

## Episcopal Diocese of Chicago – Committee on Hunger - Report to Diocesan Convention 2022

In 2022, many of our congregations continued to serve the hungry in various ways during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Many people have continued to need assistance due to reduced income and rising inflation. Thank you to all who faithfully fed your neighbors in Christ's name during this challenging year!

The diocesan Hunger Committee serves as a resource for congregational and regional feeding programs, education on hunger issues, and advocacy efforts on behalf of those with food insecurity. The list of diocesan anti-hunger ministries on the committee's page of the diocesan website <https://www.episcopalchicago.org/at-work-in-the-world/hunger/> is based on the diocesan asset map that congregations are encouraged to update at least annually. The page also has links to food banks, resources for community gardens, advocacy organization, resources for hunger on college campuses, and hunger and relief organizations.

Representatives from the Hunger Committee help to organize the Chicago CROP Hunger Walk and promote other hunger walks throughout our diocese. The committee is one of the recipients of the 25% local portion of Chicago CROP Walk funds and distributes them to Chicago Episcopal congregation-based soup kitchens, food pantries, and other feeding programs that apply for its small grants each year. In spring 2022, the Hunger Committee distributed \$2,662.82 from the 2021 Chicago CROP Hunger Walk to three hunger ministries affiliated with Chicago congregations: St. Chrysostom's Kitchen, St. Thomas, and St. James Cathedral. Congregations which had greater participation in the walk received a greater share of funds.

In September 2022, the committee awarded \$4,600 from our diocesan budget to six hunger programs in our diocese: St. Ann's, Woodstock; St. Charles in St. Charles; Calvary, Lombard; and Atonement, Messiah-St. Bartholomew, and St. Thomas in Chicago.

The Hunger Committee encourages education and advocacy about hunger issues. It is the conduit for the diocese's membership in Bread for the World, a national ecumenical hunger advocacy organization, and the Illinois Hunger Coalition, which organizes state level advocacy and helps families or individuals apply for food assistance and find feeding programs in their communities.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Gary Cox, convener