Reports

THE 189th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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Antiracism Commission (ARC) 2026 Annual Report

Our Antiracism Vision:

Our vision is a diocese and world,
that by God's grace,
is free from systemic racism.

A) ARC 2026 Strategic Priorities - ARC identified seven priorities for 2026.
   1) Diocesan Strategic Planning Process
   2) Antiracism Training
   3) Congregational Support
   4) Multicultural Ministries Collaboration
   5) Membership Recruitment
   6) Communications/Contact Development
   7) Ongoing Communication with the Bishop

B) **Diocesan Strategic Planning Process -** ARC believes strongly that to successfully free the diocese from systemic racism the commitment to antiracism work must be woven throughout the diocese, and that especially means the strategic planning process. We have four ARC members participating on the strategic planning task forces and look forward to continuing to work to build organizational structures to strengthen the antiracist identity of the diocese.

C) **Antiracism Training** - ARC's rollout of a free one-day on-site Faith and Race: Lay Leadership Training for congregational leaders has been an amazing success. Five training sessions have been held for more than 40 participants with more training scheduled for the last quarter of 2026. Thanks to the hard work of our 2026 facilitators from St. Luke's, Evanston, Kathleen Murphy, and from St. Charles Episcopal Church, St. Charles, Ed Manning, Katie Thomson, Melinda Oakey, and Kathy Heikkinen. We also hosted a Clergy Sacred Ground Circle in early 2026 for diocesan clergy facilitated by Kathleen Murphy, St. Luke's, Evanston, and the Rev. Anne Smith, Annunciation, Gurnee. We are reviewing antiracism training options for clergy candidates for 2027. Crossroads has discontinued the 2.5 Toward Liberation Training and ARC plans to have a new set of approved trainings by the end of 2026 for 2027. The ARC 2026 Antiracism

Training Position Paper provides the reasoning for antiracism training and describes the menu of trainings that were approved for 2026.

D) **Congregations** - The congregations working group worked on implementing Resolution F-185 Commitment to Antiracism Work in Congregations. The four components of Resolution F-185 are 1) Develop an antiracism program, 2) Form a team to execute the antiracism program, 3) Allocate funds to support the antiracism program and 4) Deliver a report from the antiracism team at the congregation's annual meeting and provide a copy to the bishop. F-185 reports are due to the bishop by March 31 of each year. Resources to help with implementation can be found at F-185 Implementation Ideas Webinar and F-185 Implementation Ideas Slides.

E) **ARC Membership** ARC Membership Bylaws - Like many diocesan entities, ARC is struggling with membership. ARC has had a number of members complete their terms in 2025, and we have a number of members leaving in 2026. We have been actively recruiting new members for 2027 through the deaneries, Multicultural Ministries, diocesan governance entities, weekly newsletter and social media. ARC generally meets monthly and members serve on one working group. For more information about joining ARC or to nominate candidates for membership, please email arc@episcopalchicago.org

Submitted by Co-Chairs Rev. Miguel Briones and Laura Singer
episcopalchicago.org/antiracism/

2026 ARC Members
The Rev. Migues Briones, Co-Chair and Treasurer
The Rev. Gary Cox
The Rev. Larry Green
Marvin Hill
Ed Manning
Laura Singer, Co-Chair
Rory Smith
Donna Williams
Crystal Plummer, Diocesan Staff Liaison

Archives 2026 Annual Report

Accessions are as follows:

St. Martin's Church, Des Plaines (32 archival boxes). Founded as a mission in 1946, this church closed at the end of 2025. Episcopal Charities and Community Services (one archival box) promotional material and four annual reports. Black Manifesto (one file folder) transfer of sermons and correspondence of rectors and congregations concerning the Black Manifesto and the General Convention Special Convention in South Bend in 1969. Transferred from St. David's Church, Glenview, parish archives. The November 2, 1918, issue of the Sign, the monthly newsletter of St. Bartholomew Church, Chicago.

Use of the Collection:

Eighty-one requests were received, four of these were on-site visits and 30 for sacramental records. The committee preparing the exhibition documentary, the history of St James Church/Cathedral on the 150th anniversary (dedication of the rebuilt church in 1875), completed its work with multiple visits to the archives in the winter of 2026. A volunteer for the Historical Society of Oak Park/River Forest requested a photograph of the head covering of an Episcopal deaconess around 1900. An article in the Diocese of Chicago (the monthly newsletter) with said photograph was found. The Rev. Brad Lindoom, rector of the Church of the Holy Nativity, Clarendon Hills, asked for information about the creator of the church's east window depicting the Nativity. The diocesan archives did not have any information about this person. An inquiry concerning the ordination/consecration of James Montgomery on September 29, 1962, especially the involvement of Bishop Francis Rowinski of the Polish National Catholic Church. Names of the deacons who were ordained to the priesthood on December 13, 1986. Names found in the official acts of Bishop Montgomery in the Journal of Convention. Request from the bishop's staff for Bishop Burrill's 18-page letter regarding St. Andrew's in the Fields, Grand Ridge, dated September 10, 1963. Letter found, scanned and sent. Another request from the bishop's staff for the 1993 Diocesan Convention report of the Strategic Planning Committee (debate and resolutions on voluntary giving). Found in the Journal of the 1993 diocesan convention.

Homewood School: In October 2025, Cian Ferrell, a sophomore at Brandeis University, contacted the historiographer for information about Homewood School run by the Rev. Thomas W. Haskins. It turns out that this short-lived school (1883-1888) existed on the grounds of Jubilee College, founded by Bishop Philander Chase in 1837, and closed at the

time of the Civil War. Then Bishop of Quincy leased some of the buildings to the Rev. Haskins. Though founded as a Christian boarding school, Mr. Ferrell discovered that it quickly expanded its mission to include Indigenous students, some of whom were sent from the Yankton Agency to Homewood and others sent from Homewood to Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania. This research is of great interest to the historiographer as he also serves as convener of the Gathering Truth Working Group of the Truth, Justice and Healing Commission on Native Boarding Schools.

Request for documentation of the presence of the Rev. Francis Rowinski of the Polish National Catholic Church at the ordination and consecration of James Winchester Montgomery as bishop suffragan on September 29,1962. Service bulletin did not include names of ecumenical guests but the file folder, "Polish National Catholic Church," includes a letter from Bp. Montgomery to a priest in Tasmania, Australia, dated October 5, 1975, in which he states Rowinski was present at this service.

Judy Knop completed entering records to Access to Memory, a content management system, for the congregations of the Diocese of Quincy and Episcopal Charities and Community Services. She has begun entering records for the agencies of ECCS. Betty Hickman continues to process the backlog of records in three banker boxes for the Episcopal Church Women. The Historiographer, as convener of the Gathering Truth Working Group of the Commission on Truth, Justice and Healing Commission Native Boarding Schools, continues working with Dr. Veronica Pasfield, the consultant, in documenting the complicity of The Episcopal Church in funding and maintaining these boarding schools that now number over 50. Both the historiographer and Dr. Pasfield have joined the Chicago Area Archivist NARA Chicago Closure Committee in an effort to stop the closure of the Chicago regional center.

We thank Crystal Plummer as the diocesan staff person appointed to support the work of the diocesan archives.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Hickman
Judy Knop
Newland Smith, Historiographer

Audit Review Committee 2026 Annual Report

The Audit Review Committee (the "committee") is appointed by the bishop to read and review the audited financial statements, audit reports, and supplementary financial information furnished by, and to meet with, the auditors engaged by the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago (the "diocese"). The current members of the committee are Lonn W. Myers, CPA, and Christine E. Price, CPA. The committee has read the audit reports submitted by Selden Fox, Ltd. covering the December 31, 2025, Statements of Financial Position of the corporations and funds of the diocese listed herein and the related Statements of Activities and Statements of Cash Flows for the year 2025, as well as the supplementary financial information furnished by Selden Fox, Ltd. Specifically, audited financial statements, audit reports, and supplementary financial information were reviewed for (1) the Administrative and Program Fund of the Diocese of Chicago (an unincorporated entity organized pursuant to canon law to conduct the business affairs of the diocese); (2) The Bishop and Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Chicago; (3) The Bishop of Chicago and His [sic] Successors in Office, Funds Account; (4) Episcopal Charities; (5) The Trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Diocese of Chicago; (6) The Society for the Relief of Aged and Infirm Clergy and Widows; and (7) the Diocesan Foundation. Representatives from Selden Fox, Ltd. met virtually with the committee to discuss each of the audited financial statements, audit reports, and supplementary financial information. Also present at this virtual meeting were members of the bishop's staff: Keith Kampert, diocesan treasurer, and Rebecca Elfring-Roberts, diocesan director of finance.

These audit reports show that, except for qualification of the audit report for the financial statements of The Bishop and Trustees due to its long-standing exclusion of depreciation and accumulated depreciation therefrom, the audited statements present fairly in all material respects the financial positions as of December 31, 2025, and the 2025 changes in net assets or results of operations and cash flows of the audited entities in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The audited financial statements of the Administrative and Program Fund include a Status of Operations footnote describing its current reliance on grants and allocations from other diocesan entities to fund expenses and stating that those entities have limited funds available to continue such funding.

Should any congregation wish to review one or more of the audit reports in detail, copies are available from the treasurer's office.

Audit Review Committee:
Lonn W. Myers, CPA, Chair
Christine E. Price, CPA

Bishop and Trustees 2026 Annual Report

This report presents the activities of The Bishop and Trustees (B&T), the diocesan real estate corporation, based on its calendar year 2025 audit and its unaudited financial statements for eight months of 2026.

B&T holds title to real estate used by the cathedral, mission churches, and campus ministries, as well as the diocesan headquarters, the bishop's residence and real estate received from closed churches. It is governed by Diocesan Canon 35. It works to assure that work on church buildings is done with appropriate liability insurance, lien waivers, building permits, and legally sufficient contracts. Comprehensive *Guidelines for Notification for Approval of Projects by Mission Congregations* indicate when to notify B&T of and seek approval for projects. It is available from the director of property management, of the bishop's staff. In 2025, B&T awarded $307,917 in direct property-related grants and other grants to mission congregations. Through August 31, 2026, B&T has awarded $92,022 in such grants.

B&T's 2025 audit reports $1,936.951 as its 2025 change in net assets ($1,178,572 was property received from closed parishes) and $43,107,461 as its net assets at December 31, 2025 (over 80% is real estate). B&T's non-real estate assets consist of money market funds, receivables, and Diocesan Foundation participation units. In 2025, B&T's interest and dividend income totaled $245,566, and its net gain on investments totaled $729,949. B&T's interest and dividend income through August 31, 2026, totaled $178,337; it is budgeted to total $251,392 in 2026. In 2025, B&T sold 113 East Lafayette Street, Ottawa, Illinois (formerly, Christ Episcopal Church). The net proceeds of the sale were $173,572 There have not been any sales so far in 2026.

B&T previously funded Vitality Grants to congregations in the Diocese of Chicago selected by a grants committee supported by the bishop's staff. In 2025, B&T provided $273,334 for Vitality Grants. In 2026, the Diocesan Administrative and Program Fund is funding Vitality Grants, and B&T is contributing $350,000 to the Diocesan Administrative and Program Fund for its costs of operating St. James Commons at 65 East Huron Street, Chicago.

On September 15, 2020, Bishop Lee announced that the Diocese of Chicago intended to offer its downtown Chicago headquarters at 65 E. Huron for sale. B&T holds title to the property. On May 23, 2024, Bishop Clark announced a Letter of Intent between B&T and

St. James Cathedral for sale of the headquarters to the cathedral. The cathedral is continuing to seek funds for the purchase, while it and B&T seek to finalize transaction documents. Whether and when any sale occurs depends on the parties' agreeing on final terms for the sale and the cathedral's being able to make the payment required at closing.

B&T will receive from Diocesan Council and will review and provide comments, if any, on the proposed 2027 budget for the Diocese of Chicago and, when the budget meets with B&T's approval, assent to its presentation to the 2026 Convention.

Lonn W. Myers, First Vice President, The Bishop and Trustees

Clergy Relief Society 2026 Annual Report

The Clergy Relief Society was set up more than 100 years ago to provide relief for clergy and spouses whose focus in ministry had been so dedicated that their pension provision did not meet adequately the needs of retirement.

The Clergy Relief Society has funds invested in the Diocesan Foundation and uses the dividend income to provide grant assistance to retired clergy and surviving spouses of retired clergy in the Diocese of Chicago. Grants are awarded annually (in quarterly increments) based on need, which is determined by income. These grants are essential for those who receive them. The CRS Board is comprised of the bishop of Chicago (ex-officio), a chair, and three other board members. Regular meeting attendees include two members of the bishop's staff and retired clergy chaplains.

The criteria for Clergy Relief Society grants are:

1) Priests or deacons canonically resident in the diocese at the time of retirement and who have given more than 10 years of service in the diocese (Quincy or Chicago).

2) Widowed spouses/partners of such clergy.

3) Widowed spouses/partners of clergy who died prior to retirement.

In 2025, grants totaling $97,272 provide quarterly awards to 14 individuals or couples. Grant levels are based upon the applicant's income in relation to the state recognized poverty levels, set at three levels. Thus, three grantees will receive $10,640 this year, four will receive $8,400, and seven will receive $4,704.

In 2025 we were also in the position to award an exceptional bonus to recipients at Christmas. This was due to generous contributions from donors.

Respectfully submitted,
CRS Board Members
Judy Bross
The Rev. George Hull
Kay Lewis, Board Chair

Commission on Global Ministry 2026 Annual Report

The Commission on Global Ministry (COGM), formed by resolution in 2000, aims to foster connections within the Diocese of Chicago to assist willing parishes in the creation of their own connections and work. COGM oversees sub-committees that work with Companion Diocese Relationships (CDRs) in churches throughout Southeastern Mexico and Renk, South Sudan. CDR's are intended to benefit both partners through mutual encouragement and prayer for one another; intensified knowledge of and concern for one another; and the exchange of resources, both spiritual and material.

These relationships have continued to grow and be strengthened by defining and developing an understanding of what it means within and across each of our ministry contexts.

Delegates at convention in 2023 passed a resolution to extend companion relationships for five more years (until 2028). Diocesan activities with the Diocese of Southeastern Mexico were limited again this year due to uncertainties within the bishop's office of SEMEX. Although a new primate was elected this year, significant division continues among the bishops, and a unified province is still not in sight. Bishop Simon Chuang Ayok Deng of the Diocese of Renk communicates regularly with participating parishes in our diocese. The region remains in turmoil with continuous emigration of residents from the Republic of Sudan to South Sudan to escape the continuing conflict. For this reason, it is not possible to visit Bishop Simon at this time. The church continues to provide necessary spiritual support for those in the area.

By resolution of Diocesan Convention 2004, Companion Diocese Sunday was established to be the second Sunday after Epiphany.

For further information, contact Chairpersons Gary Martin, gcmartin56@gmail.com or Jackie Kraus, jackie.kraus41@gmail.com.

"Church doesn't have a mission. God's mission has a church."

Commission on Ministry 2026 Annual Report

The Commission on Ministry is comprised of 12 clergy and lay members from across the diocese who are appointed by its chair, Bishop Paula Clark, each year:

- Bishop Paula Clark (chair)
- Emily Culbertson, St. Christopher's, Oak Park (co-vice chair)
- Fran Holliday, Trinity, Wheaton (co-vice chair)
- Rose Cicero, Holy Nativity, Clarendon Hills and St. Andrew's, Downers Grove
- Deborah DeManno, St. Lawrence, Libertyville
- C.J. Duffie, Holy Family, Park Forest
- Jess Elfring-Roberts, Church of Our Saviour, Chicago
- Michelle James, St. Edmund's, Chicago
- Brenda Lotesta, Trinity, Wheaton
- Juan Reed, Spiritual Director
- Tommy Rogers, Bishop Anderson House
- Adam Spencer, St. Elisabeth's, Glencoe
- Staff Liaison: Andrea Mysen, Canon to the Ordinary

In late August 2025, the commission and Bishop Paula Clark announced a pause in the formation of new discernment committees and acceptance of new nominations for postulancy. Later, the commission temporarily froze candidacy interviews as well, recognizing important work needed to take place in this stage. The commission devoted this year to the following activities:

- Providing care for the 27 people in formation (as of September 2026: three diaconal postulants and one vocational deacon ordained in June 2026; 21 priesthood postulants and two transitional deacons). This work takes place in partnership with the Presbyterate Formation Team and the newly formed Diaconal Formation Team.

- Clarifying with the bishop the important core gifts necessary to pursue ordained ministry.

