of December 2012. The grant is intended to bridge St. Michael's deficit for 2012 and accelerate the turn around and momentum already started. This grant will additionally help support the church's efforts to connect with the surrounding community in a more meaningful way through a new program in the development stage called, "Backyard Basics." **MSP**

December 20, 2012:

In addition to the Bishops' highlights report, Council engaged in a discussion of a proposed "decision and governance" model and a request from St. Paul's related to apportionment. Council acted on a resolution presented by the CDPC on behalf of Incarnation Penfield and a resolution presented by the MPC related to 2012 Mission /Grant funds.

Resolved: Diocesan Council approves an addition to the 2012 Congregational Development Grant for the Church of the Incarnation, Penfield in the amount of \$1,546.00. Disbursement will be in December to support the shortfall for purchase of equipment needed for the digital audio workstation (DAW). The equipment will be used to produce audio visual programs related to Christian Education that will be made at Incarnation, Penfield. **MSP**

Resolved, that Diocesan Council disburses the excess 2012 Mission Grant funds in the amount of \$2,250.00 to Episcopal Relief and Development. **MSP**

Additionally, Council reviewed feedback from Convention and a tentative agenda for a January Work Day and a joint meeting with the other standing committees of the Diocese.

January 15, 2013:

Matthew Townsend, Diocesan Communications Missioner, provided an update on communication activities in the Diocese. Todd reviewed the preliminary 2012 budget report and Council engaged in a discussion regarding St. Paul's apportionment request.

The CDPC presented three resolutions: St. Peter's Henrietta, St. George's Hilton and Grace Church Scottsville/St. Andrew's Caledonia. Following discussion, they were approved as follows:

St. Peter's Henrietta

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for St. Peter's Henrietta of \$54,000 total for the year 2013. Disbursement will be monthly beginning in January 2013. **MSP**

St. George's Hilton

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for St. George's Hilton of \$50,000 total for the year 2013. Disbursement will be monthly beginning in January 2013. **MSP**

St. Andrew's Caledonia/Grace Church Scottsville

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for St. Andrew's, Caledonia and Grace Church, Scottsville in the amount of \$28,500 total for the year 2013. Disbursement will be monthly beginning in January 2013. **MSP**

February 28, 2013:

In addition to staff updates, Todd presented the 2012 year-end budget report and some upcoming changes to the 2013 budget. The CDPC and MPC committees updated Council on their work and the January Joint Work Day was debriefed.

March 19, 2013:

Updates included the Bishop's, staff and committees. Considerable discussion took place regarding St. Paul's apportionment request. Following that discussion, Council put forth and approved the following resolution.

Resolved; that, subject to the outcome of St. Paul's Rochester March 19, 2013 Vestry meeting, Diocesan Council notes the following with respect to St. Paul's payment of its 2013 apportionment:

(a) The Council acknowledges St. Paul's significant and meaningful contribution in agreeing to pay a substantial part (\$177,269 of the full apportionment amount of \$194,405) of its 2013 apportionment.

(b) The Council, however, underscores St. Paul's obligation to pay its 2013 apportionment in full, as determined by and directed by the Diocesan Convention; and

(c) The Council directs that the consequences of failing to pay its apportionment in full shall include but not be limited to:

- No seat and voice at Diocesan Convention
- Immediate suspension of Diocesan payment of Council directed funds

Council further reminds the Wardens and Vestry of their Canonical duty "to provide for the payment of the apportionment". Local Canon 17 (3) (i) (6).

MSP with one abstention

April 16, 2013

Updates included the Bishop's Highlights and meeting with St. Paul's. Todd reviewed information regarding the 2013 Operating Budget YTD results and proposed changes. Following discussion, Council approved the following resolution:

Resolved:

The Diocesan Council approves the proposed changes to the 2013 Diocesan Operating Budget, as highlighted in the *attached schedule*. **MSP**

Todd also reviewed information regarding Parish Apportionment and the potential effect of the new "cap & floor" formula on a 2014 budget as well as the 2014 budget and the effect of the D&FMS Asking. A proposal to gradually increase what is paid to the National Church for D&FMS to bring amount closer to asking amount was discussed as was the calculation method. Further discussion was planned.

May 21, 2013:

Updates included a report by Sarah that an Executive Committee made up of the leadership of Council, Trustees, COM and the Standing Committee has begun to meet. Their minutes will be circulated. The Bishop engaged Council members in a discussion about its work. Conversation included concerns such as equity, apportionment, endowments, indebtedness, leadership models, support of ministry among others.

Todd presented a proposed change to the funding for youth programs which came about as a result of recommendations made by the District Deans who are the overseers of the youth programs. Following discussion, the following resolution was approved:

Resolved: For 2013, the Diocesan Council approves moving \$6,900 of the \$13,800 budget for DYM Stipends to the District Youth Programs & Events budget (currently \$2,700).

MSP 1 abstention

In addition, Todd reviewed the 2014 Apportionment Resolution presented by the Apportionment Task Force and approved by delegates at the 2012 Diocesan Convention noting that Recommendation #6 relates to Council.

"As part of each year's budget process, Council may adjust the apportionment rates and/or the cap & floor, as most appropriate to further the mission statement of the Diocese."

The resolution goes into effect in 2014. Following discussion, a motion was made asking Todd to distribute a draft 2014 budget with a 10% increase to the D&FMS Asking and utilizing Option A for Parish Apportionments. Alternative Apportionment options will be reviewed at the June Council meeting. **MSP**

June 18, 2013:

Council reviewed three 2014 parish apportionment options: Rates as presented at Convention, Rates as reduced 1% and Rates for some parishes reduced by 1% with a cap/floor +/- 5% as well as an overview of the 5 year impact.

The Congregational Development Partnership Committee - CDPC – reported that fourteen parishes have been interviewed since January. The committee will offer resolutions proposing that twelve of them be migrated into the CDPC grant process.

Two will be on hold for the time being and revisited in the spring. Judy, as chair, noted that many wonderful stories were heard during the process.

