Episcopal Church Women

Diocese of Northern Indiana

Annual Report 2002-2003

As this report is being prepared for the Annual Convention of the Diocese, the Diocesan ECW is “wrapping up” plans for its Annual Meeting to be held October 4 at St. James Cathedral. Joyce Menard, Province V ECW President is our special guest and with her presence we will be able to present ECW on the parish, diocesan, provincial and national levels. We are hopeful that there will be a positive “fall out” from this meeting.

The basic traditional programs of the Diocesan ECW continue to be implemented and would seem to be in keeping with the Diocesan core values. and these programs are:

Church Periodical Club (CPC)

In 2002 the Diocesan ECW, through its Church Periodical Program (CPC) resumed assisting seminarians through contributions to them for textbooks. In 2002 five (5) seminarians received $300 each. This year (2003) six seminarians received $250 for this assistance. Jane Paull chairs this project.

Bishop’s Emergency Discretionary Fund (BED)

This traditional project of long standing is most rewarding in that it permits the Bishop of the diocese to use these funds at his discretion. In most instances, monies for special emergencies are not provided for in the overall diocesan budget. In 2002, $1,860.50 was presented to Bishop Little. This represented contributions by a total of fifteen (15) groups eleven (11) of which were ECW’s and four (4) vestries. his diocesan ministry serves others in dire human circumstances or with unusual needs - needs that cannot be accommodated otherwise. Marilyn Van Valkenburgh chairs this project.

Memorial Fund

This program provides financial assistance through scholarships to individuals in the diocese who meet the guidelines and plan to study toward a Christian lay ministry vocation. There were no scholarships awarded in 2003.. Dolores Bada chairs the Memorial Fund.

Episcopal Relief & Development Fund (ER&D)

The work of the Fund is dependent on monetary support from each parish. Our goal is to have a parish rep in every parish. The parish rep can then “market” ER&D thus relieving the clergy of this task. This goal has not been reached! Linda Beidleman is the Diocesan Coordinator for the Episcopal Relief & Development Fund (ER&D).

United Thank Offering (UTO)

The United Thank Offering (UTO) continues to be a vital part of the ECW program. Grants continue to be awarded to projects in Northern Indiana such as

St. Margaret's House which received $40,000 in 2002. This year (2003) a grant of $21,000 has been awarded to the Kokomo Rescue Mission whose supporter is St. Andrews (Kokomo). In 2002 a timeline relative to the submission of grant proposals was prepared by the Diocesan ECW and activated. This timeline relieves the pressure on the Diocesan office to review and/or sign-off on last minute submissions. Gwen Black chairs the United Thank Offering (UTO).

The ECW Board considers itself fortunate to be able to continue the programs referred to in this report since it receives participation from less than one-half of parish groups (ECW and non-ECW). The Board's budget is based on fair share contributions which again is received from less than one-half of the parishes in the diocese. However, by by God's grace our programs continue and for this we are grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte A. Strowhorn, President
Diocesan Episcopal Church Women (ECW)