- Redesigning many aspects of the formation process, including the aspirancy and nomination process and the milestones for candidacy, with consulting assistance from Sally Ulrey of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

- Undertaking important relational work with the Standing Committee to clarify norms and establish clear processes for our work together, with support from the presiding bishop's office.
- Listening deeply to senior clergy of color in this diocese about their experiences of racism in the formation process and afterwards.
- Continuing to partner with the Anti-Racism Commission to explore the necessary education and training for ordained clergy.

The commission anticipates both reopening the entry paths to postulancy and resuming candidacy interviews with processes that offer more clarity, intentionality, and communication. Our goal is a process that is consistent, equitable, and pastoral, and is equipped to serve the changing nature of today's church and tomorrow's ordinands.

The commission also looks forward to working with the person hired for the canon for formation position posted in August 2026, as this person will provide a critical leadership and connective role for the people in the care of the commission and the diocesan bodies who collaborate in the formation process.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Culbertson and the Rev. Fran Holliday, co-vice-chairs, Commission on Ministry

Committee on Hunger 2026 Annual Report

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://episcopalchicago.org/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 Feeding Illinois, which coordinates food banks in Illinois, helps Illinois residents find feeding programs in their communities, and provides information related to food assistance in Illinois.

In September 2026, the committee awarded $6,600 from its diocesan budget among 15 feeding programs affiliated with Episcopal churches of our diocese: Christ, Waukegan; Trinity, Aurora; Calvary, Lombard; Grace, Oak Park; Grace, Galena; All Saints, Rock Island; St. Paul's, Kankakee; Messiah-St. Bartholomew, Chicago; Holy Nativity, Chicago; St. Paul's, Peoria; St. Thomas, Chicago; St. Helena's, Burr Ridge; St. John's, Chicago; St. Charles, St. Charles; and St. Clement's, Harvey.

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 2026, $2,113 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 Hunger Committee was represented in the Social Outreach and Prophetic Witness task force that was formed after the 2025 convention. It has proposed a networking event for those who lead or support congregational feeding ministries and other outreach or social ministries and invites others involved in these efforts to join in planning an event.

Respectfully submitted, the Rev. Gary Cox, convener

Common Mission Share 2026 Annual Report

Each fall, congregations are asked to make a pledge to the diocese for the coming year to support the common mission undertaken by our bishop. The diocesan canon regulating congregational giving is Canon 40. As outlined in Canon 40, this pledge is voluntarily given. The diocesan convention has set guidelines for giving, based on normal operating income (Line A) figures submitted in the congregation's annual parochial report.

- If Line A is under $100,000 – Please pledge 11% of your income to the diocese
- If Line A is $100,000-$200,000 – Please pledge 13% of your income to the diocese
- If Line A is over $200,000 – Please pledge 15% of your income to the diocese

Congregational pledges currently provide just under half of the operating revenue in the diocesan budget. The historical trends in giving provide valuable insight for future planning.

- In 2026, 93 of 110 congregations made pledges to support the common mission, which total $2,010,034. In 2025, 94 of 111 congregations made gifts to support the common mission, with gifts totaling $1,949,684. Therefore, there **is an expected 3% increase in pledge revenue** between 2025 and 2026.
- While pledge guidelines are 11-15%, **on average congregations are pledging 5.9% of normal operating income**, with six congregations pledging at or above the amount designated by the guidelines.[1]
- Five years ago, in 2021, congregation contributions totaled $2,229,041 and 10 years ago, in 2016, congregation contributions totaled $2,374,219.

A chart that outlines 2026 pledges, those pledges as a percentage of 2024 operating income, and 2025 receipts is found on the following pages. Current year pledge requests are based on the parochial report information from two years prior, due to filing timelines.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Elfring-Roberts, Director of Finance

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[1] The calculation to determine this average **does not** include: **1)** Congregations who *have not* made a 2026 pledge **and**, **2)** Congregations who *have* made a 2026 pledge, but whose 2024 Operating Income has *not* been made available to the diocese. See the accompanying chart for clarification under the column titled "Pledge as a % of 2024 Income".

Congregation Pledge Report 2026

City	Name	2026 Pledge	2026 Pledge as a % of 2024 Income	2025 Amt Paid
Antioch	ST. IGNATIUS	$ 9,120	4.4%	$ 8,880
Arlington Heights	ST. SIMON	$ 15,000	4.7%	$ 15,000
Aurora	ST. DAVID	$ 10,000	5.7%	$ 6,500
Aurora	TRINITY	$ 10,592	4.2%	$ 10,589
Barrington	ST. MICHAEL	$ 54,041	7.0%	$ 48,427
Barrington Hills	ST. MARK	$ 12,000	3.2%	$ 15,000
Batavia	CALVARY	$ 17,722	7.3%	$ 17,220
Belvidere	HOLY TRINITY	$ 2,400	2.8%	$ 2,400
Berwyn	ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS	$ 6,500	1.3%	$ 6,000
Bloomingdale	INCARNATION	$ -	No Pledge	$ -
Blue Island	STS.JOSEPH & AIDAN	$ -	No Pledge	$ -
Bolingbrook	ST. BENEDICT	$ 7,446	7.4%	$ 5,692
Burr Ridge	ST. HELENA	$ -	No Pledge	$ 750
Chicago	ALL SAINTS	$ 50,000	7.6%	$ 50,000
Chicago	ASCENSION	$ 78,000	7.7%	$ 78,000
Chicago	ATONEMENT	$ 20,000	2.2%	$ 19,895
Chicago	CATHEDRAL OF ST. JAMES	$ 116,000	13.9%	$ 116,000
Chicago	CRISTO REY	$ 1,200	1.8%	$ 600
Chicago	GRACE	$ 16,700	3.9%	$ 26,200
Chicago	HOLY NATIVITY	$ -	No Pledge	$ -
Chicago	MESSIAH ST. BARTHOLOMEW	$ 2,400	Not Available	$ 2,100
Chicago	OUR SAVIOUR	$ 24,000	4.2%	$ 28,080
Chicago	SANTA TERESA DE AVILA	$ 3,900	2.9%	$ 3,600
Chicago	ST. CHRYSOSTOM	$ 60,000	4.4%	$ 60,000
Chicago	ST. EDMUND	$ 31,000	7.4%	$ -
Chicago	ST. JOHN	$ 23,000	6.8%	$ 22,000
Chicago	ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND	$ 500	1.2%	$ 450
Chicago	ST. MARTIN	$ 3,000	Not Available	$ 3,000
Chicago	ST. PAUL & THE REDEEMER	$ 25,000	Not Available	$ 22,917
Chicago	ST. PAUL'S BY-THE-LAKE	$ 23,000	6.8%	$ 18,000
Chicago	ST. PETER	$ 34,096	15.0%	$ 23,475
Chicago	ST. THOMAS	$ 34,500	12.4%	$ 34,500
Chicago	STS.GEORGE/MATTHIAS	$ 1,500	Not Available	$ 2,000
Chicago	TRINITY	$ -	No Pledge	$ -
Clarendon Hills	HOLY NATIVITY	$ 20,000	6.0%	$ 20,000
Deerfield	ST. GREGORY	$ 21,371	4.9%	$ 20,500
DeKalb	ST. PAUL	$ 12,300	13.0%	$ 12,300
Dixon	ST. LUKE	$ 6,600	Not Available	$ 6,000
Downers Grove	ST. ANDREW	$ 47,589	6.5%	$ 48,604
Elgin	REDEEMER	$ 2,400	1.9%	$ 2,400
Elgin	ST. HUGH OF LINCOLN	$ 20,000	7.8%	$ 10,000
Elk Grove Village	ST. NICHOLAS	$ 1,800	Not Available	$ 1,825
Elmhurst	OUR SAVIOUR	$ 10,500	5.1%	$ 10,500
Evanston	ST. MATTHEW	$ 11,000	2.4%	$ 10,000
Evanston	ST. ANDREW & PENTECOST	$ -	No Pledge	$ -
Evanston	ST. LUKE	$ 66,300	8.0%	$ 70,946
Evanston	ST. MARK	$ 15,000	4.4%	$ 15,000
Flossmoor	ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST	$ 21,000	9.0%	$ 20,304
Freeport	GRACE	$ 7,500	3.1%	$ 7,500
Galena	GRACE	$ 24,200	8.4%	$ 22,000
Galesburg	GRACE	$ -	No Pledge	$ -
Geneva	ST. MARK	$ -	No Pledge	$ -

Congregation Pledge Report 2026

City	Name	2026 Pledge	2026 Pledge as a % of 2024 Income	2025 Amt Paid
Glen Ellyn	ST. BARNABAS	$ 3,480	Not Available	$ 2,292
Glen Ellyn	ST. MARK	$ 10,000	1.4%	$ 10,000
Glencoe	ST. ELISABETH	$ 39,500	11.1%	$ 38,500
Glenview	ST. DAVID	$ 31,000	5.3%	$ 30,000
Grayslake	ST. ANDREW	$ -	No Pledge	$ -
Gurnee	ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LADY	$ 10,000	5.3%	$ 10,000
Hanover Park	ST. COLUMBA	$ 1,800	5.2%	$ 1,800
Harvey	ST. CLEMENT	$ 2,000	15.5%	$ 2,000
Highland Park	TRINITY	$ 7,104	3.2%	$ 7,104
Hinsdale	GRACE	$ 10,000	1.3%	$ 10,000
Joliet	ST. EDWARD AND CHRIST	$ 7,500	5.3%	$ 9,500
Kankakee	ST. PAUL	$ 6,504	4.5%	$ 6,504
Kenilworth	HOLY COMFORTER	$ 145,000	8.5%	$ 145,000
Kewanee	ST. JOHNS	$ 1,500	4.6%	$ 1,500
La Grange	EMMANUEL	$ 10,000	3.5%	$ 8,000
La Salle	ST. PAUL	$ -	No Pledge	$ 300
Lake Forest	HOLY SPIRIT	$ 150,000	6.9%	$ 150,000
Lake Villa	SAGRADA FAMILIA	$ -	No Pledge	$ -
Lewistown	ST. JAMES	$ -	No Pledge	$ -
Libertyville	ST. LAWRENCE	$ 10,000	2.2%	$ 10,000
Lockport	ST. JOHN	$ -	No Pledge	$ 1,200
Lombard	CALVARY, LOMBARD	$ 18,200	6.1%	$ 17,542
Macomb	GOOD SHEPHERD	$ 840	1.4%	$ 900
McHenry County	TRINITY	$ 15,000	3.7%	$ 14,500
Morris	ST. THOMAS	$ 10,000	12.6%	$ 8,800
Morrison	ST. ANN	$ 4,400	5.1%	$ 4,400
Naperville	ST. JOHN	$ 25,000	4.2%	$ 34,089
New Lenox	GRACE	$ 3,000	1.7%	$ 2,750
Northbrook	ST. GILES	$ 4,200	0.7%	$ 4,200
Northfield	ST. JAMES THE LESS	$ 20,000	4.4%	$ 31,000
Oak Park	GRACE	$ -	No Pledge	$ 5,000
Oak Park	ST. CHRISTOPHER	$ 25,584	8.0%	$ 6,000
Oregon	ST. BRIDE	$ -	No Pledge	$ 1,500
Palatine	ST. PHILIP	$ 10,000	6.1%	$ 10,000
Palos Park	TRANSFIGURATION	$ 28,000	8.2%	$ 28,000
Park Forest	HOLY FAMILY	$ 7,500	5.7%	$ 7,500
Park Ridge	ST. MARY	$ 45,000	9.7%	$ 45,000
Peoria	ST. PAUL'S	$ 5,000	0.4%	$ 10,000
Pontiac	GRACE	$ 3,300	7.4%	$ 3,300
Prospect Heights	ONE IN CHRIST	$ -	No Pledge	$ -
River Forest	CHRIST	$ 8,400	9.6%	$ 8,400
Riverside	ST. PAUL	$ 1,800	Not Available	$ 1,800
Rock Island	ALL SAINTS	$ 9,000	6.0%	$ 9,000
Rockford	EMMANUEL	$ 15,000	3.3%	$ 15,000
Rockford	ST. ANSKAR	$ 2,200	Not Available	$ 2,000
Saint Charles	ST. CHARLES	$ 1,200	0.4%	$ 1,200
Sterling	GRACE	$ 5,000	3.2%	$ 5,000
Streator	CHRIST	$ 4,380	15.4%	$ 4,380
Sycamore	ST. PETER	$ 4,700	2.2%	$ 500
Warsaw	ST. PAULS	$ -	No Pledge	$ -
Wauconda	HOLY APOSTLES	$ 12,000	14.5%	$ 12,000
Waukegan	CHRIST	$ 11,000	2.8%	$ 10,000

Congregation Pledge Report 2026

City	Name	2026 Pledge	2026 Pledge as a % of 2024 Income	2025 Amt Paid
Waukegan	NUESTRA SENORA DE GUADALUPE	$ 900	0.2%	$ 700
West Dundee	ST. JAMES	$ 12,000	7.7%	$ 12,000
Western Springs	ALL SAINTS	$ 15,000	5.2%	$ 10,000
Wheaton	TRINITY	$ 42,000	8.4%	$ 42,000
Wilmette	ST. AUGUSTINE	$ 64,865	14.2%	$ 62,370
Winnetka	CHRIST	$ 150,000	7.1%	$ 150,000
Totals/Average		**2,010,034**	**5.9%**	**1,949,684**

Congregations Commission 2026 Report

In recent years, Congregations Commission has served as an umbrella for two areas: (1) The College for Congregational Development (CCD), including the annual trainings and the network of consultants, and (2) the Vitality Grant Program. However, that changed this year, with the College for Congregational Development training program on hiatus as of August 2026, and Vitality Grants for 2027 and future years being overseen by Diocesan Council. As of this year's diocesan convention, Congregations Commission is an inactive commission that is poised to be re-imagined through strategic planning initiatives.

CCD:

While the CCD annual training program is on hiatus, materials from CCD are being utilized in other formation events such as monthly zoom calls with wardens of lay-led churches and Fresh Start gatherings.

CCD-trained consultants are available to work with congregations in a number of ways, including vestry retreats, vestry consultations, ministry reviews, and conflict mediations. Requests for consultants should be directed to Canon Andrea Mysen, who oversees the consultant network.

Vitality Grants:

Vitality Grants for 2026 were awarded in late 2025 and were funded through the 2026 diocesan budget. A grant team with membership from various diocesan entities awarded $275,000 to 18 congregations. The process and funding source for grants will continue going forward but will be overseen by Diocesan Council.

2026 Vitality Grant Team who made award decisions in 2025: José Arroyo (Hispanic Affairs committee), Marvin Hill, (Antiracism Commission), Larry Green (Antiracism Commission), L. D. Wood-Hull (Bishop and Trustees), Pat Cornelius-Woods (Diocesan Council), and Varsie Geisler (at-large member.)

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Mysen, Canon to the Ordinary

Diocesan Council 2026 Annual Report

The Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago (Canon 31) charge the Diocesan Council (council) to "administer the missionary, educational, and social work of the diocese," to implement approved resolutions of the diocesan convention and any ongoing work needed regarding legislation and resolutions between conventions, and to provide general oversight of the financial affairs of the diocese.

The Diocesan Council is comprised of one clergy and one lay representative from each of the 10 deaneries in the diocese. Members serve three-year terms and are eligible for reappointment not to exceed two consecutive terms. In 2026, we welcomed new clergy and lay representatives from the Oak Park and Rockford deaneries as well as new clergy representatives from the Joliet and Waukegan deaneries and a new lay representative from the Elgin deanery.

The council was also pleased to have the regular participation of Bishop Paula Clark in her role as president of the council. Key administrative support was provided to the council by Andrea Mysen, canon to the ordinary and chief of staff, and Rebecca Elfring-Roberts, comptroller. Frequent updates on the ongoing development of the diocesan strategic plan were provided by T.J Houlihan, canon for development, and Crystal Plummer, canon for networking.

The council met via Zoom in December 2025, and February, May, and September 2026, and will convene for its final meeting of the year in December 2026. In June 2026, the council held a day-long in-person retreat at St. James, West Dundee. The focus of this extended meeting included presentations and discussion on 1) the composition of the diocese as reported in the 2025 Parochial Report, 2) the strategic planning process, 3) the 2027 budget process and its challenges, and 4) strategies for enhancing communication and connectedness across the diocese.