Twelve resolutions were presented to Council and, following discussion on each, acted upon as follows:

St. George's Hilton

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for St. George's Hilton \$39,000 total for the year 2014. Disbursement will be monthly beginning in January 2014. – **MSP**

St. Andrews Caledonia & Grace Church Scottsville

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for St. Andrew's, Caledonia and Grace Church, Scottsville in the amount of \$18,000 total for the year 2014. Disbursement will be quarterly beginning in January 2014. – **MSP**

St. Peter's Henrietta

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for St. Peter's Henrietta of \$ 43,000 total for the year 2014. Disbursement will be monthly beginning in January 2014. - **MSP**

St. Stephens Rochester

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for St. Stephens Rochester of \$50,000 total for the year 2014. Disbursement will be monthly beginning in January 2014. – **MSP 1 abstention**

St. Mark's & St. John's Rochester

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a congregational development grant for St. Mark's & St. John's, Rochester of \$40,000 for 2014. Disbursement will be monthly beginning in January 2014. - **MSP 1 Nay**

St. Luke's & St. Simon Cyrene Rochester

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for St. Luke/St. Simon Cyrene, Rochester of \$ 18,000 total for the year 2014. Disbursement will be quarterly beginning in January 2014. – **MSP**

Episcopal Parishes of Schuyler County (EPSC)

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for Episcopal Parishes of Schuyler County of \$ 19,000 total for the year 2014. Disbursement will be quarterly beginning in January 2014. – **MSP**

Trinity Greece

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for Trinity Church Greece of \$ 15,000 total for the year 2014. Disbursement will be quarterly beginning in January 2014. – **MSP**

Christ Church Rochester

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for Christ Church, Rochester of \$ 12,000 total for the year 2014. Disbursement will be quarterly beginning in January 2014. – **MSP**

St. Mark's Penn Yan

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for St. Marks, Penn Yan of \$ 10,000 total for the year 2014. Disbursement will be quarterly beginning in January 2014. – **MSP**

Ephphatha

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Partnership Grant for Ephphatha Mission of \$ 6,790 total for the year 2014. Disbursement will be semi annual beginning in January 2014. – **MSP**

Incarnation Penfield

RESOLVED: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Grant for the Church of the Incarnation, Penfield of \$22,500 for 2013. Disbursement will be monthly beginning in July 2013.

Be it further resolved: Diocesan Council approves a Congregational Development Grant for the Church of the Incarnation, Penfield of \$ 18,000 for 2014. Disbursement will be quarterly beginning in January 2014. – **MSP**

Sr. Margaret Mancuso, Principal of Nazareth Academy; Rev. Andrea Striding, Rev. Ruth Ferguson and Jerry De Lucia joined Council member Rev. Mary Ann Brody to provide an update on the collaboration study between Nazareth Academy and the Diocese. Following the presentation and discussion, Council moved to extend the work of the committee for one more year. **MSP**

September 17, 2013:

The Bishop thanked Council for the opportunity to take the first sabbatical of his ministry. He traveled to Scotland and served three churches, visited his family in India and spent a week with the Director of Rural and Migrant Ministry observing the ministry.

St. Paul's Apportionment Letter Response:

Sarah reviewed a letter from St. Paul's related to the ongoing discussion of their apportionment concerns. Several options were considered concerning timing of the 2013 apportionment payment. Council adopted Option 3 shown below.

OPTION #3: Resolved:

(a) The Council acknowledges St. Paul's commitment to pay its full 2013 apportionment and respects St. Paul's desire to maintain prudent draws from its endowment.

(b) The Council however, believes that the time frame for payment is unreasonably long relative to the resources available to St. Paul's.

(c) The Council directs that the St. Paul's Vestry commit to payment of any outstanding balance of 2013 apportionment on or before June 30th, 2014. In addition, St. Paul's Vestry commits to payment of its full 2014 apportionment in a timely manner.

Further Resolved: St. Paul's Vestry agrees to complete a Strategic Re-visioning process, using a 3rd party facilitator, by June 30th, 2014.

Based on the commitments above, Council resolves to restore:

- Seat and voice at 2013 Diocesan Convention
- Diocesan payment of Council directed funds **MSP**

Todd reviewed the second draft of the budget and two budget options were presented to Council. Option A uses the apportionment formula approved by convention. Option B uses Diocesan Council's ability to reduce apportionment rates by 1% across all the churches. Following discussion, Council approved the following resolution:

Resolved: The Council approves the 2014 Diocesan operating budget detailed in the attached exhibits as Option B for approval at Diocesan Convention. **MSP 1 abstention**

Scott used a PowerPoint presentation to review how the Mission Partnership Committee -CMP – funding process works including: Diocesan Mission Grants (grants that parishes apply for each year), On-Going grants (Grants that have been in the budget year after year), and District Mission grants. The CMP is recommending a new process to review On-Going grants every five years and a process for Mission grants to become On-Going grants.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Woodhouse, Secretary
Diocesan Council

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Standing Committee Official Report

Name of Organization: STANDING COMMITTEE

Officer(s):

President - Carmen Seufert; Secretary - Linda Raide

Committee Members:

The Reverends: Carmen Seufert, J. Brad Benson, Michael Hopkins, Fred Reynolds
Linda Raide, Jerry DeLuca, Jan Farnsworth, Neil Houghton

Report:

Property Issues

Approved the following requests:

- St. John's, Catherine - \$12,500 for repairs
- St. Peter's, Geneva - \$25,000 for repairs and updating of heating system
- The Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene - \$40,000 to update worship space.
- Christ Church, Hornell - \$35,000 for replacement of the Parish House roof.
- 4 Cathedral Oaks - expenses incurred and sale price reduction.
- St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene - easement
- Zion, Palmyra - 29,500 for roof repairs.

Declined to approve the following:

- St. James, Watkins Glen – \$300,000 for repairs to the building's foundation and steeple.

Approved the following lease agreements:

- St. Mark's, Newark - American Red Cross
- Trinity, Greece - request to approve 2 lease agreements (church serving deaf com ministry and day care center)

Ecclesiastical Consents Approved the following:

- William J. Lambert as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Eau Clair, Wisconsin
- Consent for the election of a Bishop Suffragan of the diocese of New York
- Anne Hodges-Copple as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of North Carolina
- Mark Allen Bourlaka to be Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
- Consent for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese of Massachusetts
- Wayne M. Hougland Jr. to be Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Western Michigan.
- Rev. Canon William Hallock Stokes to be Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of New Jersey.
- Consent for the election of a Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of Maryland.
- Consent for the reunion of the Diocese of Quincy and the Diocese of Chicago
- Consent to the election of a Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese of Mississippi

Ordination consents - approved the following:

- Sara D'Angio-White - Ordination to the Priesthood
- Georgia Carney - Ordination to the Diaconate

Other: The President of the Standing Committee met with the Bishop and chairs of other Diocesan groups to share common concerns and plan two combined events. It was decided to share and publish minutes of the Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry and Diocesan Council. The members of Standing Committee participated in two joint events with our diocesan leaders to help us understand the responsibilities of each group, explore how, when appropriate, we can better work together and become familiar with diocesan issues.

The members of Standing Committee worked with a consultant to better understand our role, how to improve the communication among ourselves and between Bishop and Standing Committee.

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd 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 and Prichard Scholarship Committee

Officer(s): The Bishop of the Diocese and the Elected Members:

John Burr, Gil Ferris, Peter Harter, Marilyle Sweet Page, Neal Panzer, Susan Scanlon, Beverly Smith, Tom Bennett. Officers: Chairperson: Bishop Singh, Vice Chair: Lyn Omphroy, Chief Investment Officer & Chief Financial Missioner, Todd Rubiano, Treasurer, Bob VanNiel and Assistant Treasurer, Bliss Owen.

