‘Hand in Hand Into the Future’ is convention theme

When members of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon gather in Bend Oct. 12-14 for the 42nd Diocesan Convention, the focus will be on learning.

Trinity Episcopal Church is convention host.

Planning the convention, diocesan leaders took their cue from Mutual Ministry Review sessions held around the diocese, where people asked for more learning opportunities at the annual event.

This year there will be no keynote speaker; there will be three workshop sessions instead of two “so we can have more time to be in conversation,” said the Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera, bishop of eastern Oregon.

Also planned, she said, are discussions about partnerships--with other denominations, with other dioceses, with groups such as AA and feeding ministries.

The workshops are open to anyone in the diocese, not just convention delegates. (A list of the workshops is posted on the diocesan website: http://episdioeo.org/G/g-convention.html) Anyone who wants to attend should register with the diocesan office by Oct. 4.

Convention delegates will elect three lay and two clergy members to Diocesan Council, and one lay and one clergy member to Standing Committee.

Delegates will vote on a resolution submitted by Standing Committee and Diocesan Council that will, if adopted, direct the bishop, council and standing committee “to continue to live into and develop the part-time bishop model for the Diocese of Eastern Oregon until such time as the act of the Convention is revoked.”

In its rationale the resolution notes that comments from congregations and convocations indicated “general and increasing satisfaction with the present model of a part-time bishop.”

In addition many congregations expressed satisfaction “with a growing exploration of congregational and ecumenical partnerships; the emerging models of shared clergy, increased participation in leadership responsibility by the laity and more cost-effective utilization of the Diocesan budget as noted in a reduced Diocesan assessment.”

Diocesan Treasurer Jerry Frazier calls the proposed budget for 2013, to be presented for approval at convention, “very conservative.”

The 2013 budget total, $460,943, reflects continued paring at the diocesan level: the budget approved in 2010, for example, was $570,181.

“A reality we face currently and in the future is a marked decrease in assessment income,” Frazier said.

Last year, convention voted to drop the parish assessment from 25 percent to 22.5 percent.

Historic St. Paul’s, The Dalles marks 50 years at new church

St. Paul’s, The Dalles, will celebrate its 50th anniversary in its “new” church on October 7, 50 years to the day that it was dedicated by Bp. Lane W. Barton.

Julie Reynolds, Jill Durow and Cal McDermid, who are planning the celebration, each have personal links to church history. Reynolds’ father, Gene Reynolds, was on the vestry when the new church was built; Durow’s father, Art Muller, was building chairman.

St. Paul’s first church was designed by the Rev. Reuben Nevius; its first service was on Christmas 1875. Some 90 years later, the parish raised $93,000 to build a new church.

A 1961 story in the Oregon Trail Churchman chronicled the eventual move: “St. Paul’s, The Dalles, finally gave up their small inadequate church down town and built and moved into a glorious new Church up on the Heights above The Dalles,” it said. “419 communicants now, 650 baptized members.”

The “small inadequate church,” now the diocesan chapel, is the oldest church in The Dalles, by dint of having survived several catastrophic early day fires that leveled much of the city. William Remington, the second Bishop of Eastern Oregon, Remington, called St. Paul’s “the mother church” of the diocese.

The October 7 celebration will begin with 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist at “old” St. Paul’s, an intergenerational activity at “new” St. Paul’s at 9 a.m., followed by 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

After the service there will be a brunch in Taylor Hall. The parish hall was named in honor of the Rev. Ernest Taylor, who was priest at St. Paul’s from 1934 to the early 1970s. His successor was the Rev. Rustin Kimsey.

Reynolds said historic documents and photos will be displayed. “Cal McDermid found his confirmation class photo, and I saw that my grandmother, Ellen Reynolds, was one of the confirmands as well,” she said.
Partnerships “a possible call from God?”

When God’s mission was stuck in Jerusalem and Israel because the disciples didn’t have a framework, a plan, a way of doing business other than the Jewish way of doing things, Saul met Jesus on the road to Damascus and God called him to be an apostle to the Gentiles—and the church was changed forever.

Operating out of Antioch with new sermons, new perspectives, new possibilities, Paul found partners and they took the church to Greece, Rome and beyond.