At each of its meetings, the council regularly reviewed clergy and congregational transitions within the diocese as well as diocesan financial performance with a special focus of the Administration and Program Fund (A&P). In addition, the council reviewed the status and implementation of resolutions passed at the 2025 Diocesan Convention, resulting in 1) endorsing the bishop's call for observance of the +++++Sunday on February 22, 2026, 2) forming a task forces to review clergy compensation, and 3) initiating convention approved revisions to the canons and constitution. At its upcoming September 2026 meeting, council will review the proposed 2027 budget for final approval,

and in the December 2026 meeting, council will consider its 2027 work plan and receive reports of the external accounting audits for key financial entities of the Diocese of Chicago.

In addition to addressing business of the full council, members are asked to serve as liaisons to the various commissions, committees, and task forces of the diocese. Representatives of the council served on the team which awards annual Vitality Grants, the Strategic Planning Committee Task Force for Sustainability

In 2024, the council authorized formation of a Diocesan Finance Committee to advise the bishop on the financial management of the diocese and the development of a path toward financial sustainability. Three representatives of the council served on the Diocesan Finance Committee, along with one representative each from the Standing Committee, Bishop & Trustees Committee, and the Trustees for the Endowment, and two at-large members. This year the Finance Committee provided guidelines for the 2027 budget process, which continues implementing a multi-year plan to eliminate historic A&P budget deficits and incorporates priorities identified through the diocesan strategic planning process. This proposed 2027 budget will be submitted to the full Diocesan Council for review and approval at its September 2026 meeting.

A recurring theme throughout all Diocesan Council deliberations has been to hear and advocate for the concerns of the deaneries and their congregations, and to identify ways to increase communication and collaboration across our large and diverse diocese. As the Diocesan Council looks toward 2027 and the continued implementation of the new strategic plan priorities and recommendations, it remains fully committed to these objectives.

Respectively submitted,
Patricia Cornelius Woods, Messiah-St Bartholomew—Chicago
Warden of Diocesan Council

Eco DioChicago 2026 Annual Report

Since establishing our fiscal sponsor relationship with Episcopal Charities last year in order to receive funding from ILSFA to launch our Caring Light campaign, Eco DioChicago has experienced significant growth in organizational maturity, team expansion, and the successful execution of an ambitious educational campaign. This report highlights our key achievements, events to date, and collaborative efforts over the past year, demonstrating the tangible impact of our work and the strength of our partnerships.

Major Events & Community Engagement

ILSFA Workshop Events

Eco DioChicago hosted a series of Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) workshops at churches across the diocese, engaging diverse congregations and communities:

- St. Michael & All Angels, Berwyn (June)
- Christ Episcopal, Waukegan (July)
- St. Charles, St. Charles (August)
- St. David's, Aurora (September)
- Atonement, Chicago (October)

ILSFA Community Meetings

We also joined at events hosted by other churches and organizations across our diocese to share resources and foster dialogue about Environmental Effect, including:

- Diocesan Convention, Rockford (November 2025)
- Christ Episcopal, Waukegan (March)
- Power Up Rochelle: Your Voice, Our Energy Future, Rochelle (April)
- Bishop & Trustees Meeting (August)
- Zoom Grant Recipient Call with Episcopal Charities (October)
- Atonement, Chicago (October)

ILSFA Tabling Events

Eco DioChicago maintained a visible presence at two green tabling events to raise awareness and engage with the community:

- Aurora Green Fest, Aurora (May)
- Fall Nature Fest, Chicago (September)

ILSFA 1-on-1 Calls
We conducted **14+ one-on-one calls** with churches across the diocese via Zoom, providing personalized support and guidance.

- St. Mark's, Geneva
- St. Michael & All Angels, Berwyn
- Christ Episcopal, Waukegan
- St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn
- St. Chrysostom's, Chicago
- Eileen Roberts from Bexley Seabury
- Trinity, McHenry
- St. Augustin's, Wilmette
- St. Paul's, Peoria
- St. Mark's, Evanston
- St. David's, Aurora
- The Well Spirituality Center, Chicago
- Emmanual Episcopal, Rockford
- Bishop & Trustees, Chicago

Additionally, we held **two meetings** with churches unable to use ILSFA to start green teams (St. Augustine's, Wilmette and St. Mark's, Geneva).

Outreach & Collaboration
Our outreach extended beyond workshops, events and one-on-one calls. We also engaged in countless collaboration calls with:

- Faith in Place
- Province 5 Leadership
- Episcopal Church Leadership
- The Green Caucus
- Cross-denominational partners

These efforts ensured our work aligned with broader initiatives within The Episcopal Church and beyond.

We also co-hosted this year's One Diocese, One Book reading suggestion and call, held annually by the **Peace and Justice Committee**. At their request, we recommended the book "Come, Have Breakfast" by Elizabeth Johnson. Additionally, one of our members, Terry DeLisio, helped facilitate the Zoom discussion with the author.

We also are collaborating with the **Youth Advisory Council** to encourage churches to host Youth Service Weekend this fall with the theme being care for creation, in conjunction with the Season of Creation and Feast of St. Francis on or near October 4.

Leadership & Regional Impact

Eco DioChicago played a leadership role in regional and provincial initiatives:

- **Five members** attended the **Big Provincial Gathering** (August 30 – September 1), with **two team members presenting**.
- We are **collaborating with the Diocese of the Great Lakes (Wisconsin)** to establish an **Eco-Region for the Midwest/Great Lakes area** within The Episcopal Church.

Energy Audit Initiatives

First Cohort of Grant Funding for Level II Energy Audits

Last year we reported that five congregations received Level II Energy Audits via a group grant request submitted to Episcopal Charities.

In February 2026, representatives of each of the five cohort parishes participated in a Zoom meeting convened by Eco DioChicago and All Saints for the purpose of discussing our experience with the audit process. Overall, the reviews were good. By the time we met, each of the parishes had already established teams to review the audit recommendations and to begin making plans. All agreed that having the audit provided the impetus to begin to think about energy saving and sustainability in a focused and comprehensive way. Since then, each of our parishes have made progress in making energy saving decisions, in beginning to implement them, and in actively investigating the more ambitious possibilities. Three of the five are actively considering installing solar arrays. One of them is also considering going off the grid with geo-thermal energy. One was able to secure additional grant funding due to the findings in the report to move forward with energy saving projects. All of them have and continue to learning much in the process and are sharing with others in the diocese!

Second Cohort of Grant Funding for Level II Energy Audits

We coordinated a second cohort of six parishes, including a mission congregation, for a group grant request to Episcopal Charities during their grant application period in August 2026.

Free Level II Energy Audits via BTAC Program
Two churches have received free Level II energy audits through the BTAC program who we've worked to establish an ongoing relationship with.

- St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn
- St. Mark's, Geneva

Additionally, the following churches and non-DioChicago groups have been introduced to BTAC leaders to schedule a free Level II Energy Audit.

- Brent House, Chicago
- St. Chrysostom's, Chicago
- Saint Augustine, Wilmette
- Holy Nativity, Clarendon Hills
- DeKoven Center, Southern Wisconsin

Season of Creation 2026

Eco DioChicago is actively promoting the **Season of Creation 2026** by:

- Providing **faith formation and liturgy resources** for churches to use.
- Launching an initiative with the **Bishop's office** to encourage congregations to adopt the **Experimental Creation-Care Language for the Baptismal Covenant**, beginning with All Saints' on October 31.

Next Steps

Over the past year, Eco DioChicago has flourished under its fiscal sponsor relationship with Episcopal Charities, successfully launching a major education campaign across the diocese.

We believe our work continues to inspire and equip congregations to embrace sustainable practices and care for creation. Our committee is grateful for the opportunity to share these achievements and look forward to furthering our mission in the year ahead.

Next year we hope to:

- Work with diocese near us to set up an Eco Region for our area

- Re-apply to continue as grassroots educators with the state
- Shepard our second cohort Level II Energy Audit grant recipients
- Coordinate a third cohort of Level II Energy Audit grants applicants
- Collaborate with Faith in Place to host one to two events for churches/green teams
- Continue to build cross-denomination and regional relationships
- Represent an environmentalist perspective at the 82nd General Convention alongside other members of the Green Caucus

Respectfully Submitted by:
Ellie Simpson & Richard Benson, Co-Chairs of Eco DioChicago

Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs 2026 Annual Report

In summer 2026, Bishop Paula Clark appointed the Rev. Robert Cristobal as ecumenical and interreligious affairs officer, succeeding the Rev. Jaime Briceño, who served in the role from 2022 through spring 2026.

The ecumenical and interreligious affairs officer serves as the diocese's primary liaison to Ecumenism Metropolitan Chicago (EMC), a ministry of the Archdiocese of Chicago and a longtime diocesan partner. Comprising 19 Christian churches in the metropolitan area, EMC sponsors the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service and provides a forum for ecumenical dialogue and collaboration.

The Diocese of Chicago also maintains membership in and support of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago (CRLMC) and Greater Chicago Broadcast Ministries, a CRLMC ministry. The past year brought significant leadership transitions within CRLMC, including the election of Bishop Byron T. Brazier of the Apostolic Church of God as president and the appointment of the Rev. Marlon Medious, also of the Apostolic Church of God, as executive director.

During the year, Bishop Clark and diocesan representatives participated in two notable interfaith gatherings:

- The CRLMC Annual Awards Breakfast, honoring leaders who foster cooperation and understanding among faith communities. Honorees included John Rogers Jr. of Ariel Investments, philanthropist Robert Crawford Jr., and former CRLMC Executive Director Nisan Chavkin.
- The City of Chicago's 40th Annual Interfaith Breakfast, celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., with Vice President Kamala Harris as keynote speaker.

With new leadership in place in key partner organizations, the coming year offers renewed opportunities to strengthen ecumenical and interfaith relationships throughout the Chicago region.

Respectfully submitted,
Crystal Plummer
Canon for Networking

Episcopal Charities 2026 Annual Report

Dear Friends of Episcopal Charities ("EC"),

For more than 60 years, EC has stood in the gap, offering faithful and practical mercy where our communities need it most. We do this through grants to nonprofits and to Episcopal congregations across the diocese, and through our Inner Capacity Building Program, which gathers the leaders of our partners for spiritual and professional formation.

Last year, we shared a shift in our grantmaking. Guided by the four areas of social concern named by Bishop Paula Clark (preventing violence, advancing equity and equality for all of God's children, caring for God's creation, and addressing hunger and food insecurity), EC continued providing grants to our nonprofits and parishes and increased our work as a catalyst for new and urgently needed work. **In 2026, we are grateful that this new vision began to bear fruit.**

The Second Year of Our Shift

This is the second year of reduced support for seven of our largest and healthiest nonprofit partners, whose grants will stabilize at a smaller amount in 2027. They remain a cherished part of the EC family. The dollars released are now at work through our **Catalyst Project Fund**, which allows EC to convene partners, seed emerging work, and invest where our support is essential.

Catalyst Projects 2026

Project P.E.W.S. (Protect Evanston, Wilmette, and Skokie) is a Catalyst project convened by EC to stand with undocumented immigrants from Caribbean and African nations, alongside six community and faith partners who received support for their work with individuals and communities concerned. After a large public forum connecting public officials, resources, churches, and nonprofits, as well as an ecumenical clergy workshop in the fall of 2025, Project PEWS completed its first phase with an "Evanston Own It" training with member Black churches in the Evanston area on June 13 at Sherman United

Methodist Church. This fall, the planning team reconvenes to assess the immigration landscape and discern a path forward.

> *"The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt." (Leviticus 19:34)*

Caring Light. EC serves as fiscal agent for the Illinois Solar for All grant that funds Caring Light, the campaign of Eco DioChicago, the Bishop's Task Force for Creation Care. Led by Richard Benson and Ellie Simpson and an expanded team, Caring Light has drawn more than a dozen congregations into closer relationship with the diocese and with their neighbors, and has built partnerships across five denominations. They have offered workshops across the diocese, regional community meetings, and more than 14 individual consultations with parishes beginning their creation care work.

Parish Energy Audits. The Catalyst Fund supported Level II creation care energy audits for five parishes. In September, our board approved a second cohort of six parishes at $3,000 each, helping congregations steward their buildings and nurture a deeper relationship with the earth.

Parish Partner Grants: Our Sixth Cycle

The need in our communities is growing, and so is the faithfulness of our congregations. This year 14 proposals came to us, requesting $122,523. On September 10, our Board of Trustees approved **11 grants totaling $50,000**: eight parishes beginning new ministries and three continuing into a second year. In support of our commitment to social concern areas Creation Care, Violence Prevention, Hunger, and Equity/Equality, St. Paul's, DeKalb, will train college interns and 200 students to grow their community gardening program that supplies local food pantries. Grace, Galena, joins eight neighboring churches through the Galena Food Pantry to feed more than 100 households. Holy Nativity, Clarendon Hills, sings with people living with dementia and those who care for them by expanding their Good Memories and Sounds Good choirs. At Church of Our Saviour, Chicago, high school students will continue to give voice to grief and longing through music, creating community, and relational support through the Emerging Voices choir.

Congratulations to all of this year's Parish Partners: St. Paul's, DeKalb; Grace, Freeport; Christ Church, Waukegan; Grace, Oak Park; Messiah-St. Bartholomew, Chicago; Trinity,

Aurora; St. Christopher's, Oak Park; All Saints, Chicago; Church of Our Saviour, Chicago; Grace, Galena; and Holy Nativity, Clarendon Hills.

> *"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." (Isaiah 58:10)*

A Story from Berwyn

In Berwyn, St. Michael and All Angels had an empty rectory, and the church wanted to do something with it. EC gave the parish a $20,000 Parish Partner Grant. The congregation and their neighbors cleaned it, painted it, made the repairs, and moved donated furniture in. That same year, two families, single mothers with young children seeking asylum, moved in. The children are in the local schools and the church's daycare, and they are thriving. That is what $20,000 did—all made possible through the generosity of faithful Episcopalians, past and present, in the Diocese of Chicago.

"I was a stranger and you invited me in." (Matthew 25:35)

Deepening the Impact of our Grants - Forming Leaders

Our Inner Capacity Building Program continues to form the leaders of our nonprofit partners at depth. On April 9, Leslie Marquardt of Marble Leadership led our Spring Leadership Gathering, a full day devoted to emotional maturity and spiritual growth. On November 5, Bill Benjamin of the Institute for Health and Human Potential returns to lead our Fall Leadership Gathering, and our bimonthly CEO lunches continue throughout the year. When leaders tend to their character formation, emotional maturity, and spiritual growth, the communities they serve are the first to feel it.

Listening Across the Diocese

This year I began visiting deanery clergy gatherings with a simple question: Where is need emerging in your community, and where might EC convene partners to respond? Our clergy stand closest to the needs of their neighborhoods, and the next Catalyst project

may well begin in one of those conversations. If something is stirring where you are, I hope you will get in touch with me at mberryman@episcopalcharities.org. Our 2025 Annual Report, the first produced by our new communications manager, Jacob Sierra, is available at episcopalcharities.org.

As of August 31, 2026, EC's investment portfolio is valued at $15,944,664, an increase of $1,117,662 or 7.5% from August 31, 2025. The 2026 percentage draw on the investment (based on a three-year trailing average) is budgeted at 6.3%.

With deep gratitude to Bishop Clark, to our Board of Trustees under the leadership of President Arthur Clement, and to every parish and donor who makes this work possible! Each Sunday across this diocese we receive bread that has been blessed and broken, and we are sent out to become what we have received. Episcopal Charities exists so that our Eucharistic mission takes root in our neighborhoods, in a world that needs it now, more than ever.

In gratitude,
Matt Berryman
Executive Director

Episcopal Church Women 2026 Annual Report

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) has continued to serve the women of the diocese through philanthropy and programs of faith and fellowship.

Philanthropy. The ECW-Chicago board gave $25,000 in 2025 and is on track to give $30,000 in 2026 to organizations mainly in the Diocese of Chicago. Recipients included Episcopal Charities, the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, Bishop Anderson House (for the work of the Rev. Rose Cicero), the chaplain to the Clergy Spouse Ministry, three campus ministries in Illinois (University of Chicago, Northwestern, and Western Illinois), and others. In 2026, we gave special gifts to the Asylum Seekers Emergency Fund and to Sts. George and Matthias for their feeding ministry. Reductions in our administrative expenses and increases in our income have enabled us to increase our giving.

142nd Annual Meeting and Convention - April 18, 2026. This virtual meeting was attended by 24 people. The business of re-electing Laura Brady for a second three-year term as treasurer, and approving further simplified bylaws was accomplished. (We are now officially structured at the minimum level of officer and board positions required by the State of Illinois where we are incorporated.) NECW President Lisa Bortner was our speaker who led a workshop entitled "Sharing in Jesus's Humanity."

