

Episcopal Diocese of Chicago – Committee on Hunger - Report to Diocesan Convention 2025

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.

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.

In September 2025, the committee awarded \$6,600 from its diocesan budget to seventeen feeding programs affiliated with Episcopal Churches of our diocese: Trinity, Aurora (Sandwich Board); Messiah-St. Bartholomew, SS. George & Matthias, St. John, and St. Thomas, Chicago; St. Andrew's, Downers Grove; Grace, Galena (for United Churches of Galena); St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn (Glen House); St. Clement's, Harvey; Calvary, Lombard (Outreach House); St. James the Less, Northfield; Grace, Oak Park; St. Paul's, Peoria; Emmanuel, Rockford; St. Charles, St. Charles; St. Paul's, Warsaw; and Christ, Waukegan.

Representatives from the Hunger Committee help to organize the Chicago CROP Hunger Walk and promote other hunger walks throughout our diocese. The committee receives a share of the local portion of Chicago CROP Walk funds and distributes them to Chicago Episcopal congregation-based feeding programs that apply for its small grants. In 2025, \$2,392 was distributed among Messiah-St. Bartholomew, SS. George & Matthias, and St. James Cathedral. All congregations in our diocese are encouraged to participate in the CROP Hunger Walk closest to them; the walks raise funds for local feeding programs, international hunger relief, programs for refugees, and aid to those affected by disasters.

The committee has begun to plan for a networking event and workshop in spring 2026 for those who lead or support congregational feeding ministries, and one of our members is planning a workshop for feeding programs to help clients retain eligibility for SNAP and Medicaid despite recent Congressional actions to restrict those programs.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Gary Cox, convener