In his study book on Acts, Canon Chuck Robertson makes the point that Paul always had partners, and that while Paul is certainly a central player in the early church, his partners not only made Paul’s ministry possible, they too took on partners and carried the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

In my Convention address in 2011 I spoke of partnerships being one path into the future for EDEO. Is it possible that EDEO might be in partnership with other churches sharing oversight and support for congregations in Eastern Oregon?

As you know Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and I put partnerships at the center of our Mutual Ministry Review.

To explore partnerships at another level, I have made it a priority to join the monthly meeting of Bishops and Executives of the various judicatories of the several churches in Oregon. I entered that relationship at the daylong Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Retreat for Bishops, Executives and Key Leaders in December.

Our first order of business at the retreat was to speak of our hopes and dreams for our work together and I put this dream of partnership right in the middle of our conversation, and, by the way, have continued to do so at meetings since then. I looked around the room, expecting to see folks confused by, offended by or laughing at my “hare brained scheme” (as a former parishioner used to speak of some of my ideas) but what I saw was nodding heads.

I now speak of partnership as a possible call from God. We are not alone, my friends, others are wrestling with these same questions and possibilities.

Called to Common Mission (CCM), the agreement we have for sharing ministry and full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, came about not because some bishop thought it would be cool. CCM came about because more and more Lutheran and Episcopal congregations were sharing ministry and wanted to have more formal commitments to the partnership in mission that they shared.

We have some of those very congregations in our own diocese, and here’s what’s important to know about them: no one of them looks or works like any other one, but this variety of congregations with wild ideas about sharing ministry has changed the Church. Now those partnerships include Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists and others.

In God’s world nothing is impossible, especially if we are working together.

And what is true in congregations is true in every level of mission and ministry, from two or three Episcopalians at a workplace, to our cities and towns, to The Parliament of Religions, which cuts across every faith imaginable.

So let us go Hand in Hand Into the Future celebrating the partnerships we have and finding ways to develop more – both within the diocese and around the world.

Perhaps we will nurture partnerships that change the way churches are church in Eastern Oregon.

Nedi Rivera
Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

Diocesan Calendar

October
4 50th Anniversary celebration, St. Paul’s, The Dalles
12 Diocesan Convention on Ministry, Trinity, Bend
21 Bp Rivera at St. Luke’s, Lakeview
23 Ascension School open house and listening event
November
3 Ascension School fall work day, Cove
9-11 Diocesan Council Retreat, Ascension School, Cove
14 Bp Rivera at St. Stephen’s, Baker City
18 Bp Rivera at St. Peter’s, La Grande
22 Thanksgiving celebration with Bp Rivera, Ascension School
26-28 Bp Rivera at Bishops of Small Diocese meeting, Salt Lake City
December
1 Ascension School Board meeting, Cove

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

October
7 St Mark’s, Hood River: Anna Carmichael
14 Diocesan Convention
21 St Luke’s, Lakeview: Richard Landrith
28 All Saints Episcopal/ Hope Lutheran, Heppner: Katy Anderson
November
4 All Saints of the Cascades/Sunriver Christian Fellowship, Sunriver; Nancy Sargent Green
11 Diocesan Council and Standing Committee
19 Trinity, Bend: Roy Green, Willie Hoffer, Gaye Lawson
25 St. Mark’s Episcopal/ Good Shepherd Lutheran, Madras: Jan Kozak, Larry Mahon
December
2 St Andrew’s Episcopal/ Peace Lutheran/Church of the Living Waters, Burns: Matthew Littau
Candidates for Diocesan Council
Elect three lay, two clergy (priest or deacon) members

Douglas Boone, St. Stephen’s, Baker City

**Occupation:** weed and pest control business owner  
**Statement:** Since joining the Episcopal Church in 1994 I have served on the vestry for much of the time. I have served as Senior Warden; I am a Cursillista, a licensed preacher and a Lay Eucharistic Minister. 
I believe that I am able to offer to the Diocese the wisdom gained from years of business and leadership experience. I am open minded, willing to examine any proposal yet remain a lifelong fiscal conservative.

Charles Cagle, St. Andrew’s Episcopal/Peace Lutheran/Church of the Living Waters, Burns

**Occupation:** semi-retired  
**Statement:** I was baptized in the Episcopal Church when I was 15, my wife and I were married in this church and our children were baptized here. 
I have been active in our church for a long time, including Treasurer, Senior Warden, Maintenance person, more Senior Warden. Our church is a joint congregation and I think that may be the way of the future.