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:* Gordon Fuller, Jay Geiss, Sherry Ralston, Deven Hubert, John Karl, Elizabeth Bakken and Amy Moyer. *Investment Review Committee outside members:* Paul Smith, William McKee, Greg VanLaeken, Peter Greaves-Tunnell and Doug Lyon. *Audit and Finance Committee outside member:* Jamie Bishop. *Prichard Scholarship outside members:* Diane Prichard, Marti St. George.

Report:

The Diocesan Trustees is made up of the Trustees and a number of Standing Sub-Committees, including the Investment Review Committee, the Audit Committee, the Prichard Scholarship Committee, and the Human Resources Committee. In addition to the four scheduled Trustee meetings, the Trustees worked closely with the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and the Commission on Ministry. An Executive Committee made up of the chairs of these committees was formed this year. Two joint meetings with all the members of these committees were held to foster better flow of communication between the groups. Actions of the Trustees and all Sub-committees are found in the minutes of the Trustees and Sub-Committee meetings located in the offices of the Diocese. Committee meetings took place at many times during the year.

A significant portion of the work of the Trustees was to complete canonical requirements including Diocesan Audit and assisting with parish audits. The 2012 Diocesan Audit was completed on August 13, 2013 and is available for review on the Diocesan web-site. The Trustees continue to monitor the effectiveness of Genesee Valley Trust (new custodian). The Investment Committee is working with GVT to ensure that quality monthly reporting (sub-accounting and on-line) and reconciliations are done in a timely manner. Several audit recommendations have been put in place this year. Key efforts were ~ the depreciation of fixed assets, cross training of staff and Bonadio's involvement in the selection process of the new Diocesan accountant.

A key financial model which illustrates the impact of the draw against the Endowment was developed. The Trustees also oversaw the various loan programs for clergy and parishes. The aggregate loan cap (Sibley and Clergy) of \$1.5M was established.

The work on reviewing our investment policies culminated with a cap of individual Sibley loans (\$50K maximum) as well as the establishment of a variable interest rate commensurate with the term of the loan. Five Sibley loans were approved tallying \$142K.

Loan portfolio write-offs and clarity of disputed loans were addressed. Two property sales were completed (St Luke's Brockport Rectory and Mt Morris); the Rectory (Bishop's former residence) is for sale.

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 employees. During the course of the year the committee also worked on updating the current HR Policies as well as working to integrate Safe Church policies.

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.

Prichard Scholarship Committee met and awarded scholarships of \$1,500 (\$500 each from the PS fund and \$1000 each from an anonymous donor) each to the following young adults for their continued education:

Ms. Charlotte Adams Brooks
Senior - Sarah Lawrence University

Mr. Zach Hubert-Allen
University of Buffalo

Mr. Nate Kohlmeier
Senior - Marlboro State College

Ms. Sarah Kohlmeier
Hartwick College

Mr. Ned Singh
Senior - Ithaca College

DISTRICT REPORTS

BELOVED COMMUNITY

82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester Northeast District Official Report

The Parishes of the Northeast District of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester collaborated in a number of ways during the past year. The clergy gather monthly for Bible Study with the Bishop. This time together has provided an important community for us; a time for spiritual refreshment and growth, and mutual support.

This year, we said farewell in the Northeast District to The Rev. Karen Lewis of Trinity Church, Geneva. We gave thank for the wonderful ministry that The Rev. Carmen Seufert has provided as Rector of the Northeast Partners in Ministry as she entered her retirement in June. We welcomed The Rev. Andrew White as the new Rector for the Parishes of NEPM.

The Clergy and Delegates meet quarterly. Our meetings always include a form of worship, and time for communication about ministries in our parishes. Our decisions about granting district funds reflect the practices of the Diocese. The funds are for parish based ministries that serve persons outside of the parish. The Northeast District's Story Book Project, which serves incarcerated women and their children, continues as a ministry of the District.

We look forward to another year together witnessing the Good News of God's love in the Episcopal Parishes of Ontario and Wayne Counties.

Respectfully submitted,
The Very Rev. James H. Adams, Dean

BELOVED COMMUNITY

82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester Rochester District Official Report

Name of Organization: Rochester District

Officer(s): The Very Rev. Michael W. Hopkins, Dean
Mr. Christopher Moore, Warden

Report:

The Rochester District continued to meet in conjunction with the Monroe District. Our pre-Convention meeting in 2012 was held at the Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene on November 1, 2012, preceded by a Eucharist for All Saints Day.

We met three times during the year since, two of them to decide on District Grants (see the Monroe District report), and one to give input to the 2014 diocesan budget process.

As of September 1, 2013, our parishes were served by the following clergy: Church of the Ascension, the Very Rev. Michael Hopkins, Priest-in-charge and The Rev. Sandra Cordingley, Pastoral Assistant;

Christ Church, The Rev. Ruth Ferguson, Rector and The Rev. Lucy Alonzo, Deacon; Chapel of the Good Shepherd (vacant); Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene, The Very Rev. Michael W. Hopkins, Rector and The Rev. John Burr, Deacon; The Church of St. Mark & St. John, The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Rasmussen, Rector, The Rev. Michael Finn, Deacon; St. Paul's Church, The Rev. Frederic Reynolds, Rector, The Rev. Jennifer Zogg, Associate Rector; St. Stephen's Church, The Rev. Mary Ann Brody, rector, The Rev. Lynne McNulty, Deacon, and St. Thomas' Church, The Rev. Craig Uffman, Rector, The Rev. Andrea Stridiron, Deacon.

Submitted by:

The Very Rev. Michael Hopkins, Dean

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Monroe District Official Report

Name of Organization: Monroe District

Officer(s): The Very Rev. Lance Robbins, Dean

Report:

The joint meeting of Monroe/Rochester District met on Nov. 1, 2013 at St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene. The proposed 2013 budget was reviewed and a report was received by the Apportionment Task Force. Resolutions to be voted on at Convention were discussed. Mary Ann Brody was elected as the clergy delegate to Council and Deven Hubert was elected from Monroe.

The next meeting was held at The Church of the Good Shepherd on May 2, 2013. There was a recommendation, discussion, and approval from the Grants Board. An update was given concerning the Episcopal School and we heard an update from Diocesan Council.

Our third meeting together was held on July 11, 2013 at St. John's, Honeoye Falls. Todd Rubiano, Canon for Finance, lead a discussion on the proposed budget for 2014.

As combined Districts, the clergy continue to meet with the Bishop for Bible study and discussion.

Once again we held Episcopal Day at Seabreeze on Aug. 25, 2013.

(The Very) Rev. Lance D. Robbins
Dean, Monroe District

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Southeast District Official Report

Officers: The Very Rev. J. Brad Benson, Dean; Pat Selwood, Lay Warden; Linda Raide, Secretary; Mary Lou Quintal-Hunt, Lay Representative to Diocesan Council; the Rev. Charles Tyo, Clerical Representative to Diocesan Council.