The Board of ECW-Diocese of Chicago met virtually four times during the year to discuss its ministries and accomplish its business. There were additional workshop meetings (also by Zoom) to revise the bylaws and consider gift recipients. We are at this point more of a small philanthropic organization than one hosting programs, but we will continue doing what we can do even at a smaller level.

The 2027 calendar anticipates an in-person Annual Meeting in March at a place to be determined to celebrate the women of the diocese who keep the ministry fires burning in so many small parishes, as well as the four regular board meetings in January, March, June, and September on the first Thursdays at noon. Another significant event of the year will be our participation in the National ECW Triennial in Phoenix, which is held in conjunction with the General Convention. We expect to send a delegation of four.

As always, our website is a source of our newsletters, updated information, and event registrations and details: www.ecwchicago.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane P. Schenck, *President*

Finance Committee 2026 Financial Status Report

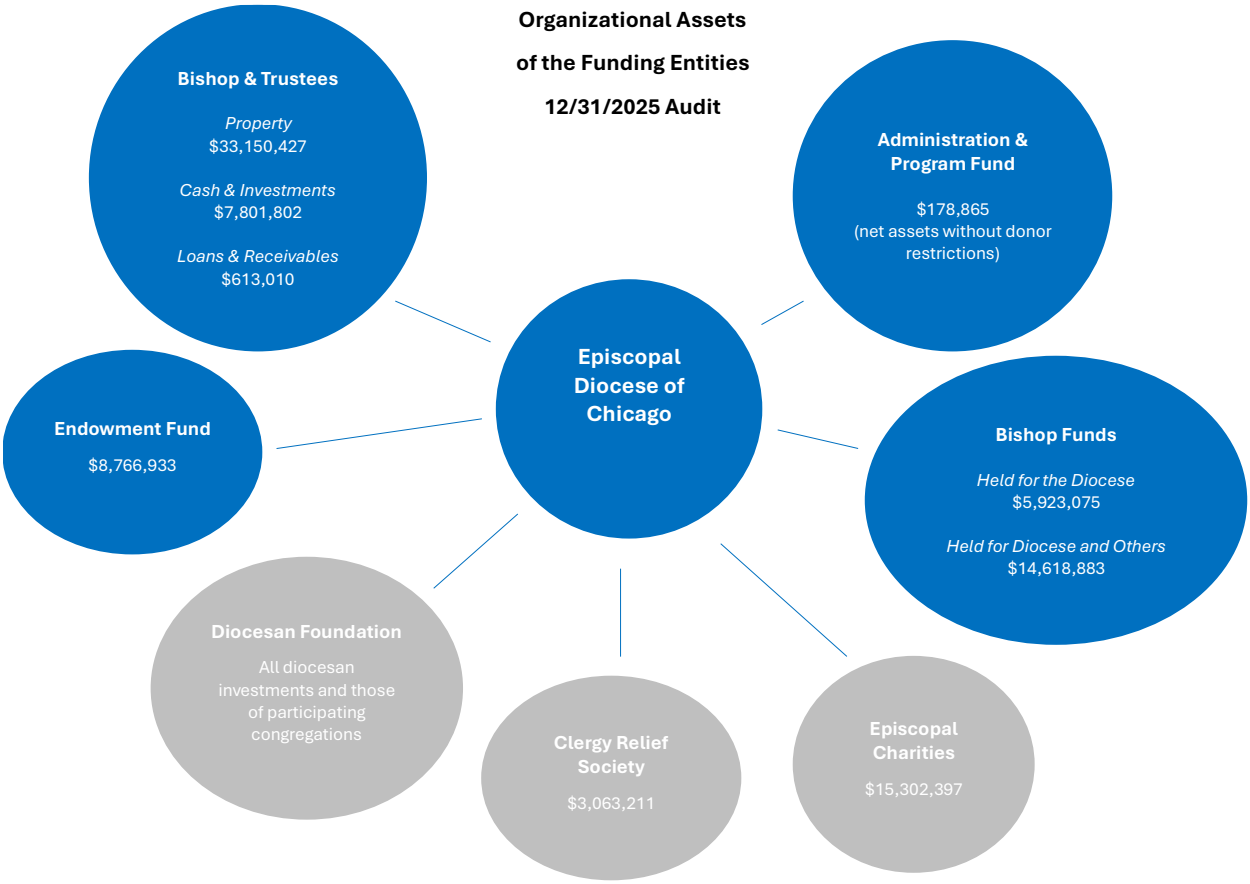
In February 2024, the Diocesan Council, in collaboration with Bishop Paula Clark, authorized formation of the Diocesan Finance Committee to advise the bishop on financial management, assess financial challenges facing the diocese, improve accountability, and develop a path to long-term financial sustainability. The nine-member Finance Committee is comprised of three representatives of the Diocesan Council, one representative each from the Standing Committee, Bishop and Trustees, and the Trustees for the Endowment, as well as three at-large members. The group meets monthly and regularly reviews diocesan financial statements with initial focus placed on the annual budget of the Administrative and Program Fund.

The committee is committed to promoting broader understanding of the diocese's financial status through open and transparent communication. This report is our effort to address recurring questions regarding diocesan resources that have been raised by various members and groups throughout our diocesan community.

Data presented here is derived from most recently available audited financial statements, approved budgets, and parochial reports of the Diocese of Chicago.

Financial Entities of the Diocese.

This chart shows the seven financial entities of the Diocese of Chicago, each of which has its own governing board. The finance team of the bishop's staff manages accounting for each of these entities, which are all independently audited annually.



The entities shown in blue directly support ongoing operations of the diocese via contributions to the A&P Fund budget. Entities shown in gray support key diocesan missions but are not direct contributors to general diocesan operations.

Investment Growth over Time

TABLE 1 - the annual ending balances of the investments over time for entities that support the A&P fund operating budget

End of Year Balance											
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Endowment Total	**$8,766,922**	**$7,956,577**	**$7,619,877**	**$6,912,373**	**$8,262,798**	**$7,788,003**	**$6,309,892**	**$4,035,641**	**$4,254,413**	**$3,847,290**	**$3,715,564**
Bishop Funds*	**$5,923,075**	**$6,460,000**	**$6,080,000**	**$5,600,000**	**$4,270,000**	**$4,090,000**	**$4,718,000**	**$4,617,000**	**$4,867,000**	**$4,696,000**	**$5,066,000**
Bishop & Trustees**	**$7,474,087**	**$7,385,275**	**$6,747,363**	**$6,782,242**	**$8,815,369**	**$9,913,086**	**$9,294,921**	**$8,416,289**	**$7,759,173**	**$3,801,889**	**$4,199,464**
TOTAL	$22,164,084	$21,801,852	$20,447,240	$19,294,615	$21,348,167	$21,791,089	$20,322,813	$17,068,930	$16,880,586	$12,345,179	$12,981,028

* Bishop Funds available to support A&P per audit reports

** Bishop & Trustees balance of investments (real property assets not included)

TABLE 2 - the standard annual cash contribution from each of these entities.

Standard Cash Contribution to Operating Budget											
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Endowment	**$279,899**	**$275,702**	**$277,577**	**$263,368**	**$231,659**	**$166,717**	**$165,312**	**$162,849**	**$157,139**	**$154,584**	**$148,310**
Bishop Funds	**$276,764**	**$293,761**	**$268,101**	**$186,211**	**$5,628**	**$150,322**	**$167,354**	**$156,106**	**$162,184**	**$173,757**	**$175,756**
Bishop & Trustees	**$0**	**$0**	**$9,096**	**$0**	**$0**	**$38,328**	**$87,884**	**$200,000**	**$237,491**	**$81,491**	**$96,256**
TOTAL	$556,663	$569,463	$554,773	$449,579	$237,287	$355,367	$420,550	$518,955	$556,814	$409,832	$420,322

Trustees of the Endowment Fund contributes annually 4.5% of the 5 year trailing balance

Bishop Funds contributes the interest on the balance of the investment available to the operating fund

Bishop & Trustees has a tradition of contributing 10% from the proceeds of the sale of closed properties

TABLE 3 - the historic supplemental cash contributions drawn from investment funds to offset operating deficits.

Supplemental Cash Contribution Above Standard Contribution and Interest											
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Endowment	**$0**	**$327,203**	**$0**	**$0**	**$250,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Bishop Funds	**$596,574**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$700,000**	**$733,000**	**$30,384**	**$65,045**	**$479,233**	**$596,825**
Bishop & Trustees	**$0**	**$250,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL	$596,574	$577,203	$0	$0	$250,000	$700,000	$733,000	$30,384	$65,045	$479,233	$596,825

Path to Financial Sustainability

In response to the trends that were resulting in recurring Administrative and Program Fund operating deficits of $1M+, the Finance Committee began implementation of a multi-year deficit reduction plan in the 2025 budget cycle.

2024 Trends of Concern

- Rising costs driven largely by insurance and facility-related needs (avg of 3+% annually over prior decade)
- Declining congregational giving thru Common Mission Share (avg of -2.5% annually)
- Flat Fundraising

Impact

- Growing annual deficits $1M+ which needed to be offset by other assets
- Projected erosion of reserves by almost $6M by 2028
- Risk of depleting Bishop's Fund

Tough choices

- Diocese has resources but not enough to do all it aspires to do

Multi-year Path to Sustainability:

- Engage diocesan participation in making strategic choices
- Implement gradual but significant cost reductions
- Reverse pattern of decline and grow congregational giving
- Grow fundraising
- Coordination across all the financial entities

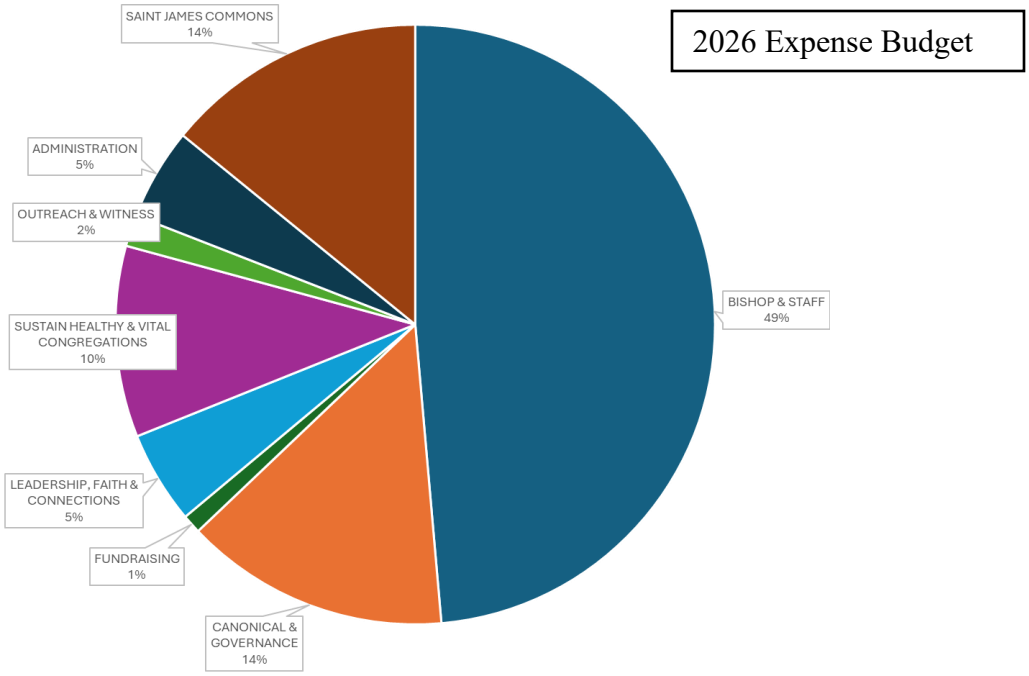
- Goal:
- Incremental annual decreases in deficits
- Achieve breakeven A&P Fund budgets by 2028
- Minimize depletion of reserves (~$1.6M)
- Ensure support of Core diocesan functions

As of 2026, the A&P Fund budget annual deficit has been reduced by 50% from 2024 budget levels.

In addition to implementing significant cost reductions, the A&P Fund and Bishop & Trustees have collaborated to better align expenses with the missions and strategic priorities of those entities.

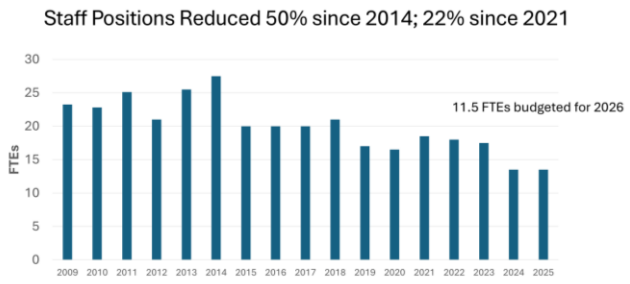
The Finance Committee guidelines for the 2027 budget recommend holding deficit targets at this 2026 level pending receipt of recommendations from the strategic planning task forces and a better understanding about their associated costs.

Path to Sustainability - Expenses



Staffing

Compensation, including salaries, pensions, and health insurance premiums, currently represent the largest expense in the diocesan operating budget (48%). Though staffing and compensation have been a major focus of cost reduction over the decade, diocesan staffing is now at a minimal level to meet core obligations.





Obligations to the Wider Church

The assessment paid to the wider church is about 14% of diocesan expense. This mandatory payment is calculated as 15% of the adjusted revenues from the prior year (prior year total operating revenue minus approximately $200,000). This rate has not changed in many years though the amount paid can fluctuate with changes in income from year to year.

St James Commons

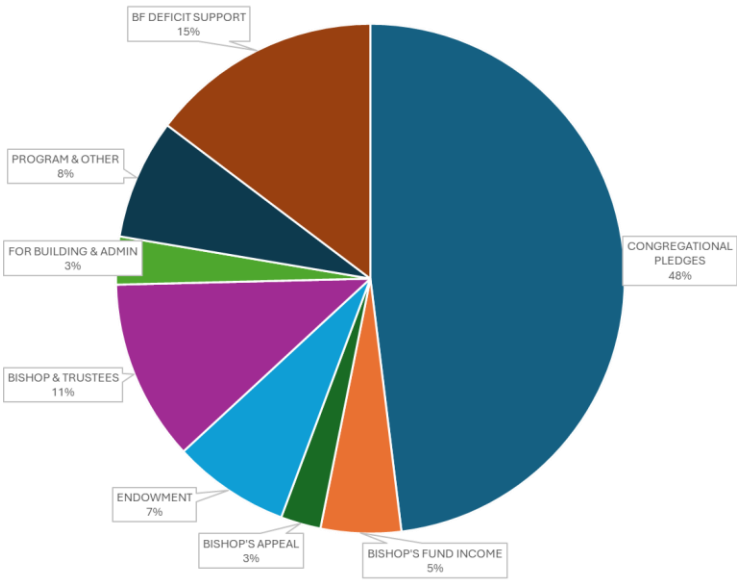
Operating costs of 65 E Huron represent about 14% of diocesan expense. Pending sale of this property, these expenses have been managed through tighter negotiations for utilities and insurances, and closer collaboration between the A&P fund and the Bishop &Trustees to align expenses more appropriately with mission.

Path to Sustainability - Revenue

Common Mission Share

Common Mission Share (CMS) in the Diocese of Chicago was established in the late 1990s as a voluntary contribution from congregations in support of general diocesan operations. Guidelines established at that time ask congregations to contribute 11 to 15% of their revenues for this purpose, though actual pledges are significantly below these guidelines and those of other dioceses in our province.

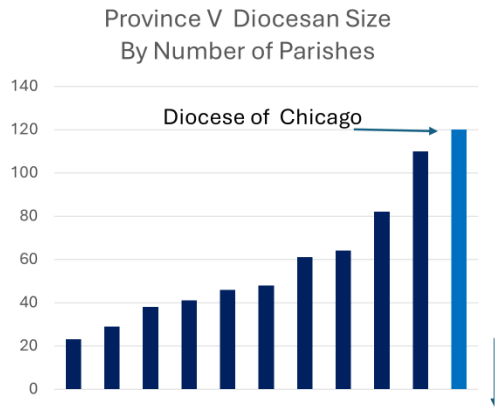
2026 Revenue Budget

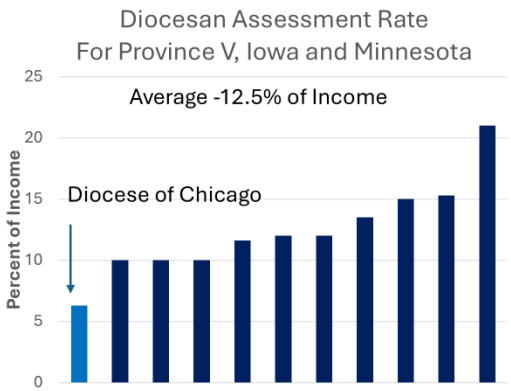


Nonetheless, CMS contributions from congregations are the primary source of support for the A&P Fund budget, representing over 50% of its revenue before deficit offsets from investments.

