

Episcopal Church Women of Central Pennsylvania

October 2019

The board met on a regular basis brainstorming about how to get women more involved with ECW. We continue to be active with United Thank Offering and some financial support of The Shippensburg Home.

Several of the ECW Board members attended the 100th annual Meeting of the Province III. The theme was "Making God's House a Home." Saturday morning started with Eucharist led by Province III Chaplain Rev. Ann Ritonja. In her homily, Rev Ann shared her thoughts on what it feels like to visit in a friend's "home" versus a friend's "house". We could all identify with the "homeyness" of sitting around a friend's kitchen table compared to being relegated to certain rooms set aside for "company". We could feel the joy of being with our friends as they shared their "authentic selves."

Keynote Speaker was Rev. Faith Fowler, the pastor of CASS Community United Methodist Church and Executive Director of Cass Community Social Services in Detroit, MI. Cass Community Social Services is a non-profit agency that provides food, housing, medical and mental health services along with employment programs for people living in areas of concentrated poverty. Rev. Fowler informed, entertained and enlightened us with her comic, yet sincere delivery of her message of hope, faith, caring and doing! During her talk, she shared that her church serves 700,000 meals a week, serves as a warming center in the winter and has several "cottage" industries that have enabled the parishioners with varying levels of need and abilities to learn skills that have helped them "lift themselves" from their conditions. A startling statistic she shared is that homeless women are raped within 3 days of going homeless.

Rev. Fowler shared a video of the Tiny House ministry and how underserved/homeless individuals and families have been blessed to be able to "rent to own" beautifully appointed "tiny, individualized" homes. Following her presentation, Rev. Fowler engaged our table groups in the discussion of 4 questions as follows:

1. Does your church have the right name? Does it speak to its identity?
2. Are there unmet needs in your neighborhood that if you responded to them you wouldn't duplicate the service of others?
3. Jesus launches his good news to the poor. Describe how you are doing it.
4. In 100 years from now, what will the women say your legacy will be?

For more information, visit their website: <https://casscommunity.org>

Saturday afternoon's business session featured reports from our officers, written reports from our Diocesan Presidents, Ministry Representatives (CPC, UTO, GFS) and our Representative to the National ECW Board.

The dinner program featured our Keynote Speaker, Bishop Daniel G. P. Gutierrez who continued our theme in his comments focusing on how the ECW has been instrumental in helping to make God's House a Home. He shared how his love of a favorite childhood story, the **Wizard of Oz**, reminds us all that " ... there's no place like home."

We are preparing for our 115th Annual Meeting to be held at Trinity Episcopal Church, Chambersburg on November 2. The theme this year is "Dream a New Dream." As our registration states, "We are not the women of 1904 (115 yrs. ago). So, why is our ECW functioning in the same way? Women's roles in society have changed – it is time for the role of the ECW in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania to change. Together let's create a NEW ECW, to meet the needs of 21st century women. All women within the Diocese are members of the ECW."

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Mohr

President