The delegates and clergy of the Southeast District gathered at Christ Church, Corning, in October, 2012 and in March 2013 at Church of the Redeemer, Addison; May at St. Mark's, Penn Yan; September at St. John's, Catharine and in late October we will meet at St. Thomas' Church, Bath.

Highlights for the year included:

We adopted our fourth-year district-wide outreach project, but decided not to conclude it in 2013 but extend the fundraising timeframe to two-years. After much discussion, we offered each parish in the district two possible destinations for their outreach dollars: (1) KIVA.COM was chosen as a vehicle for each parish to invest in small (or large) "cottage" industries in countries around the globe. Kiva.com manages the funds that are loaned to an individual/group (chosen by the donor parish/individual) and then that sum is eventually paid back. The donor then has the option to re-invest with that person/group or move the money to another project. (2) St. James' Episcopal Church on the Dakota Sioux reservation in South Dakota is raising funds to build a new, enlarged worship and education facility after a devastating fire. In both cases, each parish is encouraged to choose one or both of these projects and announce a target date and amount. We hope to conclude or at least reflect on progress in 2014.

Other activities:

- We continued a District Prayer Rota in the district. Every month a different parish/ministry is the focus of prayer throughout the district.
- Our October 2012 meeting was held via conference phoning due to bad weather. This was the pre-convention meeting and included verbal reports by the bishop's staff.
- Each district meeting included presentations of interest to the delegates and clergy; these included the Rev. Dahn Gandell speaking on her work with Episcopal Relief & Development and her travels in Africa and India; Shane Craig, our district youth missionary announced his resignation and that was accepted in January of 2013; and the Rev. David Smith on Creation Week Camp; discussion of anti-racism and safe church trainings; etc.
- The Rev. Sandra Curtis retired as rector of St. James', Hammondsport. That parish continues to search for a new rector.

The Southeast District provided grants in the support of Creation Week Camp; a Summer youth program and Shepherd's Cupboard, Good Shepherd, Savona; funding for the diocesan youth Happening; Christ Church, Corning to purchase Forward Day-by-Day for devotionals for Jan Farnsworth's county jail ministry program; and the Red Door Community Kitchen, a new soup kitchen ministry based at St Thomas, Bath.

We always enjoy wonderful potluck meals, sharing ideas for ministry, great fellowship and good cheer at each district meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
The Very Rev. J. Brad Benson

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Southwest District Official Report

2013 Annual Report Southwest District

- The South West District, typically, holds 6 meetings a year, depending on the winter weather.
- Dean-The Very Rev. Eric Thompson, Warden-Bob Walker (Zion, Avon), Mary L. Burns-Secretary/Treasurer (St. Peter's, Dansville)
- Average Attendance, 15-25
- Meetings hosted by Parishes from the Southwest District
- Mission work around the District, which received Grant funds from the Southwest District:
 - Amish Outreach (Turkeys), Spirit of Christmas-Trinity, Canaseraga
 - Community Meals-St. John's, Wellsville
 - Chances and Changes-St. Michael's, Geneseo
 - Youth Missions-St. Michael's, Geneseo
 - Food Pantry-Christ Church, Hornell
 - YMCA-Christ Church, Hornell
 - Computers, wiring, classroom set up and supplies for Women's Veterans OutReach-Zion House, Avon
- Discussions
 - Council Reports from Representatives
 - Reports from 1012 recipients of Southwest District Funds
 - Anti-Racism training dates
 - Disbursements of District Funds
 - Disposition of Youth Missioners/Funds
 - Presentation of "Beef Stew Program" and Amish Culture given by Bill Roemer
 - Brainstorming for ideas for focus of this District
 - Discussion of Delegate responsibilities for Convention
 - Review of available seats on Diocesan Committees-special emphasis on Commission on Ministry which is focusing on small churches, identifying needs to grow and Mission Outreach

Ascension Day Service, May 9, 2013-St Paul's, Angelica

Pre Convention meeting October 21, 2013-Zion Avon

Submitted by:

The Very Rev. J. Eric Thompson, Dean

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Anti Racism Committee Official Report

Name of Organization: Anti-Racism Committee
Officers: Ms. Marlene Allen, Mr. Thomas Bennett
Committee Members: Mr. Christopher Cleveland, Ms. Madeline Gamble, The Rev. Ginny Mazzarella, Ms. Elizabeth Porter, Ms. Susan Pickhardt, The Rev. Andrea Stridiron, Dr. Patricia Wheelhouse, Dr. Marilyn Wienk

Report:

The Committee scheduled four anti-racism training programs to take place throughout 2013. Training programs were cancelled for April (Monroe District), May (Rochester District) and June (Northeast District) due to low enrollment.

Following the cancellation of three anti-racism training programs, a comprehensive analysis of participation by district was conducted. As of June 2013, approximately 65% of clergy and elected lay in the Diocese have participated in anti-racism training. However this excludes delegates to the convention from parishes throughout the diocese.

On May 29, 2013, the Anti-Racism Committee met with The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh for a review of the Anti-Racism program. The following strategies will be implemented as a result of the meeting:

- Continue the eight-hour anti-racism training program.
- Work with parishes throughout the Diocese to conduct adult forums, assist in establishing book clubs on cultural diversity and anti-racism.
- Develop a video that communicates the Diocese commitment to dismantling racism.
- Encourage parishes to develop materials and/or activities for Sunday school teachers and leaders of youth groups.
- Assist parishes in coordinating coffee hour discussions on anti-racism.

Anti-Racism training scheduled at St. Michael's, Geneseo (Southwest District), for October 5, 2013 if full as of September 2013.

Submitted by Marlene Allen for the 82nd Convention
Of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
September 2013

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation, Inc.: Official Report

Official Report of the 82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

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

Officers: Sherri Catalano, President; Kevin LoCicero, Vice President; John M. Berry, Secretary
Charles Chapin, Jr., Treasurer

Members: Elizabeth Biehler, Joan Belgiorno, Linda Berger-Dunn, Michael Connelly, Patrick L.
Cusato, Moses Gilbert, Bruce Marche', Kevin Marren, Jeffrey Parker, Michael Pragle,
Diane Stofer, Penny Wisneski, Cherie Wood

Report: "Building Hope Together"

The lack of decent, quality housing is one of the greatest threats to our community's long-term economic success. Affordable housing is needed to help make sure that families, seniors and individuals with disabilities have a roof over their heads along with viable communities to raise their families and promote healthy aging.

This past year brought many challenges, including an unstable economy, foreclosure crisis and dramatic reductions in available equity for the affordable housing industry. Despite these challenges, Sheen Housing was able to expand our reach to more low-income families, individuals, seniors, veterans and persons living with disabilities in communities across our service area. Sheen Housing not only focused on our core services but we implemented initiatives that went beyond our housing programs to develop stronger partnerships, create local jobs and provided a safety net for many families. Our vision and mission has never been more important or relevant as poverty is on the rise and the need for affordable housing continues to grow.

