



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONVENTION

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA

# ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

The Commission on Addiction and Recovery has developed a social media presence by creating a Facebook page as well as an Instagram page to help us reach individuals in our diocese and beyond. Additionally, we have established an email address that will allow people to contact us with questions or to request literature.

Our first face to face meeting was held in January and was very productive. We brainstormed different ideas regarding education, support, and presence that will allow our ministry to be most effective in providing our message of the healing grace of Jesus Christ to the addicted. We also hope to provide ministry to the family members and friends who are also impacted by the effects of the disease of addiction.

As we look toward the months to come, we hope to provide educational seminars, retreats, celebrations of recovery, literature, and speakers.

Finally, we will continue to seek additional opportunities to share the love of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Parham, Chair

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees meets four times a year. Currently, we meet twice in person at the Diocesan House in Pineville. When not meeting in person, we meet via Zoom Video Communications.

The canonical responsibility of the Board of Trustees is to invest and reinvest the funds and securities of the Diocese for its benefit. The professional advisors of the Board of Trustees are Bo Smithwick, Jr. of Merrill Lynch and Greg Dvorocsik of BlackRock Private Investors. Bo and Greg continue to be reliable and competent investment advisors.

Particularly at our meetings in Pineville, Bishop Owensby relates to us his vision of the future of the Diocese and how the Board of Trustees may best assist him to accomplish his goals.

The members of the Board of Trustees are Gray Easterling (Diocesan Treasurer), Will Harp (Assistant Diocesan Treasurer), Steve Skrivanos, Foster Walker III, Virginia Paul, and Patrick Caraway. We continue to be grateful for the valuable time and advice these members give for the good of the Diocese.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Kathy Richey, Missioner for Administration and Finance, and to Bishop Owensby for hosting us at the Diocesan House and for giving us his articulate guidance.

We are always mindful of our responsibility for the significant accounts managed for parishes, missions, schools, and other entities of the Diocese, including Camp Hardtner.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Yancey, II, Chair

# THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

No report submitted.

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The past four months have been active. I have dealt with three issues for the Diocese since my last report.

1. The Diocese participated in the sale of property held by Trinity Church in Crowley.
2. The Bishop and I worked through a Title IV matter that was dealt with through pastoral direction and is considered closed.
3. The Bishop and I dealt with an ongoing matter involving parishioners in conflict with clergy.

Other than those matters, the Diocese is not involved with any other legal or canonical matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle McInnis, Chancellor

# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Christian Formation Commission continued to provide annual workshops. Our 2018 speaker was Mr. John Roberto, Innovation Labs Coordinator, Leadership Team, Vibrant Faith. The conference topic was Reimagining Faith Formation with an emphasis on inter-generational faith formation. Over seventy clergy and lay persons attended a lively, inspiring conference and left with new ideas of ways to enhance faith formation for all ages.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Whelan, Chair

# COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The website, [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org) says, “The functions of Commissions on Ministry specified in the canon (III.1) are to assist the bishop ‘in determining present and future needs for ministry in the diocese’ and to assist ‘in enlisting and selecting persons for Holy Orders.’ ... They interview candidates prior to their ordination as deacons and may interview candidates prior to their ordination as priests, if requested by the bishop, reporting to the bishop in each case...”

Your current members are: The Rev. Mary Richard, The Rev. Lois Maberry, The Very Rev. Rich Snow, Nancy Wade, The Rev. Suzanne Wolfenbarger, Marybeth McVie, Katie Chapman and Will Harp. The Very Rev. Cannon John Bedingfield assists with staff support. We are thankful for the faithful dedication and professionalism of everyone serving on this committee.

The Diocese currently has people involved in preparation for the diaconate or priesthood, at traditional seminaries, commuter seminaries, and local formation programs. In addition, there are several Congregational Discernment Groups at work around the Diocese, potentially adding to our pool of postulants in the coming year.

We give thanks to God that this past year, Bishop Jake ordained Brooks Boylan, Garrett Boyte, Lee Jefferson, and Meg Lovejoy to the transitional diaconate on November 24, 2018.

Anyone interested in the discernment process should discuss their interest with their rector/vicar/priest-in-charge and review the Discernment Process Manual, which may be downloaded from the diocesan website. If you have any questions regarding the work of the Commission on Ministry, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the members of the COM.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Suzanne Wolfenbarger, Chair

# COMMISSION ON SCHOOLS

Nothing to report since Convention 2018.



# COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Since the 2018 fall convention report, the Diocesan Communications Commission has continued to review and discuss potential improvements to our communication efforts, such as the Diocesan website, Facebook page and other activities.

