

## **Peninsula Deanery Report**

This year we have continued to develop our deanery relationships on the basis of these three principals:

1. That deaneries exist to encourage relationships between parishes.
2. That deanery meetings are intended to help prepare delegates for the diocesan convention.
3. That we should provide high quality educational opportunities for lay leaders at the deanery level.

These principals have guided us to try and develop the best possible Equipping the Beloved Community (ETBC) day that we could, to turn one of our deanery meetings into a social event with a barbeque, and to try and commend ideas to the convention that will help improve the ways in which deaneries can be involved in diocesan business.

Our ETBC event on May 2, 2015, focused on the Wendell Berry poem "All we need is here" as our theme. The title of the day was: Stewardship of Space. We invited our local Sacramento Representative, Kevin Mullin, to speak to us, and a theologian, Tim Sorrens, reflected on his contribution to our lunchtime plenary. The day was shaped around what it means to minister in our own particular context. It was a rewarding day with many participants. Simultaneous translation was used for the first time so that our Spanish-speaking congregations could participate fully.

Our Deanery BBQ was on June 25, 2015. We talked about subjects that affected us as parishes, from elder care to music ministry, to issues of justice in Israel and Palestine and reviewing our ETBC event. These conversations took place over our BBQ as we sought to get to know one another better. During the plenary we shared what had taken place in table conversations and found areas of common ground and agreement. The BBQ has happened two years in a row now, so by Episcopal definition is a Peninsula Deanery tradition!

Our President and Vice-President have been working with the Deanery Co-coordinating Committee to try and find ways in which the business that comes to deaneries could be spread out over the year. We had fruitful conversations about the budget process in the diocese and the process of bringing resolutions to convention. The fruit of those conversations will be discussed at this years convention.

Our deanery is committed and thoughtful and I have been delighted to lead it as president these last two years. At the end of this year I hand over that responsibility to someone else knowing that we have grown closer to each other in our activities, knowing that we have been well prepared for convention business and knowing that our educational opportunities have been well received.

Thank you Peninsula Deanery representatives for your care and support in this ministry.

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Peninsula Deanery President