Sheen Housing enables individuals of all ages to maintain their independence, dignity and quality of life within their home and communities. This past year, we have achieved the following:

Home Rehabilitation

Served - 161 families
Program Funding of \$2,758,780
Jobs Created/Retained – 242

Home Ownership

Served – 151 families
Housing Value of \$8,627,340
Jobs Created/Retained – 76

Housing Development

Served – 125 families and seniors
Built New Affordable Housing Units – 60 (Calkins Corners)
Jobs Created/Retained – 72

The numbers alone do not tell the full story. Sheen Housing provides a wide range of housing assistance with a commitment to compassionate quality services. We provide home rehabilitation services to decrease substandard housing conditions that threaten the health and safety of our neighbors. We offer home ownership opportunities and housing counseling. We provide affordable rental opportunities for low-income families and the elderly. The benefits extend beyond access to affordable housing and have a far-reaching effect. Sheen Housing helps strengthen our community's economy by supporting local small businesses, creating jobs, increasing local income and generating local tax revenues.

We are proud of our contribution over this past year to create sustainable housing for families and our community. Our accomplishments are a direct result of the support so many friends and partners have provided along with our Trustees, Board of Directors and staff. We are exceedingly grateful to count each and every one of you as a partner in our shared housing mission.

We sincerely thank you on behalf of the families served – thank you for taking the time to care. You are rehabbing, rebuilding and reinvesting right here at home.

In the year ahead, we look forward to building on these achievements and expanding our involvement in housing development. Every person in our community deserves safe, decent and affordable housing.

Sherri Catalano
President, Board of Directors

Allynn Smith
Executive Director

Contact Information:

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Sheen Housing
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(585) 657-4114
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E-mail: Sheen2@rochester.rr.com

Website: www.SheenHousing.org

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Clergy Transitions Official Report

Clergy Transitions 2013

Trinity, Geneva, NY	The Rev. Karen Lewis resigned to take a call in Michigan
Zion, Avon, NY	The Rev. Kelly Ayer was called as Priest-in-Charge and as Director of Zion House
St. John, Canandaigua, NY	The Rev. Richard Krapf was reassigned to St. Peter's Bloomfield
St. Thomas, Rochester, NY	The Rev. Claire Wimbush resigned
ESLC	The Rev. Ken Pepin resigned
Good Shepherd, Savona, NY	The Rev. J. Brad Benson resigned
NEPM	The Rev. Carmen Seufert retired as Rector The Rev. Andrew D'Angio-White was called as Rector
Incarnation, Penfield, NY	The Rev. Vicki Prescott retired as Rector
St. James, Hammondsport, NY	The Rev. Sandy Curtis retired as Rector

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Diocesan/Sisters of St. Joseph Collaboration Discernment Committee
Official Report

Name of Organization: Diocesan/Sisters of St. Joseph Collaboration Discernment Committee

Officer(s): Rev. Mary Ann Brody, Chair

Committee Members: Mr. Tom Bennett, Rev. Pat Cashman, Mr. Jerry DeLuccio, Rev. Ruth Ferguson, Mr. Les Kernan, Mr. Phil LaPorta, Rev. Andrea Stridiron

Report:

The committee was commissioned by Diocesan Council on September 18, 2012. The goals for the group were:

1. To initiate and build a relationship with the Sisters of St. Joseph (SSJ) to discern a future shared mission at Nazareth Elementary School (NES).
2. To involve the Episcopal city churches in a *Season of Exploration* by sharing information with them, and by inviting their participation in the work of the committee and as volunteers at NES, with the goal to have each parish involved and informed of *the Diocesan/Sisters of St. Joseph Discernment Commission at Nazareth Elementary School* progress.
3. To intentionally build relationships with Monroe District parishes bordering on the city so that they may be informed partners in fulfilling the mission of any proposed collaboration.
4. To communicate about our process on a monthly basis with the Rochester & Monroe District Deans, Diocesan Council and Rev. Canon Julie Cicora, as designated by the Bishop.
5. To make a recommendation to Diocesan Council at their June 2013 meeting regarding the fruits of our discernment and realistic options for future collaboration at NES.

Between September 2012 and June 2013, the Discernment Committee met seven times on its own, and six times with the leadership of the SSJ. Over the course of the year we talked extensively about our own organizational structures, religious differences and possible obstacles to collaboration, religious curricula, and ideas for collaboration. We organized two Volunteer Exploration meetings at NES in November, and enlisted two new Episcopal volunteers. Progress reports were made verbally at several of the Rochester/Monroe District meetings, and to Diocesan Council.

In June 2013, the Discernment Committee presented a draft collaboration plan to Diocesan Council. The plan envisioned full collaboration with the SSJ at NES in five years, including shared governance, shared service, shared chaplaincy, and shared financial responsibility.

Council passed a resolution in which Council agreed to:

- Extend the committee's commission for another year.
- Visit the school and meet some of the staff and volunteers.
- Consider having a Diocesan Council meeting there.
- Dedicate Communication Missioner staff time to helping the Collaboration Discernment Committee develop a communication plan.
- Commit Diocesan resources to fulfilling the communication plan.
- Talk about the collaboration with others in their parishes and districts.

- Share what they hear with the Collaboration Advisory Board.
- Look to the future in hope, and imagine a capital campaign in 2015 that could benefit both the school and the diocese.

Respectfully Submitted by
Rev. Mary Ann Brody

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Director of Theological Education: Official Report

Missioner for the Vocational Discernment of all the Baptized

Report:

I began this new position in January of this year. Bishop Singh invited me to focus on two areas of our common life:

1. Support and guide aspirants who are discerning a call to the ordained ministry. In this area I have:
 - Enabled and met with four new local teams, two for diaconal ministry, and two for priestly ministry.
 - Met one on one with aspirants for nine meetings.
 - Met with priest and aspirants in preparation for the formation of a local team.
 - Made regular reports of progress of aspirants to the Bishop's Office and COM.
 - Met with our students attending CRCDS.

2. Coach the newly formed Lay Committee of the COM. In this area I have:
 - Met with the leadership four times.
 - Attended and assisted at meetings of the committee including a work-day in August.
 - Attended COM meetings.

In addition to these two areas I have:

- Participated in an Appreciative Inquiry workshop. (Four Days.)
- Participated in a joint leadership work-day.
- Submitted the final copy of the revised Vocational Handbook to our Communications Missioner. This is now available in print and on line.
- Submitted an article *On Being a Missional Church for Tidings*.

It has been my pleasure and joy to serve the diocese in this role and continue to be blessed by the many opportunities of ministry afforded me.

Respectfully submitted

Peter W. Peters

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer: Official Report

Interfaith and ecumenical activity continues to be very active in Rochester. As Canon for Interreligious and Ecumenical Relations I serve as diocesan representative to the Interfaith Forum of Rochester, a group that meets bi-monthly for discussion of issues important to the interfaith community. The IFF has spent the past year learning about how different religious traditions define “justice” and what that means for social action in the world. I have served in this past year, at the request of the Sikh Gurdwara leadership, as a consultant with them about participation in interfaith activities in Rochester and how to integrate their community more into the activities in the Rochester interfaith community.