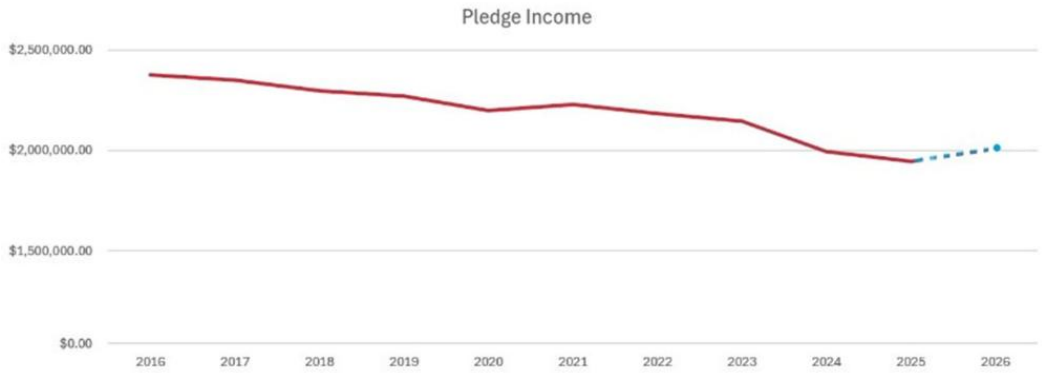
Details of 2025 Common Mission Share participation are included in the Common Mission Share report to the 2026 Diocesan Convention.

Doing More with Less





After a decade of decline, 2026 Common Mission Share contributions are projected to increase over prior years.



Next Steps

Though deficits remain in 2027, this year's proposed budget continues to move forward toward improved financial stability.

- As the largest component of revenue, congregational giving is critically important, and it is hopeful to see growth in Common Mission Share (CMS) for the first time in decades. Nonetheless, with broad input and thoughtful communication, we must undertake evaluation of the realities, impacts, and challenges of CMS on our diocesan community.

- The 2027 budget incorporates strategic planning recommendations voiced by diocesan community to date, such the return to in-person conventions and the addition of leadership staff to support congregational formation.

  As the strategic planning task forces prepare to bring forward additional recommendations, the Finance Committee guideline to maintain the 2027 budget deficit at 2026 budget levels reflects its deliberate effort to maximize flexibility to respond to these recommendations in a timely, constructive, and cost-effective way.

The Finance Committee remains committed to continuing a path toward financial sustainability in which budget deficits are eliminated and diocesan resources support the strategic priorities which the diocesan community have identified as most important.

NOTE:

- For more details on the 2026 forecasted financial performance and the 2027 A&P Fund operating budget, please refer to the 2026 Diocesan Convention 2027 budget narrative and report to the 2026 Diocesan Convention.
- For more information on the audit process, please refer to Audit Review Committee report for the 2026 Diocesan Convention. Copies of audited financial reports are available from the treasurer's office.

Health Insurance 2026 Annual Report

The Diocese of Chicago had 342 members enrolled from January-December 2025. This consists of 50.4% employees, 20.4% spouses, and 29.2% dependents. 49.9% of enrollees were male and 50.1% of enrollees were female. The top five chronic conditions among our membership were depression, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, blood disorders, and lower back pain. Below are some statistics about preventative care rates among members:

- 71% of members ages 19-65 had a previous doctor's visit within the last two years
- 44.7% of members aged 45-75 had an up-to-date colorectal screening
- 77.21% of female members aged 25-65 had an up-to-date cervical & HPV screening
- 74.40% of female members aged 40-75 had a mammogram within the last two years

Diocesan Council has approved the following plans from the Medical Trust for plan year 2027. The health insurance plan costs have increased an overall average of 12.81% from 2026, with an average 2.03% increase for the dental plans.

Diocesan Council has designated the Anthem BCBS Consumer-Directed Health plan with at least 75% of the deductible funded into the HSA or the Anthem BCBS PPO 70 plan as the minimum required plan. If an employee chooses a higher premium plan, it is the choice of the church whether the clergy/lay employee must pay the difference between the required minimum plan and any other plan offered. Effective 1/1/2013, all employees working 30 hours or more per week must be treated equally in terms of health care. Therefore, if the employer pays the full premium for a clergy member, it must also pay the full premium for a lay employee.

Medical Plans 2027

The Diocese of Chicago offers the following medical plans to employees through The Episcopal Church Medical Trust.

Medical Plan Yearly Rates 2027	Single	Employee + 1 (Spouse or child)	Family	Increase
Standalone Employee Assistance Program (for eligible employees who decline health coverage, employer paid only)	$48.00	$48.00	$48.00	0%
Anthem BCBS Consumer-Directed Health Plan (CDHP 20) + 75% of deductible* funded into HSA = Total Cost *Deductible: $3,600 for Single tier; $7,200 for Emp + 1 & Family tiers	$14,184 + $2,700 = $16,884	$25,536 + $5,400 = $30,936	$39,720 + $5,400 = $45,120	13.01%
Anthem BCBS PPO 70	$16,188	$29,136	$45,324	12.98%
Anthem BCBS PPO 80	$18,768	$33,780	$52,548	12.52%

Medicare as Secondary Payer Plans For employers with less than 20 employees	Single	Employee + 1 (Spouse or child)	Family	Increase
Anthem BCBS MSP PPO 70	$12,924	$23,268	$36,192	13.04%
Anthem BCBS MSP PPO 80	$15,216	$27,384	$42,600	12.48%

The rates in the tables above reflect the full annual cost for each plan.

Dental Plans 2027

The Diocese of Chicago offers the following Delta Dental plans through The Episcopal Church Medical Trust.

Dental Plan Yearly Rates 2027	Single	Employee +1 (Spouse or child)	Family	Increase
Delta Dental Basic	$504.00	$912.00	$1,416.00	2.63%
Delta Dental Comprehensive	$756.00	$1,356.00	$2,112.00	1.20%
Delta Dental Premium	$1,008.00	$1,812.00	$2,820	2.26%

The rates in the table above reflect the full annual cost for each plan.

Comité de Asuntos Hispanos – Reporte Anual 2026

El Comité de Asuntos Hispanos está integrado por representantes de las ocho congregaciones diocesanas que cuentan con un ministerio hispano/latino. Este comité se reúne presencialmente seis veces al año. Se encarga de planificar y organizar eventos conjuntos para las congregaciones hispanas de la diócesis. En su reunión de julio de 2026, se eligieron nuevos funcionarios: El Rvdo. Miguel Briones de San Marcos, Glen Ellyn, Presidente; Sr. Eusebio Villegas de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Waukegan, Vicepresidente; el Rvdo. Gary Cox de Santa Teresa de Ávila, Chicago, Secretario; y Sra. Agustina Salinas de San Miguel y Todos los Ángeles, Berwyn, Tesorera.

Desde la última convención diocesana 2025, el ministerio hispano se ha enfrentado a muchos retos y desafíos debido al endurecimiento sin precedentes de las políticas de control, un aumento drástico de las deportaciones y restricciones severas en los procesos de regularización y asilo. Por lo tanto, las congregaciones con presencia hispana se han avocado a apoyar a la comunidad hispana con talleres de información como "Conoce tus derechos" además de organizar clínicas legales como medidas de prevención en casos de ser arrestados por agentes de ICE muchas de estas impartidas por abogados de inmigración y por la Canóniga Sandra Castillo.

Nuestras comunidades hispanas poco a poco y con mucho valor han estado regresando a sus iglesias a pesar de la amenaza representa las redadas de ICE. Un ejemplo es que el 25 de julio de 2026 se llevó a cabo en la Iglesia Episcopal Sagrada Familia / Holy Family, en Lake Villa, el Encuentro de Familias, organizado por el Comité de Asuntos Hispanos, con el apoyo de la Oficina de Ministerios Multiculturales de nuestra Diócesis. El encuentro reunió a un número significativo de familias y miembros de nuestras congregaciones hispanas, brindándonos la oportunidad de conocernos mejor, compartir nuestras historias y reconocer los logros y desafíos que forman parte de nuestra experiencia como comunidades de fe hispanas. Agradecemos a todas las personas y congregaciones que hicieron posible este encuentro. Que esta experiencia sea el comienzo de nuevos encuentros, nuevas conversaciones y oportunidades para caminar juntos, fortaleciendo el ministerio hispano y contribuyendo, desde nuestra diversidad, a una Iglesia más inclusiva, viva y fiel a su misión. Durante la jornada, cada congregación tuvo la oportunidad de compartir parte de su historia, sus experiencias, metas y retos. Escuchar estos testimonios nos permitió reconocer que, aunque nuestras comunidades tienen historias y circunstancias diferentes, compartimos una misma esperanza: continuar creciendo como Iglesia y fortaleciendo nuestro ministerio. Tuvimos también la alegría de recibir el mensaje

de nuestra Obispa, Paula Clark, leído durante el encuentro por el señor Luis García, Capellán de la Obispa y Misionero Interino de la Oficina de Ministerios Multiculturales de nuestra Diócesis.

La diversidad cultural ha sido y continúa siendo una parte fundamental de la historia de nuestra Diócesis. Su historia no estaría completa sin reconocer las contribuciones de las comunidades hispanas y de tantas otras culturas que enriquecen nuestra vida común. Cada año celebramos la liturgia hispana con confirmaciones en la Catedral de St. James, la cual se planea llevarla a cabo a pesar de la inseguridad que se vive, el 3 de octubre por acuerdo de todas las congregaciones con presencia hispana y el apoyo de nuestra Obispa Paula Clark.

Hispanic Affairs Committee 2026 Annual Report

The Hispanic Affairs Committee is composed of representatives from the eight diocesan congregations that have a Hispanic/Latino ministry. This committee meets in person six times a year and is responsible for planning and organizing joint events for the diocese's Hispanic congregations. At its July 2026 meeting, new officers were elected: the Rev. Miguel Briones of St. Mark's, Glen Ellyn, president; Mr. Eusebio Villegas of Sagrada Familia, Lake Villa, vice president; the Rev. Gary Cox of Santa Teresa de Avila, Chicago, secretary; and Mrs. Agustina Salinas of St. Michael and All Angels, Berwyn, treasurer.

Since the last diocesan convention in 2025, the Hispanic ministry has faced many challenges due to the unprecedented tightening of enforcement policies, a drastic increase in deportations, and severe restrictions on regularization and asylum processes. Consequently, congregations with a Hispanic presence have dedicated themselves to supporting the Hispanic community through informational workshops—such as "Know Your Rights"—and by organizing legal clinics as a preventive measure against potential arrest by ICE agents; many of these sessions were led by immigration attorneys and Canon Sandra Castillo.

Our Hispanic communities have been gradually and courageously returning to their churches, despite the threat posed by ICE raids. One example of this is the Family Gathering held on July 25, 2026, at Sagrada Familia / Holy Family Episcopal Church in Lake Villa; the event was organized by the Hispanic Affairs Committee with the support of our diocese's Office of Multicultural Ministries. The gathering brought together a significant

number of families and members from our Hispanic congregations, offering us the opportunity to get to know one another better, share our stories, and acknowledge the achievements and challenges that shape our experience as Hispanic faith communities. We extend our gratitude to all the individuals and congregations who made this gathering possible. May this experience mark the beginning of new gatherings, new conversations, and new opportunities to walk together, strengthening the Hispanic ministry and contributing, through our diversity, to a church that is more inclusive, vibrant, and faithful to its mission. During the event, each congregation had the opportunity to share part of its history, experiences, goals, and challenges. Hearing these testimonies allowed us to recognize that, although our communities have different histories and circumstances, we share a common hope: to continue growing as a church and strengthening our ministry. We also had the joy of receiving a message from Bishop Paula Clark, which was read during the gathering by Mr. Luis García, chaplain and interim missioner of the Office of Multicultural Ministries of our diocese.

Cultural diversity has been and continues to be a fundamental part of our diocese's history. That history would be incomplete without acknowledging the contributions of Hispanic communities and the many other cultures that enrich our life together. Each year, we celebrate the Hispanic liturgy—including confirmations—at St. James Cathedral; it is planned to go ahead on October 3, despite the current climate of uncertainty, by agreement of all congregations with a Hispanic presence and with the support of Bishop Paula Clark.

Peace & Justice Committee 2026 Annual Report

The Peace & Justice Committee works on the root causes of oppression and violence in a search for systemic change. It is a chapter of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and often works in alliance with like-minded, faith-based and secular organizations in the region. In the last year members have practiced team leadership and facilitated monthly meetings on a rotating basis. Small sub-committees continue to assume responsibility for issues including sanctuary and immigration, Palestinian human rights; criminal justice reform; Indigenous rights; gun violence prevention; One Book, One Diocese; annual Pride events; and administration of the Yasutake Award.

Collaboration with the Sanctuary Committee continues to be a focus of our activity. Two members regularly attend the virtual meetings of the Joint Committee that brings together representatives from all of the social justice committees to coordinate diocesan response to the evolving challenges posed by DHS and ICE. One of our members spearheads Court Watch, a program of primarily virtual observation of hearings to monitor ways that the immigration courts are finding to circumvent due process. These include the chaotic "mega-master" hearings at which as many as 200 people are called to appear at one time. Others have accompanied immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers to court hearings, encouraged clergy and lay ministers to provide spiritual and moral support to detainees held at Broadview, and promoted on-going relations among individual churches intended to support immigrant communities, such as that between St. Barnabas in Glen Ellyn with St. Theresa de Àvila in Chicago. P&J has continued to help organize displays of Unchained Art, an exhibit of photos of art work created by youth ages 13-17 who were detained at the Tornillo Detention Center in West Texas during 2018. This year this exhibit has travelled to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston and to five diocesan churches. (For more details consult the annual report of the Sanctuary Committee.)

Members of Peace & Justice participate in the Episcopal Peace Fellowship - Palestine Justice Network currently gearing up to defend Palestinian human rights at General Convention in Phoenix in 2027. We frequently collaborate with local, faith-based groups such as the Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy, Jewish Voice for Peace, American Muslims for Palestine, and Mennonite Action. Among the combined efforts in which we have participated since last report were the Holy Innocents Vigil for Gaza on December 28, the discussion entitled "Saving Jerusalem as a City of Three Faiths: The Armenian Land Case vs Israeli Settlers" on January 28, and a talk with the Israeli activist Sahar Vardi, "Israelis in Solidarity with Palestinians: A View from the Ground," on February

22. Several members attended the Good Friday vigil at Federal Plaza on April 3 to demand that the U.S. purge Palantir from operations in Palestine and with ICE. Regular email dispatches to our email list keep members apprised of significant developments in the region and encourage them to contact elected officials and sign petitions on specific issues such as the demand for the release of a physician of Gaza detained and tortured by the Israelis, Dr. Abu Safiya, whose very survival was threatened.

Members of P&J have participated in sending witness slips to committees of the Illinois General Assembly in support of proposed legislation to improve the criminal legal system in Illinois prior to committee consideration. Legislation considered and enacted in the spring session of the General Assembly included fundamental reform of public defender systems in the 102 counties in Illinois, reforms in the juvenile justice system, and legislation prohibiting the Illinois Department of Corrections or others from charging for or profiting from prisoner communications.

Peace & Justice has supported The Episcopal Church's commitment to documenting its role in the boarding schools that attempted forced assimilation of Indigenous children over a period of decades in the United States. As a member of the Truth, Justice and Healing Commission on Native Boarding Schools, a P&J member has been communicating with a student at Brandeis University who has documented the existence of a federally contracted Indigenous boarding school on the grounds of Jubilee College, namely Homewood School, a short-lived institution for Indigenous boys from Yankton Sioux Tribe between 1883 and 1887. Peace & Justice is also represented on the Chicago Area Archivists' NARA Chicago Closure Committee. In late June the National Archives and Records Administration announced the closure of two of its regional archive centers, namely Chicago and San Bruno, San Francisco. The Chicago facility holds more than 140,000 cubic feet of historical records dating from 1800 to the early 2000's, including records from 85 federal agencies, one of which is the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Because The Episcopal Church's indigenous boarding schools were federally contracted schools, a number of their records are held in the Chicago regional center. Our P&J member will be joining the consultant for the Truth, Justice and Healing Commission on Native Boarding Schools at the NARA Chicago facility in late September to look at records regarding Bishop Whipple and the Diocese of Minnesota's involvement with the boarding schools.