Karly Nash, Trinity, Bend

**Occupation:** attorney  
**Statement:** After beginning law practice in Eugene I moved to Bend...in Trinity, I found a church home with a solid social consciousness. 
My experience with The Episcopal Church has been one of appreciating the creeds and traditions and sense of service to the community. For five years I shopped regularly for the Family Kitchen. For the past six years I have taught Sunday School. I bring the perspective as a parent of young children and certain left brain tendencies as an attorney.

The Rev. Dan Lediard, St. John’s, Hermiston

**Occupation:** priest  
**Statement:** I was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bp. Katharine Jefferts Schori in Oct. 2006, ordained as a priest by Bp. Jerry Lamb in June 2007. I was the parish priest at St. Paul the Prospector, Virginia City, Nevada from June 2007 to November 2010 when I was called to St. John’s. In Nevada I was on the Diocesan Council five times. 
I bring a longtime understanding of The Episcopal Church, and its various church-sponsored ministries to EDEO, including all aspects of church camp operations, how to (attempt to) be a good member of a Diocesan Council...management and operation experience as a self-employed small business owner.

The Rev. Kathy Macek, St. Peter’s, La Grande

**Occupation:** priest  
**Statement:** I have served as rector of St. Peter’s since January 2012; before that I served the parish as interim vicar (April-Dec 2011.) I entered seminary (CDSP in Berkeley) in 2007 after a 28-year career as a research editor for the Bibliography of the History of Art. 
I offer my years of experience. First as a lay woman: altar guild, vestry, Sr. Warden, chair of adult education committee, chair of stewardship committee; taught confirmation classes, led adult education classes; sang in the choir and rang hand bells. Now as an ordained woman with a passion for liturgy, pastoral care, outreach and Ascension School.

Candidates for Standing Committee
Elect one lay, one clergy member

Ann Havill, Trinity, Bend

**Occupation:** retired  
**Statement:** The Episcopal Church has been a significant part of my life. 
I have been an active member of Trinity, Bend for seven years. In addition to liturgical and coffee ministries, much of my involvement at Trinity has been in working with the outreach to Bend’s Sister City, Condega, Nicaragua. 
What would I bring to Standing Committee? It has been said that in any group effort, each individual needs to show up in all ways, I now have the freedom, time and energy to commit to the vital work of the committee. I would always try to be prepared in heart and mind, and take seriously the committee’s agenda.

The Rev. Dan Gardner, Vale

**Occupation:** priest  
**Statement:** I have served on Diocesan Council, Commission on Ministry, and Bishop’s Search Committee. I have served as a Deputy to General Convention five times. I was ordained to the priesthood in 1995 under the old Canon 9 provision. I served Holy Trinity, Vale; first as a lay reader for 30 years and from 1995 to 2007 as its priest, I now serve St. Thomas, Canyon City as Priest in Charge. I sincerely hope someone younger will be interested in serving on Standing Committee instead of me.
Several eastern Oregon parishes celebrated homecoming or regathering Sunday in September—marking the end of summer and in many cases the resumption of church school. St. Stephen’s held a homecoming picnic on the church lawn on Sept. 9. The Men’s Group sponsors the annual event, providing grilled burgers and hotdogs; the rest of the meal is potluck.

“Our picnic is a happy event for renewed fellowship and a day to enjoy the beautiful end of summer weather while the grass is still green and the sun is warm,” said The Voice of St. Stephen’s. Photo by Charlene Chase.

This September, Good Shepherd and St. Mark’s adds a new monthly activity we ‘tried on’ last Lent and found we loved, and have missed it since Easter. Holden Evening Prayer—a beautiful sung service that also encompasses a little scripture and silence and prayer,” wrote the Rev. Jan Kozak in the monthly newsletter.

Trinity’s Bidding is lively at the Sept. 8 Fiesta de Condega Dinner and Auction, an annual fundraiser for Trinity’s 13-year-old Condega Project, which provides support for programs in Condega, Nicaragua. Photo by Bill Brisson.

The St. Matthew’s men’s group made about $500 at its second annual Man Cave sale Sept. 15, where the emphasis was on manly essentials such as tools, sporting goods and other guy stuff. Photo by Tim Lanterman.