

The Asian Commission of the Diocese of California 2016 Report to Diocesan Convention

The Asian Commission of the Diocese of California (ACDC) continues to share the Good News in local communities, our diocese, and the wider Church through four areas of ministry: community partnerships, youth ministry, education and vocational discernment, and fellowship.

Community Partnerships: ACDC parishioners are actively involved in addressing the needs and concerns of their communities by offering health and wellness clinics, offering Manna Bags and clothing to homeless neighbors, sharing space and program resources, raising awareness about domestic violence, and promoting elder care and elder abuse prevention. ACDC parishes are also involved in honoring ancestors, especially those who served in WWII, by participating with Japanese American organizations in Clean Up Day at the Japanese Cemetery in Colma. Holy Child St. Martin (HCSM) hosted a benefit concert for the victims of 2015 Typhoon Lando in the Philippines.

Youth Ministry: ACDC sponsored middle and high school youth to participate in a summer camping trip at Lake Oroville Loafer Creek Campground; and sponsored a group of (12) Asiamerican youth from St. Ambrose-Foster City, HCSM-Daly City, and Guam to participate in a San Diego-Tijuana mission trip. ACDC leadership engaged mid-peninsula youth and parents in a Native American cultural awareness workshop for youth participating in a mission trip with the Nez Perce community. ACDC hosted the annual Christmas skating and bowling event for Asian youth. The youth collaborated with the Interfaith Community's Shelter Feeding program at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral in preparing and serving hot meals and offering musical entertainment for guests.

Education & Vocational Discernment: ACDC supports the vocational discernment of people from various ethnic backgrounds. Members work with DioCal staff to facilitate Anti-Racism training, and provide encouragement to seminarians of color along the road to ordination. ACDC leadership helped establish a memorial fund following the murder of Obispo Maximo Alberto Ramento, retired Supreme Bishop of Iglesia Filipina Independiente. The OMAR fund will provide scholarships for seminary students in the Philippines. HCSM partnered with AARP in co-hosting the Bataan Legacy Historical Project that promulgated the AB 199 in adding the Bataan Death March to the California High School curriculum. ACDC hosted a forum with the Rev. Cn. Fred Vergara, TEC's Missioner for Asiamerica Ministries, to discuss his proposed Asiamerica Mentorship Program: Asiamerica Network of Disciples, Revivalists, Evangelists, Witnesses & Saints.

Fellowship: ACDC members are also members of Episcopal Asiamerican Ministries (EAM) and participate annually in the Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino ethnic convocations. The Rev. Merry Chan Ong was elected Convener of the Chinese Convocation of the EAM Council. DioCal was represented at the World Anglican Chinese Clergy Fellowship in Hong Kong by the Rev. Merry Chan Ong. She was elected North American coordinator for the 2020 gathering. Our Saviour-Oakland celebrated their 110th anniversary by gathering representatives from across the diocese, TEC, and the Anglican Communion for worship and fellowship. ACDC hosted a Combined Worship Service and Summer Picnic to encourage fellowship among all of our Asian and multi-cultural congregations.

Mission Statement: The Asian Commission of the Diocese of California seeks to be instrumental in strengthening the ministries of the Asian congregations, as well as in educating and enriching the diocesan family about both the various Asian culture and the ministries of the Asian congregations. The Asian Commission provides mutual support for leaders involved in Asian Ministry, the development of new leaders for this ministry, and the exchange of information among Asian and Asian-American clergy, congregations and communities.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Monica Whitaker, Secretary

Asian Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of California