One of our members spearheads work on gun violence prevention. She is a member of the Lake County Advisory Committee on Gun Violence Prevention and joins relevant calls with the county commissioner and the state's attorney. Her goal is to keep diocesan

churches informed about relevant legislative initiatives. This fall and beyond efforts focus on getting citizens to press state legislators to support the Responsibility in Firearms Legislation (RIFL) Act (HB 3320/SB 2279), a proposed bill that would require firearms manufacturers to pay licensing fees to fund medical and financial support for victims of gun violence.

On May 7, as part of the One Book, One Diocese program, Peace & Justice and Eco DioChicago, the diocesan creation care committee, hosted a virtual discussion with acclaimed theologian Elizabeth A. Johnson, CSJ, author of *Come, Have Breakfast: Meditations on God and the Earth.* This book explores how Jesus' ministry and resurrection are tied to the Earth and all creation. The goal of the program was to unite congregations in theological reflection and environmental action. The program was introduced by a long-time Peace & Justice member and facilitated by Terry DeLision, a retired professor from Bexley Seabury Seminary and member of Eco DioChicago. Twenty-eight people from across the diocese participated. *Come, Have Breakfast* was the fourth in a series of book discussions across as many years inspired by the four interlocking injustices of the Poor People's Campaign: systemic racism (2023), poverty and inequality (2024), war economy and militarism (2025), and ecological devastation (2026). A scholarship fund is available to assist any individual or church that has difficulty procuring books.

For some years Peace & Justice has promoted the Pride Parade in Chicago and made an annual donation. This year it was also represented at Pride Fest of Lake County and at the Grayslake Pride Parade.

Our committee administers the Yasutake Award presented annually at Diocesan Convention. This award recognizes those who devote time and talent to the cause of the oppressed in our midst and to lifting up justice. It is given in honor of the Rev. Seiichi Michael Yasutake, an outspoken Chicago activist and Episcopal priest who fought for the civil rights of imprisoned protesters. He died in 2002.

The Peace & Justice Committee meets virtually the second Thursday of each month at 5:15 p.m. and welcomes new members to share in its wide-ranging work. For more information, please contact read.priscilla@gmail.com .

Respectfully submitted and compiled by Priscilla Read with contributions from P&J members Jack Lloyd, Jacqueline Lynn, John McLees, the Rev. Anne Smith, and Newland Smith

Priest Compensation Report 2026

Average Sunday Attendance	Average Sunday Attendance (Online)	Operational Revenue	Years of Service	Housing	Total Compensation as of 12/31/25	Gender	Full Time Equivalent
FULL TIME PRIESTS							
19	6	$ 100,513.00	25.42	Y	$ 109,200	M	1
21	35	$ 512,472.00	5.92	N	$ 95,620	M	1
22	5	$ 185,033.00	21.02	N	$ 72,324	M	1
30	0	$ 238,467.00	9.42	Y	$ 89,050	M	1
34	3	$ 88,411.00	0.25	Y	$ 78,000	M	1
39	0	$ 209,983.00	17.48	Y	$ 90,750	M	1
39	0	$ 200,499.00	24.33	Y	$ 85,632	M	1
41	4	$ 294,762.00	13.55	Y	$ 102,180	M	1
43	4	$ 429,583.00	19.28	N	$ 99,434	F	1
44	5	$ 385,088.00	6.92	Y	$ 102,310	M	1
46	9	$ 173,306.00	0.17	Y	$ 92,638	M	1
47	14	$ 252,191.00	7.42	Y	$ 79,914	M	1
48	13	$ 527,619.00	19.24	Y	$ 79,300	M	1
48	3	$ 223,832.00	2.33	N	$ 83,640	F	1
48	0	$ 245,919.00	27.05	N	$ 75,248	F	1
49	11	$ 266,698.00	15.91	N	$ 75,735	F	1
56	8	$ 390,811.00	3.92	N	$ 109,685	M	1
59	1	$ 216,695.00	18.56	N	$ 75,323	F	1
59	4	$ 264,267.00	24.58	Y	$ 80,989	M	1
61	10	$ 306,015.00	19.08	N	$ 102,875	F	1
62	0	$ 151,954.00	13.19	N	$ 68,700	M	1
63	7	$ 444,244.00	10.46	N	$ 101,450	F	1
64	9	$ 386,308.00	10.42	Y	$ 91,129	M	1
65	25	$ 575,671.00	14.26	N	$ 95,000	M	1
67	34	$ 365,573.00	27.05	N	$ 117,300	M	1
68	3	$ 332,489.00	1.00	Y	$ 96,781	N	1
70	43	$ 484,000.00	8.50	N	$ 110,000	F	1
73	13	$ 310,653.00	12.67	N	$ 92,125	F	1
74	14	$ 545,594.00	4.67	Y	$ 123,300	F	1
76	0	$ 420,926.00	12.44	Y	$ 115,583	M	1
76	16	$ 468,015.00	9.75	N	$ 95,000	M	1
78	16	$ 463,100.00	17.38	N	$ 90,000	M	1
79	44	$ 338,032.00	9.45	Y	$ 99,945	M	1
80	0	$ 110,629.00	15.92	Y	$ 63,050	M	1
87	5	$ 265,362.00	18.37	Y	$ 103,724	M	1
94	0	$ 480,879.00	20.25	Y	$ 117,969	M	1
103	5	$ 544,702.00	9.54	Y	$ 134,008	F	1
106	0	$ 1,200,043.00	10.42	Y	$ 151,397	M	1

Average Sunday Attendance	Average Sunday Attendance (Online)	Operational Revenue	Years of Service	Housing	Total Compensation as of 12/31/25	Gender	Full Time Equivalent
FULL TIME PRIESTS (continued)							
107	11	$ 411,265.00	7.50	N	$ 80,066	M	1
109	19	$ 2,931,142.00	13.46	Y	$ 165,263	M	1
111	20	$ 341,482.00	4.75	N	$ 100,520	F	1
112	0	$ 303,667.00	4.67	N	$ 82,000	M	1
120	0	$ 680,479.00	6.50	Y	$ 93,067	M	1
124	49	$ 1,724,692.00	21.85	Y	$ 183,950	F	1
130	3	$ 511,762.00	14.42	Y	$ 162,487	M	1
140	16	$ 660,336.00	14.42	N	$ 133,626	M	1
143	65	$ 1,095,938.00	11.96	Y	$ 148,898	M	1
156	46	$ 713,836.00	23.37	N	$ 100,000	M	1
177	0	$ 568,887.00	7.83	Y	$ 125,060	M	1
200	18	$ 906,616.00	13.17	N	$ 142,648	F	1
214	1836	$ 2,117,305.00	23.42	Y	$ 194,121	M	1
219	34	$ 2,025,000.00	9.56	N	$ 90,000	M	1
257	129	$ 931,514.00	19.25	N	$ 179,000	M	1
277	12	$ 782,540.00	6.33	N	$ 102,403	F	1
288	0	$ 309,515.00	25.83	N	$ 169,765	M	1
295	94	$ 1,173,135.00	22.25	N	$ 119,139	M	1
314	97	$ 1,144,306.00	21.47	N	$ 165,000	F	1
ASSOCIATE FULL TIME PRIESTS							
63	7	$ 444,244.00	0.33	N	$ 56,250	F	1
103	5	$ 544,702.00	0.50	N	$ 78,360	F	1
124	49	$ 1,724,692.00	3.83	N	$ 75,000	M	1
143	65	$ 1,095,938.00	12.26	Y	$ 109,126	F	1
214	1836	$ 2,117,305.00	8.50	Y	$ 130,822	F	1
214	1836	$ 2,117,305.00	8.75	Y	$ 118,756	F	1
219	34	$ 2,025,000.00	15.29	Y	$ 198,325	M	1
219	34	$ 2,025,000.00	2.00	N	$ 75,710	F	1
277	12	$ 782,540.00	16.38	Y	$ 119,954	F	1
314	97	$ 1,144,306.00	10.42	Y	$ 98,459	M	1
PART TIME PRIESTS							
17	56	$ 81,750.00	10.44	N	$ 16,500	M	0.30
19	1	$ 157,604.00	15.71	N	$ 16,400	M	0.25
20	3	$ 79,954.00	17.96	N	$ 36,753	M	0.50
27	0	$ 198,542.00	11.70	N	$ 43,866	F	0.75
31	17	$ 48,952.00	18.53	N	$ 22,493	M	0.24
33	0	$ 208,137.00	9.51	N	$ 59,500	M	0.75
42	2	$ 116,272.00	17.08	N	$ 9,000	M	0.05
52	8	$ 94,982.00	18.66	N	$ 4,262	F	0.13

Average Sunday Attendance	Average Sunday Attendance (Online)	Operational Revenue	Years of Service	Housing	Total Compensation as of 12/31/25	Gender	Full Time Equivalent
PART TIME PRIESTS (continued)							
53	5	$ 197,639.00	16.67	N	$ 65,592	M	0.50
53	3	$ 250,856.00	7.58	N	$ 64,590	M	0.53
56	16	$ 333,122.00	8.83	N	$ 38,054	M	0.38
72	15	$ 81,298.00	0.25	Y	$ 35,532	M	0.50
257	129	$ 931,514.00	7.87	N	$ 20,000	F	0.24
288	0	$ 309,515.00	0.25	N	$ 18,744	M	0.25
295	94	$ 1,173,135.00	15.92	N	$ 28,214	M	0.50
314	97	$ 1,144,306.00	21.02	N	$ 32,833	M	0.23

REPORT DEFINITIONS Descriptions from 2025 Parochial Report items	
Average Sunday Attendance (In Person)	Total annual in-person attendance divided by number of Sundays on which in-person services were held
Average Sunday Attendance (Online)	Total annual livestream attendance across all platforms (not including viewed-after total) and divide it by the number of Sundays on which online services were held
Operational Revenue	Pledge contributions from congregations + Other operating income
Years of Service	Years pension has been paid on behalf of priest
Housing	Church provided housing in rectory/vicarage
Total Compensation as of 12/31/25	Total Compensation includes: Salary + Cash Housing Allowance and/or Utilities + Employer Contributions (to a qualified and/or non-qualified plan) + Value of Employer Provided Housing (equal to 30% of base salary, cash housing allowance and/or utilities, employer contributions to a qualified and/or non-qualified plan and one-time payments)



Province V Executive Board 2026 Annual Report

Province V is a network of 11 dioceses of The Episcopal Church, one of which is the Diocese of Chicago [Title 1, Canon 9: Of Provinces].

The Theme of Province V: CONNECT. SUPPORT. COLLABORATE

In Province V, we "tell it in the light" (Matthew 10:27-31), celebrating God's promise of renewal within the Episcopal Church in the Midwest.

To do this, we:

Connect people to people and people to resources.

Support each other in a variety of ministries, resourcing from within and without.

Collaborate across multiple dioceses to build capacity for demonstrable impact.

Province V Executive Board

The Province V Executive Board is responsible for the operations of the province. There are 17 members of this board, which include the 11 diocesan representatives who are appointed by their bishops. The Province V Synod elects two representatives to serve on the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church (one lay and one ordained), and four officers (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer). You can see the full list of members here.

Board members meet monthly via Zoom to share resources from our dioceses and hear about and help develop provincial events and programming. The board gathers in person once per year to build deeper connections and have in-depth conversation about vision and strategic planning for the province.

The Report on the Annual Executive Board Meeting:

The Province V Executive Board held its annual, in-person meeting at the Procter Center in Southern Ohio over three days in early April 2026. The board reviewed and discussed ongoing grant projects, such as the exciting progress of our Province V campus ministry developer (Eric Richey), and the "Building an Inclusive Church" training that occurred online May 9. The board also helped carry forward planning for this summer's Big Provincial Gathering in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Most Recent Grants Received by Province V

The following grants were received in 2025-2026 for special projects and new programs, and the funds are currently in use in the following ways:

Society of Saint John the Evangelist's Abiding Hope Grant, $50,000

This grant provides funding and collaboration with the brothers of SSJE to plan and execute three in-person spiritual formation retreats in different parts of the province in late 2026 and early 2027. The retreats will help worshiping communities deepen their confidence and develop their skill set for creating intergenerational formation opportunities for and with college students and young adults that lead to mutual transformation in Christ.

Ongoing: Trinity Church's Leadership Development Grant, $375,000

This grant is in year two, and the plan is that Eric Richey will continue to serve as campus ministry developer through the end of 2027 using these grant funds.

See details about Eric and his work.

Learn more about Trinity Church's Vision for Leadership Development.

Networks

https://www.provincev.org/networks.html

The Province V networks are organized around specific ministries (e.g. Creation Care, Dismantling Racism, and Safe Church, as well as others). Networks bring together people from around the province and even beyond. They are open to anyone who'd like to connect to others working on similar ministries. If there is a network that you might find

helpful and want to offer it to others in the province, contact Heather Barta at provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com.

Leadership Coaching Project

https://www.provincev.org/lcp.html

Trained lay and ordained coaches are available to work with individuals, teams, or groups on your goals and challenges. These coaches are available to any person interested in working on ministerial or personal goals. All coaches will provide a complimentary "introductory" meeting so that you can ask questions about coaching with them and get to know each other.

Events Hosted in 2025-2026

Province V Campus Ministry Cohorts – 2025-26

Nineteen worshiping communities from 12 dioceses across four provinces participated in our first two cohorts this past academic year. Participants gathered virtually six times over the course of a semester for training around best practices, sharing insights learned by researching their ministry context, and developing a short- and long-term action plan to build a sustainable ministry presence with a nearby campus. The next cohort will be launching in late September 2026.

Episcopal Creation Care Gathering – September 2025

Hosted by Procter Center, the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, Province IV, and Province V. Forty-eight people from 10 dioceses attended. This event began three years ago as a partnership between Provinces V and IV. With Procter Center as an additional partner, this event has grown into a church-wide offering for those who are committed to Care of Creation and those dedicated to learning more about how they, their worshipping communities, and their wider structures can make a difference to the Earth.

Campus Minister Retreat – October 14-16, 2025

Campus Ministers from Province V (and nearby dioceses) gathered together at Holy Wisdom Monastery near Madison, WI. This annual October retreat supports those who are working professionally on campuses and with young adults.

YACM Student Retreat – February 6-8, 2026

This Province V Young Adult & Campus Ministry Retreat had its largest group in recent years, with 50 students & young adults gathering alongside 10 campus chaplains & ministry leaders for a weekend of spiritual formation, food, and fun in downtown Chicago.

Women Clergy Retreat – May 31- June 3, 2026

https://www.provincev.org/wcr27.html

Hosted by Province V and Province VI, 25 women clergy from across both provinces gathered at St. Francis Retreat Center in Lansing, Michigan. Save the date for April 27-30, 2027 (location announced soon).

Big Provincial Gathering – July 31-August 1, 2026

https://www.provincev.org/bpg26.html

Participating in a weekend of workshops, fellowship, and worship, 225 people registered for the BPG, with an additional 75 youth and chaperones from the Provincial Youth Event (PYE) joining in the activities in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Upcoming Events

Episcopal Creation Care Gathering

https://episcopalcreationcaregathering.org
September 23-26, 2026, Procter Center, Southern Ohio
April 15-17, 2027, Procter Center, Southern Ohio

Hosted by Provinces IV and V, Procter Center, and Diocese of Southern Ohio

Campus Ministry Cohorts

https://www.provincev.org/cmd.html
Beginning late September 2026 (and another in Spring 2027)

Purpose: To equip and prepare worshiping communities to engage Institutions of Higher Learning in their local ministry context. IHLs include community colleges, trade schools, professional schools, colleges, and universities.

Campus Minister Retreat
https://www.provincev.org/yacm.html
October 13-15, 2026, Madison, Wisconsin

Young Adult / Student Retreat
https://www.provincev.org/yacm.html
February 12-14, 2027, Chicago, Illinois

An event for students in higher education and young adults

Young Adult Ministry: Seeking Resonance Over Relevance
https://www.provincev.org/yacm.html

A retreat for all young adults, those ministering with young adults, and those hoping to create ministries with young adults. Details for these events:

Connecting to the Province

Sign up for the monthly newsletter at the bottom of the website:
https://www.provincev.org

General Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ProvinceFive/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/provincefive/

Province V Staff
https://www.provincev.org/provincial-staff.html

The Rev. Heather Barta, Coordinator
Mr. Eric Richey, Campus Ministry Developer
Mr. Steve Welch, Communications Coordinator

Submitted by: M.E. Eccles (Clergy Representative to Executive Council)
Rebecca Elfring-Roberts (Province V Executive Board Treasurer)
Crystal Plummer (Lay representative to Executive Council)

Sanctuary Committee 2026 Annual Report

Since its report to the Diocesan Convention of 2025, the Sanctuary Committee has worked to implement Resolution F-182 of the 182nd Annual Diocesan 2019 Convention ("Sanctuary Resolution") as follows:

1. [T]hat the Diocese of Chicago, as people of faith and people of conscience, pledges to resist the stated policy proposals of the presidential administration to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants, and to eliminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that has granted temporary relief for thousands of young people in our communities and families[.]

