

Alameda Deanery Report 2013

Last year the Alameda Deanery decided to establish a two-year strategic plan, starting with the premise that our greatest role is to be the communication conduit — both up and down — between parishes and the diocese. We began discussing this mission in small groups; out of those discussions came a Strategic Plan to focus more intentionally on communication and develop other ways to make a difference by sharing parish activities and leverage support for ministries needed and already being carried out. This process was also aided by a day's Beloved Community discussion, which helped us to appreciate even more the opportunities to serve.

In addition to strategies to streamline our meetings, to allow for more sharing of ministries and learning experiences from groups like Episcopal Senior Communities, we developed priorities for discussing ministries we could share in. A film clip of the program to feed people spiritually and physically will be shown at the Convention as an example of how St. John's, St. James, and St. Augustine's all in Oakland joined to serve hungry people. Another is the "reading ministries" of several churches formed teams that focus on ensuring 3rd graders can read. An excellent seminar held by St. Paul's, Oakland engaged all our parishes in a discussion on violence and guns in society and ways to address this tragic epidemic through activities other than the obvious one of gun control. Each of our meetings also includes a report on how the deanery's grant program recipients are reaching their goals.

Also the Deanery also decided we could be more effective if our parishes established a two-year term for deanery officers and delegates and alternates. We have so few meetings in a year it is difficult to have people go off deanery in a year when they've just learned the ropes. Our Executive Committee's meetings have been greatly enriched by having the Executive Council representatives participate in all our meetings.

I leave office with the hope that the Coordinating Committee for the six deaneries can be resurrected and meet regularly because with all of us coming together, it can greatly foster our ability to leverage strengths and reach beyond our own boundaries.

I thank those who elected me, and during these two years have worked to make possible the accomplishments done and in process. Particularly Nancy Duranteau Vice Chair, who among many other tasks, led the strategic planning effort and its implementation; Greg Hintz, Treasurer, guide, historian and font of info; and Sandy Burnett, our Secretary extraordinaire.

Helen Sause, president