

DMP Grant 2007

Report on: Mission and Ministry Initiatives for the Diocese of Eastern Oregon

Component One: Continuing Education for Clergy and Laity

We fulfilled our commitment to enrich our ministry and mission fields with continuing education, as well as leadership development for lay and clergy members of our diocese. The diocesan leadership accomplished this component through our work in systems theories and leadership development with the Rev. Anne Hallisay. We also sponsored a retreat for lay members and clergy. The topic of the retreat was faith based reconciliation, presented by the Rev. Alison Dingley. The outcome of the retreat was increased commitment to further work in local parishes. A clergy member of our diocese attended the Kaleidoscope Institute to receive the education to become a multi-cultural diversity trainer for our diocese. Many lay leaders in parishes of our diocese received training to provide Title 4 trainings within their local convocations. We broadened our commitment to Education for Ministry opportunities within our diocese. In our fall Ministry Weekend we are scheduling a broad offering of leadership development courses; from treasures to preacher's workshops. We have a ministry development class scheduled this fall with the Rev. Jan Schering titled "Be Still and Know that I am God" to encompass 5 sessions. We hosted a very successful weekend during Lent, with the Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey, entitled "The Promise and the Dilemma of Decision-Making". We continue to be committed to sustaining an environment that encourages and supports discernment, creativity, initiatives, implementation and accountability for mission and ministry in the Diocese of Eastern Oregon.

Component Two: Circuit Riding Priests

This very exciting and innovative project is just beginning to become established. The premise of this project is for the newly ordained to receive practical experience outside of their home parish and to also serve the more remote parishes that are without clergy support. There has been a delay in the ordination to the priesthood of 3 of our circuit riding clergy with the resignation of our bishop, but that hasn't delayed the sharing of ministry that is the basis for this component. Currently only one of the aspirants has been ordained to the priesthood but the other three have been sharing their talents as deacons. The parishes that are being served by these clergy persons are excited and revitalized. The parishes being served are Canyon City, Sumpter, Lakeview, Bonanza, Enterprise and Wallowa Lake Chapel. This component provides the reimbursement for mileage and motel expenditures.

Component Three: Summer Interns

This component is still in its infancy. We have begun talks with several seminaries, but have not yet fully developed the program to bring summer seminarians to our region to experience rural church environments. We have the commitment from our local clergy to assist with this program, but have yet to formalize our collaborations with the educational institutions. We have asked for this project to be continued into next year.