The increased numbers of immigrants being arrested and detained has led to the separation and traumatizing of families with either the father or mother being taken; the remaining parent attempting to care for the children while covering the household expenses with only one, usually very low, income; searching for legal support to seek the release of the detained parent and to represent the remaining parent in Immigration Court.

As a result, the Sanctuary Committee has prioritized rent support and legal support for families. At present, a member of St. Mark's, Glen Ellyn, is detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in a Michigan County Jail. The Sanctuary Committee is assisting the man's wife in legal representation for the husband. Another referral from the Glen Ellyn school district is for rent support for the family of the detained father as the mother has expended all their savings on rent and utilities. As of September 8, 2026, twelve families have received rent support, usually because one of the parents have been detained. In one case, a family with a detained father and two small children received rent support. Due to ICE activity in their area, the mother was unable to leave the home to pick up food at the local food bank. We were able to pick up food from a Catholic church and deliver it to the mother and her two small sons.

We have assisted families and individuals with their asylum applications, employment authorization documents (work permits), and change of venue motions. As of September 8, 2026, eighteen families and individuals have received legal support for representation in the Chicago Immigration Court and in the Board of Immigration Appeals. This assistance helps families and individuals retain counsel with the understanding that they are responsible for the monthly payments. We have assisted families and individuals with filing fees that have been imposed by the current administration, such as the $100.00

initial and annual asylum application fee and the $560 employment authorization document (work permit) application. We have assisted families and individuals with the cost of FedEx and UPS deliveries to their immigration court. There is a tremendous backlog of U.S. mail at all the immigration courts. U.S. mail deliveries may not be entered into the court's computer system for a prolonged period. There is also the risk of arrest by ICE agents when filing a document at immigration court in person. Occasionally, we can refer an individual or family to a nonprofit legal service organization or a university related immigration program. However, these resources cannot usually represent immigrants in court for the prolonged period in which their cases are pending.

The financial assistance provided by the Sanctuary Committee is made possible by the Sanctuary Committee's allocation in the diocesan budget, the generosity of members of our congregations making donations to the Emergency Fund, and the recent award of a grant by Episcopal Migration Ministry. The Sanctuary Committee is grateful for your generosity and support.

The Sanctuary Committee and members of our congregations receive training from the Sanctuary Working Group (SWG) accompaniment program. This enables us to accompany families and individuals to their hearings at Immigration Court and to their ICE check-ins. ICE agents are now also arresting people at local county courthouses like Traffic Court that has led to SWG expanding its program, training volunteers to accompany immigrants to those court hearings. Current reports of volunteers state that, because of the current administration's use of "Mega Master Hearings," people without lawyers are being forced to wait in the Immigration Court hallways for up to five hours.

Jack Lloyd (St. Martin, Chicago), a member of the Sanctuary Committee, heads up Courtwatch, a program of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR).

Volunteers are trained to observe court calls in person at Immigration Court or via Webex. Volunteers submit reports to the program through which we are informed of changes in court policies and practices. The ACLU and the National Immigrant Justice Center work with Courtwatch to make appropriate responses to policy or procedural changes made by the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), the branch of the Department of Justice that operates the country's immigration courts.

The weekly ad hoc meetings of the diocese's Anti-racism Commission, Hispanic Affairs Committee, Peace & Justice Committee, and Sanctuary Committee that began last year have continued and grown to include members of congregations that are assisting

asylum-seekers as well as members of congregations who seek current information, e.g., ICE neighborhood targets, changes in policies and procedures, and invitations to upcoming events, such as the August 1 March on Marquette Park commemorating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's August 5, 1966, march.

The Sanctuary Committee uses a Signal text group to share alerts of ICE sightings in the Chicago metro area and other pertinent information. On August 27, the Rev. Castillo shared an alert that ICE was a short distance from Santa Teresa de Ávila Episcopal Church where she is the assisting priest. Three clergy colleagues immediately replied asking if they should go to Santa Teresa. The ICE vehicle was no longer in the area, but the Rev. Castillo was very grateful for the solidarity demonstrated by fellow clergy.

Through the diocese's membership with the ICIRR and Episcopal Migration Ministry, Episcopal Migration Caucus, and other organizations, members of our congregations can engage in advocacy that resists the administration's targeting and deportation of asylum seekers, documented and undocumented immigrants, and immigrants whose parole status and Temporary Protected Status have been terminated. Jack Lloyd serves as co-convenor of the Province V Migration Ministry Network. Its functions include information sharing, advocacy, mutual assistance, and education, including webinars. He also serves on the EMM Episcopal Migration Response Network that meets monthly and functions as a clearinghouse of information on a national level. The Rev. Canon Sandra Castillo serves on the Migration with Dignity Task Force that is working on a report for the upcoming General Convention.

Beginning on January 17, 2026, several volunteers from our diocese, other religions, and organizations began helping at "Family Preparedness" Events. The purpose is to assist parents prepare for their children's care should parents by arrested and detained by ICE agents. Volunteers help parents complete: 1) emergency forms that identify the family's emergency contact, medical issues, and children's teachers and schools; 2) a DHS "Privacy Waiver" authorizing a named individual to request the parents' immigration documents; and 3) Powers of Attorney for Temporary Guardianship for minor children. The event has been held on January 17 and February 15 at the northwest side Iglesia Evangelica del Pacto with members of clergy, volunteer lawyers, and paralegals. On February 22, St. Paul Episcopal Church, Kankakee, hosted an event with help from a paralegal who volunteers with the Courtwatch program and the Rev. Sandra Castillo. On February 28, Santa Teresa de Ávila Episcopal Church hosted the event with the help of eight volunteers from St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn. On April 6, Balbina Nino, a member of Santa Teresa de Avila's

Bishop's Committee, and the Rev. Sandra Castillo trained a group of approximately 18 Spanish-speaking "Community Navigators" for the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP). The Community Navigators are residents of Chicago's southwest side who meet their neighbors at local businesses to discuss health issues, resources and now, how to prepare for the protection of their children if a parent is detained. On May 23, the Church of the Ascension hosted the event with the help of eight church members, one of whom is a lawyer, and the Rev. Sandra Castillo. Please contact the Rev. Castillo if your church would like to host a Family Preparedness Event.

In 2017, Illinois passed the TRUST Act. "The law limits Illinois law enforcement agencies' ability to assist immigration agents: They can't transfer people to ICE custody without a criminal warrant signed by a judge, allow ICE agents to call or visit someone in a local jail, or 'assist in any capacity with an immigration agents' enforcement operations.'" Yet, such cooperation continues to the present day. As of January 1, 2022, under the Illinois Way Forward Act, cities and counties were prohibited from entering into contracts with ICE to "house or detain" immigrants in ICE custody in local jails.

Last autumn's ICE and Customs & Border Patrol (CBP) two-month "Operation Midway Blitz" "detained over 3,800 people, most of whom were Latino, according to Department of Homeland Security records. Agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol made sweeping arrests, grabbing people from job sites, from behind food carts, while walking to the store and while enjoying a family outing at Millennium Park." The majority of those arrested during the campaign…had no criminal record, Block Club has reported. "During 'Midway Blitz,' word got out about the conditions detainees faced at the Broadview detention facility. Now, the facility has largely emptied out, with detainees quickly transferred out of state."

On September 10, 2025, in anticipation of a forthcoming massive ICE action, the Diocese of Chicago's social justice committees came together to publish: **A Joint Statement from the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago's Peace and Justice, Sanctuary, and Hispanic Affairs Committees, the Antiracism Commission, and Episcopal Charities.** Our introduction began:

"As people directly involved in carrying out the social justice commitments of our diocese, we have come together to issue this emergency call to action and to support wholeheartedly Bishop Paula Clark's courageous pastoral letter from August 1 advocating for our immigrant siblings. We urge all diocesan churches, clergy, and laity to get involved

as we redouble our efforts to welcome the stranger, protect the vulnerable and respect the dignity of every human being."

The transfer of immigrants detained by ICE has led the Sanctuary Committee to reach out to our colleagues in other dioceses. Willian Giménez González, one of the asylum seekers whose family is assisted by the Episcopal Church of St. Paul & the Redeemer and an active member there, sued a group of off-duty police officers who harassed and abused day laborers at a Home Depot in Chicago. He, his family, the congregation, and his lawyer believed he was abducted and disappeared by ICE agents in retaliation for his lawsuit.

The congregation organized, consulted with the Rev. Primo Racimo and Gerald Floyd, St. Margaret of Scotland Episcopal Church and members of the Sanctuary Committee. At the congregation's October 7 Prayer Service for Willian, several Episcopal churches were in attendance. The Resurrection Project, a Catholic organization that provides housing, immigration legal support, and community organizing, represented the Multi-faith Immigrant Justice Alliance (MIJA) that our Sanctuary Committee had recently helped to organize. St. Paul & the Redeemer also reached out to our colleagues in the Dioceses of the Great Lakes and Michigan. They obtained Willian's legal representation by Richard Kessler, a Michigan lawyer who has much experience with deportation defense and federal habeas corpus cases. With all these efforts, the Church of St. Paul & the Redeemer obtained the release from detention of Mr. Gonzalez.

Since then, the Sanctuary Committee has been in regular contact with our colleagues in Michigan. We provide information and referrals. Our colleagues in the Diocese of the Great Lakes make pastoral visits to detainees from Illinois. We request Mr. Kessler's representation for Illinois residents detained in Michigan. At the July 31 Province V Gathering, the Sanctuary Committee, represented by Jack Lloyd and Rev. Sandra Castillo, along with our Michigan colleagues, presented a workshop entitled, "Collaborating Province-wide to Help Migrants." The workshop was attended by our Chicago colleagues, representatives from the various Province V dioceses, including Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows of the Diocese of Indianapolis, and Bishop Matthew Gunter of the Diocese of Wisconsin.

2. [T]hat this convention encourage the congregations and institutions of the Diocese of Chicago to consider becoming Sanctuary Congregations and Institutions, in order to serve as places of welcome, refuge, healing, and other forms of material and pastoral support for

those targeted by hate due to immigration status or some perceived status of difference, and to work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people[.]

Our diocese's congregations serving our African, Caribbean, Korean, and Latino communities are committed to serving their congregants and communities as described in the above resolution language. Our other sister congregations, as well as Episcopal Charities, have increasingly worked to be places of welcome, refuge, healing, and providing other forms of material and pastoral support. These includes: All Saints, Chicago; Christ Church, Waukegan; St. Chrysostom, in partnership with the Church of the Ascension; Grace, Galena; Grace in the Loop, Chicago; Grace, Oak Park; St. John's, Chicago; St. Mark, Glen Ellyn; St. Paul & The Redeemer, Chicago; Transfiguration, Palos Park; and Trinity, Highland Park. These include, among others, providing rent support; providing legal support; accompanying families and individuals to Immigration Court hearings and ICE check-ins; operating food programs; operating "free stores;" organizing communities' churches and nonprofit organizations; sponsoring ongoing prayer services; participating in advocacy events; and volunteering in Sanctuary Committee events. Please contact the Rev. Sandra Castillo to add other congregations offering items that fall within this category.

This year, the following congregations have invited the Rev. Sandra Castillo to preach or speak with the church members: The Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest; St. Ignatius Episcopal Church, Antioch; St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn; St. Martin, Chicago; St. Joseph and St. Aiden, Blue Island; St. Paul, Kankakee; Church of the Holy Nativity, Chicago, La Iglesia Episcopal del Redentor, Elgin; and Santa Teresa de Ávila, Chicago. The Rev. Castillo has also spoken at Bishop Paula Clark's Deans Meeting, the Aurora, Joliet, North, and Evanston Deaneries. The discussions related to the changes of federal government policies, immigrant detentions, Immigration Court, and the need for legal services and rent support.

The Episcopal Church of St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn, and Santa Teresa de Ávila, a small Latino congregation in Chicago's southwest side Chicago Lawn community, are constructing a bridge of friendship and trust. Eight St. Barnabas members volunteered at Santa Teresa's Family Preparedness Event. On April 18, St. Barnabas invited the Rev. Sandra Castillo to preach at the Sunday Eucharist, held a fundraiser to benefit Santa Teresa de Avila, and presented a beautiful icon of the Holy Family to the Rev. Castillo and Balbina Nino, a

member of Santa Teresa's Bishop's Committee. On July 19, Santa Teresa de Avila hosted St. Barnabas at an outdoor bilingual Eucharist followed by a potluck picnic.

3. [T)hat the Diocese of Chicago connect with other local and national sanctuary communities and institutions, immigrant rights groups and coalitions, and engage in educating, organizing, advocacy, and direct action, and other methods as deemed appropriate in each context, to ensure the safety and security of the undocumented community[.]

The Uncaged Art exhibit continues its tour of the diocese, which began at St. James Cathedral in 2023. The exhibit consists of artwork created by children who were separated from their parents and held in the Tornillo Detention Center during the first Trump administration. Over the eight months of its operation, 6,200 children were held in tents in Tornillo, a small Texas border town. Uncaged Art venues since September, 2025 include: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston; St. Lukes, Evanston; Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest; St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn; and St. Ignatius, Antioch. The Uncaged Art exhibit will open at All Saints, Western Springs, on Saturday, November 7. To schedule the Uncaged Art exhibit at your congregation, please contact Jack Lloyd at jack.lloydgoogle@gmail.com.

We continue as a member of the Sanctuary Working Group, assisting with the SWG accompaniment program. The Rev. Castillo has participated in a meeting of a Franciscan organization's discussion of immigration issues. As a result of the Sanctuary Committee's participation in the interfaith group, Multi-faith Immigrant Justice Alliance (MIJA), convened by Arise Chicago and ICIRR, we are now participating in the pastoral visitation program at Broadview. This is due to the work of the Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership (CSPL), a Catholic organization that obtained a temporary order in federal court granting CSPL the right to make pastoral visits to detainees at Broadview, which is functioning as a processing center and not a detention center. The Rev. Castillo participated in the Holy Week visitation on Good Friday. She began making regular pastoral visits with other clergy in May. Since then, the number of lay and ordained ministers has grown. At present, the Diocese of Chicago has three clergy and one lay minister making regular visits with three clergy and one lay minister who have recently entered the program. Under the court order, CSPL volunteers may not disclose information regarding the number of detainees or their identities. However, volunteers are encouraged to share the detainees' stories without identifying information. These

stories are a means by which more people come to understand the unnecessary cruelty of the current administration's immigration system.

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago continues as a member of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights with the Sanctuary Committee serving as the diocese's channel for publicizing and organizing our participation in ICIRR events, opportunities for organizing, and advocacy. Some of the events in which members of our diocese participated include the Rev. Richard Frontjes, Christ Church, Waukegan, who on September 20, 2025, gave the opening prayer at the prayer service that began the march from Mano-A-Mano Family Resource Center in North Chicago, Illinois to the Great Lakes Naval Station. The march was in response to reports that federal immigration operations would be based out of the Great Lakes Naval Station. On January 28, Newland Smith of St. Luke's; Evanston, Priscilla and Tom Read of St. Chrysostom, Chicago; and the Rev. Sandra Castillo attended the rally in front of Amazon headquarters in protest of its avoidance of paying its fair share of taxes and its ties to the ICE deportation machine. On April 15, the Rev. Andrea Billhardt, Grace Episcopal Church in the Loop, and the Rev. Castillo participated in ICIRR's Springfield lobby day, in which ICIRR member organizations speak to our state legislators on behalf of legislation that can assist our immigrant communities. The Resurrection Project, another ICIRR member provided them with bus transportation during which we were able to meet immigrants who took the day off to engage in this important advocacy for our communities.

Many of our churches were represented in our diocesan delegation for the May 1 Rally and March. Members of St. James Cathedral carried the Episcopal flag as we marched from Union Park on the near west side to Daley Plaza in the Loop. Churches included All Saints, Chicago; St. Paul & the Redeemer, Chicago; St. Barnabas and St. Mark, Glen Ellyn; St. Charles, St. Charles; Our Saviour, Chicago; and Santa Teresa de Ávila, Chicago.