An e-newsletter that includes announcements, news items from our churches (including ministry activities and photos), links to the Bishop's blog, national church news and other items continues to be sent out each Thursday to the Diocesan news email list.

Members of the Commission are Will Harp, the Rev. Michael Bordelon, the Rev. Annie Etheredge, Bess Maxwell, Tricia Grayson and Holly Davis, Diocesan Missioner for Communications and Administration.

Submitted by Melanie Torbett, Past Chair

# CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

No report submitted.

# CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

No report submitted.

# CURSILLO

The Secretariat is working on hosting a Cursillo Homecoming on May 3-4, at Camp Hardtner. We are also planning and gathering staff for Cursillo 153 to be held October 18-20.

Respectfully submitted,

Mack Golden, Chair



# DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

No report submitted.

# DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana meets on a quarterly basis on the third Tuesday of that month, unless there is not enough business to warrant a meeting. The Council has met once since the 39th Annual Convention of the Diocese on November 3, 2018. The Council reviews the financial status of the diocese and prepares the annual budget to present at Diocesan Convention. The annual budget is approved by the Diocesan Council following the Convention. A verbal report from each of the Council departments and a report on the activities of various ministries of the diocese are given at every meeting. Representatives from each of the five convocations updates the Council on activities taking place in their convocation.

During the 2018 – 2019 Term, no action has been taken. Only one meeting has been held since the previous convention due to the shortened time period between Diocesan Conventions.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Barnes Shaw

Secretary, Diocesan Council

# DISASTER RELIEF

Thanks be to God there have been no disasters that have affected our diocese needing attention. There is a goal for 2019 to form a network of people in each convocations to work together to better coordinate disaster relief. If you are interested in helping with this committee, please contact Deacon Lois Maberry at [lrhma@bellsouth.net](mailto:lrhma@bellsouth.net)

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Deacon Lois Maberry, Diocesan Disaster Relief Officer

# DISCIPLINARY BOARD

No report submitted.



# ECUMENICAL REPORT

Purpose: The Ecumenical Officers Fr. Wayne Carter and Madre Annie Etheredge serve as representatives of the Bishop and the Diocese in Ecumenical Dialogues and events at the local level through the Louisiana Interchurch Conference (LIC) of which we are members and at the national level through participation in the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO) and the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU). Fr. Carter is a member of the EDEIO Executive Committee. Both Fr. Carter and Madre Etheredge serve on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the LIC and as members of the EDEIO. Fr. Carter and Madre Etheredge are regional coordinators for the LIC.

Madre Etheredge and Fr. Carter attended the LIC Executive Committee on December 13, 2018.

A celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) was held on January 23, 2019 at Mount Olivet Church in Pineville on Wednesday, January 23, at 11:00 A.M. Representatives from several denominations participated. The event was being coordinated on behalf of the diocese by Reverend Rich Snow of Saint Timothy Episcopal Church, Alexandria. In central Louisiana the Episcopal and Roman dioceses ALTERNATE every other year for hosting events for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The odd years are held by the Episcopalians and the even years are hosted by the Roman Catholic Diocese.

The Ecumenical Officers plan to attend the following events during 2019:

The Annual Assembly of the LIC in Lafayette, LA on March 11-12, 2019

The Board of Directors meeting in Monroe, LA on September 25-26, 2019

The EDEIO and the NWCU in St. Louis, MO on April 1-4, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Wayne E. Carter, Ph.D.

The Rev. Annie Etheredge

Ecumenical Officers

# EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

No report submitted.

# EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY(EFM)

Education for Ministry traditionally runs concurrently with the school year (though it is not a requirement), so not much has changed since our report in the fall of 2018.

The Education for Ministry program is a four-year course in theological education course offered through Sewanee – The University of the South in the United States and around the world! The course is not simply a Bible study, but a community that fosters Adult Christian Formation and Theological Reflection.

Active and growing groups continue in most of our convocations – EfM meets in Monroe, Natchitoches, Lafayette, and Alexandria. Groups are working to form in Lake Charles and Shreveport, but a few more participants are needed. Most of these groups include people from multiple congregations. The programs are mentored by both clergy and lay folk.

Five students will complete the program this year and graduate in the Monroe group. This is a significant achievement. The EfM program will enrich your ministry even if you do not complete all four years. EfM is open to all people in the Episcopal or other and most student become more active lay members, but some EfMers will or hope to continue their ministry as ordained clergy. EfM is one of the Diocese approved training methods for non-seminary trained clergy.

