Attention editors: Apologies if this is a duplicate release. NEWLY ATTACHED are 2 photos from the event. Cut lines for photos are at the end of this release.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAIN HOSTS VISIT TO CARSON CITY BY CANDIDATES FOR BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEVADA

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The purpose of the visit was to explain the work of RAIN in the Nevada Legislature. RAIN is a coalition of five denominations that came together in 1997 to advocate on behalf of people who usually have no voice at the Legislature—the poor, the disadvantaged, and those in need who are often forgotten during legislative deliberations. In 2007, RAIN spoke up for affordable housing and the needs of the homeless, for covering the uninsured who may not otherwise have access to health care, and for improving the department of corrections so that when inmates are released back into society they are prepared to live productive lives and not return to a life of crime.

During their visit, the candidates for bishop met with Justice James Hardesty at the Nevada Supreme Court. Justice Hardesty, who was recently elected chairman of the newly established Nevada Commission on the Administration of Justice, explained what the Commission hopes to
accomplish prior to the start of the 2009 Nevada legislative session. Currently, Nevada’s prisons are overcrowded, and the projected increase of the prison population over the next 10 years will require Nevada taxpayers to pay nearly $2 billion additional dollars for new prison construction if no new alternatives are developed. RAIN is concerned that new prison construction will threaten funding for needed schools, social programs, public safety, and transportation. “It is unconscionable to continue to do business as usual, when you look at the numbers and realize the impact that an exploding prison population will have on the entire state budget,” said Larry Struve, RAIN Advocate. He added: “RAIN strongly supported the creation of the Commission on the Administration of Justice in the 2007 Nevada Legislature, so that alternatives are developed for dealing more effectively with people who are now being incarcerated.”

As a result of this visit to Carson City, the next Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada will have a better understanding of the work of RAIN, which will be shared with Episcopal churches throughout the State.

The six candidates will be visiting the Galilee Episcopal Camp & Conference Center and St. John’s Church in Glenbrook, St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church in Incline Village and Trinity Episcopal Church in Reno on Tuesday, September 18. On Wednesday they will travel to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Sparks, St. Michael & All Angel’s Episcopal Church in Wadsworth and Holy Trinity Church in Fallon. Thursday the group will stop at St. Mary’s Church, Winnemucca, Grace-St. Francis in Lovelock and St. Paul’s in Elko.

Visits have also been made to many of the Las Vegas Valley churches and Episcopal churches in Boulder City, Tonopah, Pahrump and Bullhead City Arizona.

On Friday, September 21, the final day of their visit to Nevada, the candidates will stop at St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church in Ely and Christ Church, Pioche. The election of the Tenth Bishop of Nevada will take place on Friday, October 12, hosted by Christ Church Las Vegas.

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RAIN Photo #1 : 6 Candidates for election to the next bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada visit the Nevada legislative buildings to learn of the advocacy work of the Religious Alliance in Nevada, and meet with Supreme Court Justice Jim Hardesty. l to r are: Jeff Paul, Susan Burns, Dan Edwards, Judge Hardesty, Cathy Deats, Eric Funston and Al Keeney

RAIN Photo #2: Meeting in Nevada Supreme courtroom with Justice Jim Hardesty are 6 Candidates for election to the next bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada. Top row, l to r: Linda Edwards, Allen Burns, Linda Keeney, The Rev. Bonnie Polly, President of RAIN and Larry Struve, advocate for RAIN at the Legislature, Meg Paul, Ted Deats, Evie Funston and The
Rev. Jane Foraker Thompson, Board member of RAIN.
Bottom row are the 6 candidates: Dan Edwards, Susan Burns, Al Keeney, Jeff Paul, Cathy Deats and Eric Funston.