On Saturday, August 1, St. James Cathedral and Santa Teresa de Ávila Episcopal Church represented the Diocese of Chicago in a march to Marquette Park on the southwest side of Chicago. The march, entitled "The Fierce Urgency of Now: A National March into Marquette Park," was a show of solidarity in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's 1966 march into Marquette Park to end Chicago's history of housing discrimination. Led by the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), a member of MIJA, more than 75 faith, civic, labor, and community organizations from across Chicagoland, and members of the Faith Over Fear Coalition, joined over 1,000 Chicagoans in a march to Marquette Park. St. James Cathedral was one of the event's sponsors and proudly displayed the Episcopal flag. Members of the Ministerio Episcopal de Trabajadores Agricolas de la Iglesia Episcopal La Sagrada Familia in Dunn, North Carolina, traveled to Chicago to participate in the Marquette Park March. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and Dr. Bernice King, the Rev. Dr. King's daughter, both spoke of the need for solidarity among our diverse racial and religious communities.

4. [T]hat the Diocese of Chicago assist in equipping congregations, clergy and lay leaders to engage in such work, appropriate to local contexts, capacity, and discernment[.]

Please see preceding sections.

5. [T]hat responsibility for implementation of this resolution shall be that of the resolution originators through a Task Force to be convened as soon as possible following its passage but no later than three months from that date.

Please see Resolution F-187 passed at the 187th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Chicago providing for the Transition of the Diocese of Chicago Sanctuary Task Force to Sanctuary Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
MEMBERS, SANCTUARY COMMITTEE
The Rev. Miguel Briones, St. Mark Episcopal Church, Glen Ellyn
The Rev. Sandra Castillo, Santa Teresa de Ávila Episcopal Church, Chicago
Carmela Cordero, Grace Episcopal Church, Galena
The Rev. Gary Cox, Santa Teresa de Ávila Episcopal Church, Chicago
The Very Rev. Michael Dwyer, Dean, Joliet Deanery
Gerald Floyd, St. Margaret of Scotland Episcopal Church
Sean Hansen, The Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Chicago
The Rev. Robert Hillenbrand, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Rockford
Jack Lloyd, St. Martin Episcopal Church, Chicago
Ed Manning, St. Charles Episcopal Church, St. Charles
The Rev. Emeka Nwachuku, St. Andrew/Pentecost Episcopal Church, Evanston
Pat O'Connor, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Glen Ellyn
The Rev. Primo Racimo, St. Margaret of Scotland Episcopal Church, Chicago
Judith Tribbett, St. James Cathedral, Chicago
Diocesan Council Liaison: The Rev. Dawn Starry, St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church, Antioch

Standing Committee of the Diocese of Chicago 2026 Annual Report

The primary work of the Standing Committee is to act as the council of advice to the bishop and to give consent in various canonically prescribed situations, including parish property sales, the election of bishops, and approvals of applications for candidacy and certifications for ordination. The Standing Committee is composed of three lay members and three clergy members. The committee meets monthly either in person or via Zoom.

Since the 2025 Convention the Diocese of Chicago, the Standing Committee has engaged the following:

1. Appointed Elsie Saldaña and Judi Jordan to fill two lay vacancies until the 2026 Diocesan Convention.
2. Consented to the elections of Miguelina Howell as bishop of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, Sarah Kathleen Fisher as bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina, Antonio José Gallardo Lucena as bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles, Richard Lawson as bishop of the Diocese of Alabama, Karin McPhail as bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, Adam J. Shoemaker as bishop of the Diocese of Long Island, Elizabeth Berman as bishop of the Diocese of Hawai'i, Keith Chen-Cheng Lee as bishop of the Diocese of Taiwan, David Sibley as bishop of the Diocese of Lexington, and Jenifer Chatfield as bishop of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania.
3. Met with members of the Commission on Ministry regarding the renewal of the ordination process in the diocese. This included a day workshop with Sally Ulrey of the Diocese of Atlanta about ordination processes across The Episcopal Church, as well as engaging with the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program of the Office of the Presiding Bishop with the Commission on Ministry over three days.
4. Appointed the following deputies and alternate deputies to the General Convention of The Episcopal Church: The Rev. Jihan Murray-Smith (Holy Spirit, Lake Forest), the Rev. Coutney Reid (All Saints, Ravenswood), the Rev. Jess Elfring-Roberts (Church of Our Saviour, Chicago), and the Rev. Brad Linbloom (Holy Nativity, Clarendon Hills) as alternate deputies in the clergy order; Ben Sweeney (All Saints/Ravenswood) as deputy in the lay order; Alan Metzger (St. Simon's, Arlington Heights), Elle Simpson (Ascension, Chicago), and Newland Smith (St. David's, Glenview) as alternate deputies in the lay order.
5. Approved applications for candidacy and certified applications for ordination to the diaconate of Ally Henny and Amanda Wright.
6. Consented to the sale of a house owned by Trinity Episcopal Church, Highland Park.
7. Consented to the closure of Trinity Episcopal Church, Chicago.
8. Consented to the appointment of Jacob Perkins as the Diocese of Chicago's representative to the Province V Board.

9. Received the resignation of Rev. Jaime Briceño as a member of the Standing Committee, effective August 30, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Bryan Cones, secretary, on behalf of the Standing Committee

Members of the Standing Committee

Daphne Cody – President, St. Peter's Chicago, (clergy) term ending 2028
Bryan Cones – Secretary, Trinity, Highland Park, (clergy) term ending 2026
Jaime Briceño – St. Michael and All Angels, Berwyn, (clergy) term ending 2027
Judi Jordan – St. Paul and the Redeemer, (lay) *ad interim* until Convention 2026
Elsie Saldaña – Church of the Redeemer, Elgin, (lay) *ad interim* until Convention 2026 Wes Kimes – St. Michael's, Barrington, (lay) term ending 2027

Trustees of the Endowment Fund 2026 Annual Report

The Trustees of the Endowment Fund report the following accomplishments in 2026:

- Following a bylaws review conducted with counsel from Chancellor Michael Peregrine, the corporation restored its annual meeting practice. The Annual Meeting of Members and Annual Meeting of Trustees were held in July 2026. The members of the corporation—the Rt. Rev. Paula E. Clark, bishop of Chicago, and the Rev. Daphne Cody, president of the Standing Committee—elected the trustees to their terms and elected the chair for the coming year, and the trustees elected officers, received the treasurer's report, and adopted corporate-formalities practices for use at all future meetings.

- Received the FY 2025 audit from Selden Fox, which issued an unmodified ("clean") opinion, and authorized the Review Committee to act on the board's behalf at its June 11, 2026, meeting.

- Approved 2027 endowment distributions totaling $302,448—$175,730 from the General Endowment Fund, $120,749 from the Fund for the Episcopacy, and $5,969 from the Chicago Leadership Fund (board-designated)—each calculated at 4.5% of the five-year trailing average of fourth-quarter values per the fund's spending policy.

- Adopted a resolution to accept the estate gift of the late Rev. Thomas G. Smith—U.S. Army veteran, CPA, and longtime deacon at St. Nicholas, Elk Grove Village, and Calvary, Lombard—who named the corporation as beneficiary of a charitable annuity, to be administered under the Trustees' Gift Acceptance Policy.

- Reached consensus to direct the Chicago Leadership Fund toward underwriting the discernment and consultant costs of a multicultural ministry strategic planning process, inviting broad participation from multicultural congregations and leaders across the diocese, with scope and funding to come before the Trustees for formal action at their third-quarter meeting. This direction follows a deliberate two-year stewardship pause and aligns with the fund's donor intent of leadership development.

- Prepared and transmitted the 2024–2025 annual donor report for the Chicago Leadership Fund to the fund's donors.

- Launched GivingDocs, a free estate planning, healthcare directive, and power of attorney creation resource available free to all members of the diocese at GivingDocs.com/EpiscopalChicago.

- Continued engagement with congregations participating in the "Thriving Together" capital campaign program:

    - St. Augustine's, Wilmette — approved Phase 2 support, including a Capital Campaign Feasibility Study and facility master planning, under a supplemental Thriving Together agreement;

    - St. John's, Chicago — made its final payment of $21,206 to the Trustees, recorded July 28, 2026, completing its repayment obligation;

    - St. Mark's, Glen Ellyn — repayment of its debt to the Trustees is on schedule per the November 2025 agreement, with the next installment expected in the fourth quarter of 2026.

Board Membership

The Trustees are currently comprised of Ms. MaryPat Mauro, St. James Cathedral, Chicago, Chair; the Rev. Stacy Alan, Brent House, The Episcopal Center at the University of Chicago; Mr. Bill Cosper, St. James Cathedral, Chicago; Ms. Deborah Maue, Trinity Episcopal Church, Wheaton; and Ms. H. Fay Peters, Grace Episcopal Church, Oak Park. The Rev. Daphne Cody, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Chicago, President of the Standing Committee, also serves as a trustee ex officio under the corporation's bylaws. Ms. Mauro began her 6th term as chair in January 2026.

The members of the corporation are the Rt. Rev. Paula E. Clark, bishop of Chicago, and the Rev. Daphne Cody, president of the Standing Committee.

The Trustees are supported by Canon T.J. Houlihan, canon for development; Ms. Rebecca Elfring-Roberts, director of finance; and Mr. Keith Kampert, treasurer.

Financial Position

Per our audited financial statement dated 12/31/2025, net assets at the end of 2025 were $8,766,933, up $810,356 from $7,956,577 on 12/31/2024. Of that total, $5,258,075 is without donor restrictions (board-designated) and $3,508,858 is with donor restrictions.

Activities

Investment performance in 2025 was strong: $808,497 in investment gains plus $264,738 in dividends. Gifts and bequests totaled $30,503 from two donors.

Grants to the diocesan Administrative and Program Fund totaled $279,899, compared with $602,905 in 2024. The change from year to year does not represent a reduction in the Trustees' support of the diocese. The 2024 total combined the Trustees' regular annual distribution with a one-time grant of $327,200 drawn from principal at the diocese's request—to help address the diocesan budget deficit and to invest in development staff—with the shared expectation, confirmed in writing to the bishop in October 2024, that at least that amount will be returned to the endowed funds when the diocese is in a stronger financial position. The 2025 total simply reflects a return to the Trustees' normal annual distribution. In addition, the $291,460 grant to the 2025 Administrative & Program budget approved by the Trustees was pending at year-end and was disbursed in the first quarter of 2026.

The resulting change in net assets for 2025 was $810,356, compared with $366,700 in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. MaryPat Mauro, chair
Canon T.J. Houlihan, canon for development



United Thank Offering 2026 Annual Report

Our Work

The United Thank Offering (UTO) began in 1883 when the women of the church took up a thank offering to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion that the church budget could not cover.

Today, UTO includes members of all ages and genders and welcomes people regardless of church affiliation. UTO's focus is still on promoting gratitude and supporting innovative projects that address compelling needs around the globe.

The United Thank Offering Board is seeking new board members from Province 2,3,5,6, and 7.

United Thank Offering 2026 Grant Awards

Thank you to everyone who, through a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude, contributed to the United Thank Offering's 2025 Ingathering. As a result of your gratitude and generosity, we have $930,777.82 available to award in 2026, which represents a decrease from last year. UTO experiences a decline in giving whenever consumer confidence is down, and this year is no exception. Additionally, the offset for trust funds was decreased this year. When the board became aware of the decline in the Ingathering, we reached out to applicants who requested over $40,000 to see if they could decrease the amount they requested. Applicants decreased their requests by almost $540,000 to help ensure as many grants could be awarded as possible. This shift allowed UTO to fund 55% of the requests this year. Since our official founding in 1889, UTO has awarded 5,500 grants for a total of $146,233,774.95. (To see a complete list of all UTO grants visit unitedthankoffering.com.) Reminder, every penny given to the United Thank Offering is given away to support innovative mission and ministry the following year, so thank you for your ongoing support.

The UTO Board continued to have a maximum on the allowed grant request of $55,000, except in the cases of extreme need or larger projects, where the applicant could request up to $100,000. The board received almost $2 million in requests from 46 applications and funded 25 grants, including one historical grant (below), seven to Anglican Communion dioceses, and 19 to The Episcopal Church organizations. Unfortunately, due to new constraints on international funding, UTO could not award as many grants outside of the United States this year but has developed a pathway to resolve this issue going forward.

Since UTO no longer has space in New York nor do we send missionaries, this fund is used to preserve and tell the history of UTO or support missionaries sent through the

Historical grant

Emery Trust No. 335 Award: UTO History Project: Preservation and Storytelling Project – $50,000

For an individual breakdown on Episcopal Church awards visit the website listed.

New: Vacation Bible School

Our newest Vacation Bible School program, Gratitude Rocks!, explores geology, the Eucharist, and gratitude. Two parishes will try it out this summer, and their feedback will help us improve the final materials. We plan to share the finished program with the UTO community by the end of the year and release it to the whole church next year.

As always, please share resources you would like to see from UTO. To order materials/ kits in English or Spanish visit the online store found on the website.

Respectfully submitted by
Wanda Norris, Diocesan Coordinator

Youth Advisory Council 2026 Annual Report

The Youth Advisory Council was commissioned by Bishop Paula Clark to gather data on children's and youth ministry across the diocese, connect and support the people doing that work, and bring the perspective of young people directly into diocesan decision-making. Since the 188th Diocesan Convention, the council has moved from launch to a full first program year, building relationships and creating some of the diocese's first shared programming for children, youth, and the leaders who serve them in recent years.

Youth Delegates at the 188th Diocesan Convention. Fourteen youth delegates and alternates attended the 2025 convention in Rockford, alongside the Convention's Children's Program, with an optional overnight at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Delegate Ben Sweeney of All Saints, Ravenswood, raised the delegation's concerns about the need for action beyond the Migration with Dignity framework during debate on Resolution C-188, an exchange that led to his subsequent appointment to an open lay deputy position for the 2027 General Convention. Bishop Clark later told the council, "I don't want you to underestimate the hope and energy that your presence brought to convention."

Leader Networking. The council convened quarterly virtual meetups for children's and youth ministry leaders from around the diocese to meet one another, troubleshoot shared challenges, and swap formation resources. Attendance has grown steadily, and leaders have used the gatherings to float ideas for joint confirmation programming, diocesan-level service days and retreats, and regional events to connect Episcopal youth across Northern Illinois.

Lenten Retreat. On February 28, 2026, fourteen young people gathered at Church of the Holy Nativity, Clarendon Hills, for a retreat on the theme of *Repair in a Fractured World* — trying their hands at the Japanese mending practice of sashiko and reflecting theologically on community, drawing on the film "KPop Demon Hunters" alongside their own experiences in congregations, schools, and neighborhoods.

Bishop's Forum. In February 2026, council members met with Bishop Clark to reflect on the council's first year and to name hopes for the next two to four years, including a standing weekly youth group presence in every deanery and continued personal invitation of young people into diocesan leadership.

Provincial Youth Event. Rachel Snavely and staff liaison Rebecca Elfring-Roberts led a Diocese of Chicago delegation of eight youth and four adults to the Provincial Youth

Event, held July 30–August 1, 2026, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in conjunction with the Big Provincial Gathering.

Fall Service Weekend. As of this writing, the council is organizing a diocesan-wide Youth Service Weekend, October 2–4, 2026, mobilizing congregations around creation care in partnership with Eco DioChicago, with sites and projects arranged at the congregational and deanery level.

Youth Worship Festival. On October 24, 2026, the council is partnering with diocesan staff to host a Children & Youth Worship Festival at St. James Cathedral, offering creative workshops (communion bread baking, flower arranging, altar frontal design) and training sessions (acolytes, choir, lay Eucharistic ministers, Prayers of the People), followed by a closing Eucharist for families and friends.

Infrastructure. The council has begun building a diocesan directory of children and youth ministry contacts and resources, expanded its own roster of adult and youth members, and adopted a regular rhythm of programming—one event per season and quarterly leader meetups—to sustain momentum going forward.

Looking Ahead. The council is recruiting new adult and youth members, planning a 2027 Lenten retreat, and beginning early conversations about a youth presence at the 2027 General Convention.

The Youth Advisory Council is grateful for the trust the diocese has placed in this work and invites clergy, lay leaders, and young people alike to get involved. For more information, contact Kyle Oliver (kyle.matthew.oliver@gmail.com) or Rachel Snavely (rachel@holynativitych.org).

Respectfully submitted,
Kyle Oliver and Rachel Snavely, Co-Chairs
Rebecca Elfring-Roberts, Diocesan Staff Liaison