

ECW Report for 2017 Diocesan Convention

The Diocese of New Jersey Episcopal Church Women (ECW) have been busy over the past year, working to, as stated in the ECW Prayer, “pray fervently, labor diligently, and give liberally to make known the power of [God’s] love given through [his] son Jesus.”

At our Annual Meeting in May, 2016, new officers were elected. Carol Seale Council, who led the ECW wonderfully for three years stepped down and Donna Freidel was elected the new ECW president for the Diocese. Donna committed herself to continuing the work of service that Carol expanded during her tenure and to increasing participation in ECW among young people, newer parishes, as well as those parishes whose ECWs had been discontinued. ECW Board members attended Convocation meetings throughout the fall to talk about the important work being done at the Diocesan, district, and parish levels.

United Thank Offering (UTO) continues to be an important ministry of ECW under the leadership of UTO Chair Greta Brown. At the Ingathering held during the Annual Meeting, \$11,000.00 was received. A second ingathering took place in the fall, netting \$6,700.00, for a total of \$17,700.00 for United Thank Offering.

The Student Service Awards are another important ministry of the Diocesan ECW, which recognizes the wonderful service work being done by our Episcopal youth. In 2016, we gave awards to thirty-three young people, representing twenty-two parishes. Applications are available now for the 2017 Student Service Awards, which are open to all genders and to high school seniors as well as those in college.

The Church Periodical Club (CPC) also falls under the ECW umbrella. Chaired by Board member Gail Katten, scholarships for books were awarded to several individuals studying for the Diaconate.

Each year, the ECW Board chooses three organizations for its ministry outreach, one local, one national, and one international. In 2016, our local charity was the Diocesan Sandy Relief Fund, the national organization was the Episcopal Church’s Indigenous Ministries, and the international choice was Thistle Farms. We’ve chosen the same organizations for the 2016-2017 year.

In the fall of 2017, the Women of Honor event is scheduled to take place. This very popular event, which takes place every three years, recognizes the outstanding women of our Diocese. Board member Stefanie Rotsaert is once again chairing this great event.

The Board was pleased to welcome Morgan Razo onto the board as its first youth representative in 2016. As part of our continuing outreach to young women, we partnered with three young women from Youth Council, Kate Evans, Johanna Tineo, and Veronica Meyer in the Battle Against Hunger, raising over \$500 for hunger relief!

ECW has also received an Oysters and Pearls grant from the Commission on Ministry to the Disabled. The funds will be used toward Spanish language translations of our materials.

We were deeply saddened by the loss of longtime ECW Board member and former Diocesan ECW president, Deborah Anderson, who departed this life on February 9, 2017. Debbie, who most recently served as our Spiritual Development and Worship Chair, was greatly loved for her sense of humor, tremendous faith, and devotion to God and social justice. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

An overriding goal for the year ahead is to continue to expand participation in ECW among all groups in the Diocese-- young, old, English speaking and non-English speaking. We are “your mother’s” ECW and we want to be yours—as well as our daughters’! We still have all the wonderful facets that made ECW one of the most productive and missional organizations in the Episcopal Church for generations, and we are adding much more to address the needs of women today. We want to reach out to all women in our diocese – our umbrella is as large as that of TEC itself.