I serve as diocesan representative and as Chair (until September 2013) of the Christian Muslim Relations Commission and am a member of the Commission on Christian Jewish Relations. Both of these commissions meet monthly and prepare a variety of educational and community events serving their various constituencies. The Christian Muslim Relations Commission sponsored a series of interfaith conversations at the Islamic Center last fall, providing opportunities for community, round-table interfaith dialogue. I served as a presenter and facilitator at those presentations. The Christian Jewish Relations Commission devoted its time during 2012-2013 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. The CCJR also hosted its 17th year of monthly Jewish Christian Bible study looking at texts from Hebrew Scripture that form the basis of liturgies in both traditions. I was a presenter at one of those sessions along with Rabbi Alan Katz.

This past year, the various interfaith organizations and religious communities sponsored a half day interfaith conference – “The Dignity of Difference” which was held on June 2 at the RIT Inn and Conference Center. I was a member of the planning team for that conference and taught one of the sessions. The conference was attended by over 200 people and was enthusiastically received and well publicized. I appeared on WHAM TV prior to the conference as part of the community publicity for the event.

On May 22, I worked with members of the Interfaith Community and with Matthew Townsend at Diocesan House to put together an Interfaith Prayer service and discussion at Christ Church, Rochester on issues relating to ministry to and with Veterans. Bishop Jay Magness from the national church was our distinguished visitor and spoke at that event as one who is actively involved in ministry to veterans.

This past year our Christian Hindu dialogue group met monthly at the Hindu Temple of Rochester and delved into an interfaith study of the saints of the Hindu Tradition. Christians from a variety of denominations take part in that dialogue along with members of the Hindu Temple community.

I also serve as a diocesan representative to the Greater Rochester Community of Churches Faith in Action Network, which meets monthly. In March, the diocese, in conjunction with FAIN sponsored the fifth 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. This year we were able to involve both the African American Church community and the Hispanic church community in the walk.

I also serve on the program committee for the Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue at Nazareth College. In that capacity I have done lectures at several CISD educational programs including the Global Citizenship Conference and the Training the Trainers course. I was part of the Program Committee that sponsored a Global Citizenship Conference for high school students in March 2013. I was also a presenter at the "Sacred Texts in Human Contexts" academic conference at the Hickey Center in June 2013 and will contribute the paper from that conference to a book to be published in the next year.

As diocesan ecumenical and interreligious officer I represent our diocese at two meetings a year where Episcopal ecumenical officers from around the country gather. In the fall, the EDEIO officers of Province 2 gather in New York City for a day long meeting and then in the spring we meet at the annual gathering of the National Workshop on Christian Unity. The NWCU took place in Columbus, Ohio in April 2013. At General Convention 2012, a resolution was passed directing the EDEIO to gather data from all Episcopal dioceses regarding ecumenical and interreligious work that is happening around the church. I am serving as one of two EDEIO executive officers designing and administering the survey that will gather that data so that it can be presented to the Presiding Bishop's office and to our next General Convention in 2015.

I currently serve as co-editor of the Journal for Buddhist Christian Studies and have an article appearing in the 2013 volume of that journal.

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. 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

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Episcopal Relief & Development/Millennium Development Goals Official Report

As your missionary for Global Companionship, I have been making new global friends this year! In February I traveled to India to meet with organizations combating human trafficking and with organizations providing food, shelter, education, and job training for girls who have been rescued from human trafficking. I spent the majority of my time in Delhi and Kolkata (formerly known as “Calcutta”) and am looking forward to returning in January of 2014. Other denominations as well as some big corporations who are committed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) support the groups with whom I’m working. As a reminder, these are the 8 goals:

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Achieve universal primary education
Promote gender equality and empower women
Reduce child mortality
Improve maternal health
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Ensure environmental sustainability
Develop a global partnership for development

The work of Episcopal Relief and Development is also based on the MDGs as well as what will happen post 2015. Most recently, Episcopal Relief and Development has been working to provide relief to those affected by the floods in Colorado and has been collecting funds for All Saints in Peshawar, Pakistan, which was the target of a bombing in September. Episcopal Relief and Development has a strong social media presence and I encourage all of you to like them on Facebook, subscribe to their E-newsletter, and visit their new website (www.episcopalrelief.org.) I always love hearing about what congregations are doing to support Episcopal Relief and Development so please email me any time (motherdahn@hotmail.com) so that I can share your stories with the diocese and other provinces.

In July I returned to Tanzania to visit the Carpenter’s Kids. This was my fourth trip and each year it is easier to go and more difficult to return! I’ll be going again in July of 2014 and anyone is welcome to join me. The trip is life-changing—not only for the people going but for our partners in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. If you haven’t had a chance to look at the latest issue of Tidings, I would recommend it for all the inspirational stories of mission in our diocese. In it I talk more about my specific time in Tanzania this past July. It was a very busy and very productive trip! I will be attending the Carpenter’s Kids Steering Committee meeting in October to talk about next steps after Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo’s retirement in June of 2014.

I love coming to visit parishes to talk about my work and to give your congregation specific suggestions as to how they can get involved in mission partnerships both within and outside of the United States. Contact me! Thanks to my other committee members, Barbara Fowler and Tom Bennett. If you’re interested in joining us, don’t hesitate to give me a call (585)233-3100.

Submitted by The Rev. Dahn Dean Gandell

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Episcopal Senior Life Communities Official Report

Name of Organization: Episcopal SeniorLife Communities

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

Report:

At Episcopal SeniorLife Communities (ESLC), true inspiration is witnessed around us every day – the remarkable residents who challenge themselves to try something new, the dedicated staff that provides superior care, and the countless volunteers who passionately commit to making a difference in the lives of our residents. Our core values of compassion, dedication, friendliness, innovation, and respect remain at the forefront of all that we do.

This year we are inspired by the following highlights:

Loren Ranaletta, ESLC President and CEO, began his two-year term as Chair of the Board of Directors for Leading Age New York, a 620 member statewide not-for-profit aging services providers association. In addition Loren continues to serve on Governor Cuomo’s Medicaid Re-Design Task Force on Long Term Care. Loren is working on positive changes in state and federal policies that support the senior population through these two advocacy opportunities.

ESLC received national attention by being featured in the spring issue of *Inside HealthCare*, a national publication that covers a full spectrum of healthcare topics including senior care and rehabilitation services. The quarterly publication has a readership of more than 400,000 senior level executives across the country, with the goal to promote successful leadership practices. ESLC is honored to have been selected among the many organizations considered.

