

The Commission on Celebrating Diversity of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon met at Ascension May 19 – 21, and Bishop Pat joined us for a major part of our meeting. With several new members, we spent a significant amount of time learning to know each other and the knowledge and experience we each bring to this work. We developed a vision statement and then spent time talking about plans for the coming months – including resources that can be used by congregations. The members of the Commission currently are Beth and Jim Spell, Jan Kozak, Matt Littau, Jaishri Spencer and Bobby Fossek, Red Stevens, Doug Harder, and Ruth Tsu, convener.

Vision Statement

We recognize and acknowledge all people are equal and beloved children of God. We envision building strong communities of a broad diversity of people.

Action Statement

We support and encourage congregations and communities to expand their cultural awareness, and we offer resources such as diagnostic materials to promote more welcoming environments.

Books: We each talked about books that have been helpful to us individually and we recommend them to others. Several of us are reading/have read The Four Vision Quests of Jesus by Steven Charleston. Other books:

- 1) Spirit and Resistance: Political Theology and American Indian Liberation by George Tinker
- 2) Queering Christianity, an edited book that includes an article by Patrick Cheng who teaches at the Chicago School of Theology
- 3) whistling vivaldi by Claude M. Steele
- 4) As Days Go By: Our History, Our Land, and Our People – the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla
- 5) They Are Not Forgotten.
- 6) Books by Sherman Alexie including Fancy Dancing and The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian