ANNUAL REPORT

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

Diocese of Northern Indiana

2004-2005

Through natural attrition and the continuing inability to attract new board members, the Diocesan Board has been reduced to a precious few,- yet it continues to function. The issue of recruitment both for the Diocesan Board as well as parishes remains "high" on the Board's priority list.

Planning is underway for the Annual Meeting which is being scheduled for September or October of 2006. The meeting will be held at the Cathedral.

The Board is in the initial planning stage of sponsoring deanery retreats in 2006. They will be conducted by a well-known member of the laity. This is an ambitious undertaking for the Board. The purpose of the retreats is two-fold,- providing an atmosphere of prayer/reflection and simultaneously providing a venue for interest in the ECW and its mission.

Again, the 'Board' is limited but it continues to implement its core programs to the best of its ability.

Church Periodical Club (CPC) Jane Paull, Chrm., (Gethsemane)

This program has enabled the Board to make a contribution National CPC and, until now, contributions to seminarians. The number of seminarians has increased substantially while contributions to CPC have neither increased or remained status quo. A new plan must be developed in view of this situation.

Bishop's Emergency Discretionary Fund (BED)

This program does not have a chairman at this point in time but it continues to be implemented. We are grateful for the service that Marilyn Van Valkenburgh (Holy Family) has provided the past three (3) years. Regrettably, Marilyn has had to resign from the Board for personal reasons.

Memorial Fund - Dolores Bada, Chrm., (Grace)

This program includes the recognition of deceased members and recording their names in the Book of Remembrance as well as providing scholarships to women in the Diocese who meet the guidelines and who plan to study toward a Christian lay ministry vocation. This year's recipient is Deborah lntveldt, St. Timothy (Griffith).

Episcopal Relief & Development

The position of coordinator for the ER&D continues to be open. This is a vital project within the larger church and we "sorely" need a volunteer. Interested individuals should contact the Diocesan ECW president.

United Thank Offering (UTO) Gwen Black, Chm. (St. Paul)

The Diocese of Northern Indiana supports this program and our contribution for 2004 was $8,366.21. The Diocese ranked 8th out of the 15 dioceses in Province V.

Other

A contribution of $300.00 was made to E.Y.E. this year.

Conclusion

The Diocesan ECW Board as a whole is grateful for the response to various program requests as is its president personally. We look forward to an energized and productive program year.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte A. Strowhorn, President (St. Augustine)

Diocesan Episcopal Church Women

Gwen Black, Secretaiy (St. Paul, Gas City)

Kathleen Fluhrer, Treasurer (Gethsemane)

The Rev’d Tina Velthuizen Chaplain (Holy Trinity)