Our goal is to help EfM become more active and available to all in the Diocese of Western Louisiana. If you are interested in participating in or mentoring an EfM group in your area, please contact me. We really want to start groups in Lake Charles and the Shreveport area. Please help us!

To find out more about EfM visit their website at [efm.sewanee.edu](http://efm.sewanee.edu), contact me, or speak to anyone who has participated in Education for Ministry or any current participant.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Whit Stodghill, EfM Coordinator



# EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OF ACADIANA (ESA)

Nothing to report since Convention 2018.

# EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

No report submitted.

# FINANCE COMMITTEE/TREASURER'S REPORT

Canon 5 of our diocese requires, in part, that the Treasurer render an annual accounting of the Diocesan receipts and disbursements provided in the budget and a statement from each parish and mission with respect to its pledge. Below is an unaudited financial report for the period ending December 31, 2018. The audited report for the year ending December 31, 2018 is in process, but not complete at this time.

Budget	Actual
Revenue	
\$ 2,494,391	\$ 2,494,391
Expenses	
\$ 2,494,391	\$ 2,212,391
Excess revenue over expense	
\$0	\$ 30,094

The unaudited statement does not include any activity from the Trustee Funds other than budgeted contributions to the operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gray Easterling, Treasurer

# HARDTNER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Since our last convention, the Hardtner Board of Trustees has continued to fulfill our short range plans to keep Camp Hardtner safe for all people using the facilities.

The concrete floor in the pavilion was settling and had some uneven joints of concrete. We had a crew come in and level the floor so that there is no longer a tripping hazard for our campers playing in there or others using the facility.

We also had an issue with the floor in the cafeteria where it was settling and soft because of water damage. We had this repaired and the floor replaced and moved the ice machine into another place to alleviate this from happening again.

Our new “Dinner with the Director” continues to be a success where Daniel Chapman and trustees visits the different convocations and has a dinner with parents, potential staff members and others to help promote Camp Hardtner. During these dinners we give an overview of what all camp has to offer.

Our Marketing and Development committee has formed a fundraising subcommittee to begin the process of putting together an annual fundraising campaign. Their first meeting was in January where they came together to begin looking at ideas and marketing strategies for this campaign. More to be announced as they continue their good work and build this annual fundraising campaign.

Our communications project continues as we look at all avenues for opportunities to gain better internet and telephone services at Camp Hardtner and hopefully be able to offer Wi-Fi in the different buildings on site for groups coming into camp.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. André Bordelon, Chair

# HARDTNER CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

In 2018 Camp Hardtner served 2044 guests & campers.

## RETREAT USE

1639 Guests  
54 Groups/events

## SUMMER CAMP

405 campers  
268 Episcopalians (66%), 137 other (34%)  
189 from Diocese of WLA area; 194 from Diocese of LA area; 22 from other states  
110 New campers  
\$9,562 in scholarships awarded to 38 individuals

2019 is already shaping up to be a promising year.

We will be undergoing an on-site evaluation by the American Camp Association to maintain our accreditation. The ACA's nationally recognized standards program focuses primarily on the health, safety, and risk management aspects of a camp's operation. We have maintained accreditation since 20.

A newly formed Development Committee is eagerly at work to implement an annual giving campaign to encourage ongoing support of Camp Hardtner's efforts to extend our capabilities.

Through Dinner with the Director we continue to engage campers, interested families, and supporters throughout the state. To date we have had four events (Metairie, Lafayette, Monroe, Shreveport). February 24 we will be at St. James in Baton Rouge.

We are thrilled to know of a number of churches self-organizing events to celebrate and promote Camp Hardtner.

- St. Alban's, Monroe on March 3 is integrating Camp Hardtner music into their service.

-St. Alban's at LSU, Baton Rouge. March 30 will host an event "Under the Oaks," with games, crawfish, and Compline.

-St. Paul's, New Orleans will be holding a Camp afternoon on March 10.

-Epiphany Day School, New Iberia (Director Daniel is actually a former student) has invited Camp Hardtner to visit the students. Date TBD.

We are so grateful and proud of their enthusiasm to expand and strengthen the community of campers, alumni, parents, and anyone interested in learning more about Camp Hardtner. If your church or group is planning something Camp Hardtner related, we would love to know!

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Chapman, Director





# INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

No report submitted.