As many seniors desire to stay independent and are looking for various living options, ESLC is pleased to offer even more choices. Rockwood Center, an affordable senior housing community connected to the Brentland Woods campus in Henrietta, is one of those choices. The grand opening of this community took place in August with more than 200 guests attending to celebrate the milestone event. The new community is a tribute to the late Rockwood Jenkins, The Episcopal Church Home Administrator from 1963-1984.

Beatrice Place is another independent living option for seniors that partially opened in September. The community is re-purposed from the former Our Lady of Mercy church and school to create 73 senior living apartments for those 62+. A full opening, and ribbon cutting, is scheduled for November.

In addition, ESLC is committed to expanding services in order to provide more options for seniors to age in their place of choice. In doing so, Neighborhood Outreach Programs have been established to promote health and wellness to seniors in various neighborhoods throughout Monroe County, including Henrietta, the South Wedge, and North Greece. A pilot program was launched in 2012 with much success and is currently being replicated in these locations.

The overarching goal of the initiative is to assist seniors in maintaining independence by increasing knowledge, activity levels and overall health by offering fun, social programs for older adults. The program includes a tailored balance class, nutrition education, strength training, senior yoga, art classes, wellness presentations and other supportive health services. The Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation continues to be a strong supporter of these efforts.

Focusing on the overall health and wellbeing of the staff, ESLC offers a variety of opportunities for individualized weight loss and health promotion.

ESLC was pleased to have received a wellness grant from Fingerlakes Health Systems Agency to aid in the implementation and promotion of these efforts. Activities include weight loss contests, employee health and wellness fairs, public market days for employees to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, monthly lunch and learn sessions, and workshops on financial and emotional health. All of these initiatives assist us in supporting the importance of good health and wellness of our workforce. In addition, ESLC values employee feedback and is currently conducting an employee satisfaction survey.

ESLC's 17th annual golf tournament, with almost 200 in attendance, was a success due in part to the collective efforts of the generous volunteers, many of whom are members of Rochester area Episcopal parishes. More than \$56,000 was raised to support the purchase of a resident vehicle and fitness equipment for Beatrice Place. Residents and members of the community will benefit greatly from these additions designed to increase and encourage independence and physical fitness opportunities.

At the center of what we do are the residents for whom we provide excellent care. This is only possible with the quality staff and significant contributions of our 336 volunteers. We are thankful for the many volunteers from the Episcopal parishes that make an impact at Episcopal SeniorLife Communities. Two strong and ever growing partnerships are worthy of mention: Brentland Woods and St. Peter's; and Seabury Woods and the Church of the Epiphany. We have been continually successful in exceeding occupancy goals in all of our residential communities and this is certainly a direct result of those who serve with us at ESLC.

We are grateful to you, the good people of the Diocese of Rochester for your generous support throughout the years. We are honored that you continue to be loyal partners on our journey to fulfill our vision of creating communities that foster active, purposeful and fulfilled lives.

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
OASIS Official Report

Rochester is a network of people appointed by the Bishop who are firmly resolved that LGBT people must be treated equally. As such, during the past year it welcomed the decision by the Supreme Court of the United States to strike down section three of the Defense of Marriage Act thus affording marriage equality to everyone. Oasis Rochester serves as a counsel of advice to the Diocese on matters pertaining to the LGBT community and shares its knowledge and experience as LGBT people and their allies as requested by parishioners, congregations, leadership and elected and appointed bodies at all levels of the diocese. While as a committee it is not active in specific events it functions as a decentralized organization. Its members supported the Pride Parade in July 2013 the Jason and deMarco Concert "Joy in the Journey" held at Two Saints in October 2013. Through their participation in Integrity, Oasis Rochester members supported the Not All Like That (NALT) which directly challenges the false notion that all Christians are Anti-Gay. Additionally they ecumenically supported and helped promote the July 2013 event "God Loves Uganda" held at Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester.

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Prison Ministry Advisory Board Official Report

Name of Organization: Prison Ministry Advisory Board

Officer(s): Britton Hopkin – Chair

Members: Precious Bedell, Robert Crystal, Barbara Fornalik, Richard Frey, Keturah Gilbert, Delores Johnson, Richard Laidlaw, Gloria Lundberg, Mark Rennard, Sandra St. Martin, Kathy Walczak, Eleanor Welz

Meetings:

Dec. 8, 2012:	St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Rochester, NY
Feb. 23, 2013:	St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, Geneseo, NY
May 18, 2013:	Christ Episcopal Church, Corning, NY
Sept. 28, 2013:	Ferris Hills Senior Center, 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: Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA), Catholic Family Center, Compeer, Judicial Process Commission, Literacy Volunteers of Rochester, Northeast Storybook Project, Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, Safer Monroe Area Re-entry Taskforce (SMARTNY), Step-by-Step of Rochester, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

News – Events – and Updates 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.

Industry Limited Secure Updates: This year, the Industry Detention Facility for male youth offenders has continued to upgrade vocational and other educational opportunities for the residents. In addition to the on-campus Café staffed by residents and supervised by Mr. Richard Nereau, formerly a volunteer and now a part-time staff person, he has installed a hydroponics facility and fish farm also staffed by the residents. These facilities are producing tilapia fish and assorted salad greens. The facilities, the Café, the hydroponics growing tanks and the fish farm, are new opportunities for the residents to gain experience in culinary arts and in basic industrial processes while they are housed at Industry.

We have again, toured the facility and have written a follow-on e-newsletter on the new facilities at Industry with focus on vocational and career training for the residents.

Turning Points Family Resource Center: The Turning Points Resource Center, a project of St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene Church opened last December at its headquarters in St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on Chili Avenue in Rochester. The center, headed by Ms. Precious Bedell has helped many families visit their loved ones who are incarcerated in distant facilities, helped to provide "care packages" of food and clothing for them, as well as advisory and emotional support for their families. Our committee is working closely with Precious, and has produced an e-newsletter featuring Turnings Points. In August we produced our first video clip featuring Precious Bedell speaking about the center, the needs of the people the center is serving and what her goals are for the future. To view the video and read the e-newsletter, log onto our website: www.prisonministry-edr.org and follow the links to Turning Points.

Cub Scout Troop Beyond Bars – Troop 2000: Cub Scout Troop 2000, sponsored by St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Rochester, which serves boys whose family has been touched by incarceration, began operation this year. Statistically, children who have an incarcerated parent are 8 times more likely to become offenders themselves than that of the general population. Helping these children to develop wholesome relationships with each other and with adult mentors can make a huge difference in producing future adults more likely to be contributors to society rather than offenders. The troop currently meets at the Ryan Community Center in Rochester. Transportation of boys to the meeting site has been very difficult, and to date, the troop is only being attended by boys who live in the immediate neighborhood of the Ryan Community Center.

Northeast Storybook Project: Volunteers for the Storybook Project record bedtime stories read by incarcerated parents to their children, recordings and books are then given to the families. A one hour film is being produced by Linda Moroney of *Low to the Ground Pictures* for possible airing on PBS affiliates across the country about the Storybook Project. While the film project has been delayed until more money could be raised, Ms. Moroney is continuing to be optimistic about its ultimate completion. Linda has produced a second short trailer to promote the completion of the film. As for the Storybook project itself, recorded stories are now being sent to families on CDs rather than on tape cassettes.

