



The Episcopal Church Women

Diocese of Central Pennsylvania
Province III

Annual President Report November 2011

As I write my last annual report I realize it has been over five years since the Bishop asked me to be the interim president of the diocese. Little did I know how long God would call me to serve in this capacity. There is no ECW in my parish. I wasn't sure I knew how to make a difference without some experience and background, but managed to grasp the job quickly and run with it. We have wonderful support from our Bishop, The Right Rev. Nathan D. Baxter and the Diocesan Staff. Many of our parishes have thriving ECW groups while others struggle to find a new identity in today's changing world. I have come across some great ideas throughout my time in the Diocese and Province that I would like to share with you.

- Episcopal Church Women are all of us, even if we don't go to meetings or have formal ECW groups.
- Honoring a member of your parish is an example of ECW supporting and holding up each other.
- A bible study or a book club is a form of ECW meeting. (Who said you had to take minutes?)
- Having the Diocesan President visit your parish is a good way to re-invigorate your group. I have seen the success of this firsthand.
- Some parishes have more than one ECW women's group. They each meet on different days and times according to convenience and schedules. They then plan a quarterly or biannual gathering for everyone. (Isn't it better to have two groups rather than none?)
- No formal structure for the group is required. Two or three people can share leadership or it organizing can rotate from one person to another each time your women meet.
- If you have felt fellowship while working in the kitchen, is there some way to help younger or other women enjoy it also? Invite them individually and/or personally?
- Rather than try to get people to go to a meeting, is there a project you all could work on that relates to a common mission objective?
- If you already have a project many women in your parish work on - local food bank, Christmas celebration, fundraising for youth mission trip - why not point out that this is Episcopal women working together?
- Successful ECW groups remember: 1/3 Outreach, 1/3 Inreach, and 1/3 Spiritual.

Take the time to reach out to each other in compassion, love and support with the intention of making connections and building a community of women. We can do and have done extraordinary things together with God's help. There are many fabulous women in our midst who carry out '*Christ's work of Love and Reconciliation in the World, in the Diocese, Province, Nationally and Internationally*'.

I have truly enjoyed being your diocesan president and my prayer is that all women have the opportunities I have had to be enriched and blessed by other women! Thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ through each and every woman in this Diocese!

Blessings, Amy Swiernik, ECW President (717)285-2036

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Our vision for all women of the Episcopal Church is that we become a vibrant blend of all ages, coming together as a peacemaking, healing part of the Church. We aspire to be a God spark - shining and sharing the love of Christ. – National ECW Board.*