# LITURGY AND MUSIC

No activity since my recent appointment as chairman late last year.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Mitnaul, Chair

# REGISTRAR REPORT

BISHOP'S OFFICIAL ACTS  
September 1, 2018—February 28, 2019

**The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby PhD, DD**

Consecrate and ordain other bishops	0
Ordain deacons	4
Ordain priests	0
Received priests	0
Impose sentences of Suspension, Depositions	0
Remove sentences of Suspension, Depositions	0
Receive Renunciation of Orders	1
Consent to elections, consecrations and resignations of bishops	10
Did not consent to elections, consecrations and resignations of bishops	1
Confirm	24
Receive	4
Reaffirm	2
Baptisms	0
Receive Letters Dimissory	0
Issue Letters Dimissory	1
Give permission for remarriages	6
Weddings	0
Approve retirement applications for clergy	1
License clergy to officiate in diocese	5
License Eucharistic Ministers	32
License Eucharistic Visitors	22
License Worship Leaders	20
Sign death notice for clergy from Church Pension Fund	0
Sermons	21
Holy Eucharists	23
Funerals - members of the clergy	0
Blessing and Dedication of Structures and Appointments	0
Deconsecration and secularization of churches	1

# SAFE CHURCH

No new activity since Convention 2018.

# STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee met several times since the last Diocesan Convention to address a variety of matters. Included among them was the consent of the following Episcopal Elections: Jennifer Anne Reddall as the Bishop Diocesan of Arizona, Cathleen Chittenden Bascom as Bishop Diocesan of Kansas, Mark D.W. Edington as Bishop-in-Charge of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, Kimberly Lucas as Bishop Diocesan of Colorado, and Cristobal Lonzano as Bishop Diocesan of Ecuador Litoral.

In addition, the Standing Committee voted in favor of the closure of Trinity Church, Crowley. The parish celebrated its last service on November 4, 2018.

The Committee unanimously consented with the bishop's decision to release and remove Michael Millard from the Episcopal Church as per his wishes tendered November 30, 2018.

Most recently, the Standing Committee has conducted candidacy interviews with three postulants for Holy Orders: Andrew Armond (priest), Laurent De Prins (priest), and Michael Parham (deacon).

Members of the Standing Committee for 2018-2019 have been Roxanne Myers (Layperson, Lake Charles Convocation 2019), John Robert (Layperson, Alexandria Convocation 2021), Susan Hayward (Layperson, Monroe Convocation 2020), The Reverend Christopher Heying (Clergy, At-Large, 2021), The Reverend Mary Richard (Clergy, Shreveport Convocation, 2020), The Reverend Annie Etheredge (Clergy, Acadiana Convocation 2019, President), and Holly Davis (Staff Support).

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Anne Etheredge, President

# SUMMER CAMPING COMMITTEE

The Hardtner Summer Camping Committee is pleased to report a successful summer camping program for 2018 and we are looking forward to an even better 2019! We have been blessed in 2018 with our new Camp Director, Daniel Chapman. He was a wonderful addition to Camp Hardtner in his first summer in this new role.

2018 brought us a wonderful group of Permanent Staff with Bailey Schehr at the helm as Head Counselor and Ivania Vallejo as Head Driver. Head of Summer Camping Committee was Fr. Michael Bordelon – who was spectacular in his service as always. Appointed as the next Head of SCC is me, Susan Hackett Walpole.

Between the 2018 and upcoming summer, there has been much needed (and overdue) work done on the cabin bathrooms. This will provide an infinitely better experience for all of our campers and others who use our facilities year round. More work is definitely needed and is on the horizon.

We have appointed 3 new members to the SCC for 2019: Rita Jefferson, Lisa Bates Hightower, and Ashley Boynton Thom. We thank the three members who rolled off at the end of 2019: Fr. Jeff Millican, Lauren Bordelon, and Michael Wiley. We are tremendously grateful for their service - as being a member of the SCC is a big commitment.

The SCC truly looks forward to the upcoming 2019 summer camping season and are confident our new hires for this year's Permanent Staff will serve Camp Hardtner well. We anticipate further enmeshing Camp Able as one of our regular camping sessions rather than a separate entity.

Please encourage each other and your parishioners to fully embrace Camp Hardtner as your state Episcopal Summer Camp and be a part of it's upcoming growth. Camp Hardtner will be growing it's online, email, and church presence throughout the coming year. We invite you to be a part of this and continue the indelible Hardtner legacy!

In gratitude,  
Susan Hackett Walpole, Chair

# UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)

No report submitted.



# UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

No changes to report.



# YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Since Annual Convention we have planned and executed two youth retreats for middle and high school students, and planned another retreat for high schoolers that will take place later this march. Additionally, we put together a team of young adults to start planning a retreat for young adults in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Chapman, Chair