Houses of Healing Groups Extended to Youth in Downtown Rochester Jail: The "Houses of Healing" group workshop series offered to men and women by Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry in the Monroe Correctional Facility are being extended from 8 week cycles to 10 week cycles in order to facilitate greater depth in their discussions. Several board members are participants in this program. RIJM continues to offer this series to youth incarcerated in the Monroe County Jail on Plymouth Avenue in downtown Rochester.

Cephas (Now "Peace Prints") to Work with Compeer: Peace Prints is now participating in an initiative begun by Safer Monroe Area Re-entry Taskforce (SMART) which will be providing mentoring in cooperation with COMPEER. Members of our Board have involvement with Peace Prints.

Recruiting Volunteers to Tutor / Mentor at Industry Limited Secure Facility: We are actively recruiting volunteers to work with incarcerated youth at the Industry Limited Secure Facility in Rush NY. With a leadership change in this facility, and with the active support of the Scottsville Rotary, volunteers are again being placed with students according to needs and participant skills. **For more information, contact Mr. Richard Nereau of the Scottsville Rotary. E-mail him at rcnereau@yahoo.com.**

Presentations to Diocesan Districts: The Diocesan Prison Ministry Advisory Board made a presentation to the Northeast District (The Very Rev. Jim Adams, Dean) in May 2013. We are hoping to make at least one more district presentation prior to the end of the calendar year, 2013.

Financial Needs for 2013: Continue funding at \$1,500 -- \$1,000 for website and e-newsletter services, \$500 for technology and promotional expenses for presentations and representation within the diocesan districts.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Britton Hopkin – Chair

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Public Policy Official Report

Name of Organization: Public Policy Committee

Officer(s): Dorothy Romanet, New Chair as of September 2013

Committee Members: Bruce Colburn, Robert Crystal, Barbara Deming, The Rev. Deborah Duguid-May, Christian Haller, Kathleen Jones, Carolyn Mok, The Rev. Philip Schaefer, and Marilyn Wienk

Report: The Public Policy Committee met six times since the last Convention. Usually we meet monthly except in the summer. We welcome visitors to attend our meetings.

Current committee members attend churches located throughout the diocese. Almost every congregation has one or more persons who serve as contacts to receive and pass on information about public policy issues that we are working on.

Several congregations participated in *Public Policy Sunday* during February or late in the spring of 2013. This past year the committee prepared and distributed materials for use in how-to initiate public policy efforts in their parishes as well as a list of resources we could make available for their Public Policy programs.

Parishioners from all over the diocese joined us for the *12th Annual Public Policy Luncheon Program* on Saturday, April 27, held at St. Michael's in Geneseo. John Klofas, Professor of Criminal Justice at

Rochester Institute of Technology, gave a presentation and led a discussion on *Gun Violence: What Can We Do About It?*

At this 82nd Diocesan Convention, the committee is co-sponsoring with youth of the diocese a *Resolution Concerning Public School Education* that focuses on the controversial Common Core Curriculum and high-stakes testing in New York State.

Members continue to work on the following issues:

- Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- Fair Labor Practices for Farm Workers
- Global Warming and Hydrofracking
- Gun Violence
- Peace in the Middle East
- Poverty and Welfare Reform
- Prison and Parole Reform
- Single-Payer Health Care

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Rural Migrant Ministries Official Report

Name of Organization: Rural & Migrant Ministry

Board Members; The Rev. Canon Julie Cicora, The Rev. Debs Duguid May, Ms Deb Lattime, Barbara Deming (Fellow)

Staff: Mr. Peter Mares, Outreach & Education Coordinator, Mr. Bill McKee (St John's Sodas), Liturgia Administrator, The Rev. Richard Witt, Executive Director

Report:

2013 accomplishments (WNY)

2012 saw Rural & Migrant Ministry continue to grow in its impact across the region and Diocese. We are grateful for the partnership of many individuals and congregations who have joined us as we engage in social transformation within the rural and migrant communities of the Diocese.

There is so much to hold up – so here is a brief glimpse. If you would like to know more, or get involved – give us a call or visit our website www.ruralmigrantministry.org

We are most grateful to the Northeast Partnership in Episcopal Ministry and especially to Grace Lyons and St John's Sodas, for providing "homes" for our ministry and numerous partners to help us carry out our programs. Our worker education center called Liturgia, continues to be based in the rectory of Grace. Lyons. We offer numerous programs including a summer youth program, English-as-a-second language, a music group, an emerging women's group and a leadership development program. Many of these programs also take place at St. Johns.

We had remarkable partnership this year with St. John's Canandaigua in which they commissioned one of their members, Mr. Grayson Morley to a six month fellowship with Liturgia. Grayson helped educate the Parish, as well as the whole Diocese with educational and communication programs – including one of the best blogs in the world! WITNESS <http://rmmwitness.tumblr.com/> We give special thanks also to the Diocesan Communications Missioner Matthew Townsend for his continued ministry with RMM, as he has helped educate us on getting the Good News out to the world.

We are also grateful to the congregations: Trinity, Greece, Grace, Lyons and St Luke's Brockport who joined with congregations from other denominations to participate in a ten-month spiritual/education journey with us through a program called Building Bridges. This program enables participants to develop or expand outreach with and among immigrants.

In addition to these efforts, RMM continued to lead the effort to stand with farmworkers as they seek equality under New York's labor laws. We led numerous vigils, marches and rallies in support of the workers. We also offered numerous forums, presentations and delegations for individuals and congregations who wanted to be stronger allies with the workers. To this end we offered two week long Alternative Spring Breaks for college students. We also offered internships for college students.

All of this went hand in hand with numerous outreach efforts within farm camps throughout the region

Finally, we are pleased to announce the inauguration of the George Exley Stiegler Award which will be given at our annual dinner (this year October 29th) in honor of a man who deeply inspired us, and paved the way for the presence of RMM in the Diocese: The Rev. George Exley Stiegler.

BELOVED COMMUNITY
82nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
United thank Offering (UTO) Official Report

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 newsletter

Progress for Goals 1 and 2 is reflected in the charts below:

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Parishes Participating in Convention In-gathering	38 out of 51 (75%)	45 out of 51 (88%)	41 out of 51 (80%)	45 out of 51 (88%)	47 out of 51 (92%)	47 out of 50 (94%)	46 out of 50 (92%)	45 out of 49 (91%)
Total In-gathering for year	\$11,829.54	\$10,451.94	\$12,180.77	\$14,446.40	\$12,573.26	\$13,358.23	\$26,697 (includes gifts)	\$11,223

In past years \$178,312 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

TOTAL \$178,312

Faithfully,
Susan Woodhouse,
Diocesan Coordinator for UTO