Draft Diocesan Customaries — April 2005

Communications

Diocesan Offices are maintained both in Las Vegas and in Reno. The Las Vegas office is staffed M-F, 8 am to 4 pm, except Tuesday afternoons. Deacon Barbara Lewis is the Secretary and Official Communicator: 702-737-9190, fax 702-737-6488, secretary@dionv.lvcoxmail.com, 6135 Harrison Drive, Suite 1, Las Vegas, NV 89120.

The Reno office is staffed on Friday mornings by Canon Jim McGrew, but messages may be left at other times: 775-747-4949, fax 775-747-8964; PO Box 6357, Reno, NV 89513. Street address: 2400 W. 7th St.

Diocesan Website is maintained at www.nvdiocese.org, and regularly updated. Parish websites can be linked when the url is provided.

Diocesan Listserve is maintained from the Diocesan Office (Barbara Lewis), and offers urgent information as well as upcoming educational opportunities.

The Desert Spirit is a wrap-around newspaper published in conjunction with Episcopal Life, the national church newspaper. Eleven issues are published each year. The deadline is the 21st of the second month preceding publication (e.g., 21 March for the May issue). Editor is Barbara Wies: bwbassett@earthlink.net. Submission of news about parish events, with pictures, as well as other material, is strongly encouraged.

Parish Newsletters Congregations are strongly urged to include the Diocesan Office and the Desert Spirit editor on their mailing list.

National Church (Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society) Website www.dfms.org or www.episcopalchurch.org

Diocesan Staff

Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. Responsible for pastoral oversight of clergy, congregations, and ministry of the Diocese. Encourages mission and ministry on behalf of the people of Nevada and the world. Shares in the governance of the Episcopal Church. Shares responsibility for program and strategy with Diocesan Council and diocesan staff. Shares responsibility for asset management, discipline, and other canonical matters with the Standing Committee. Shares responsibility for oversight of ministry development with the Commission on Ministry. Make appointments with Barbara Lewis, Las Vegas office.
Canon to the Ordinary  Bob Nelson.  Consultant, assistant, and deputy to the bishop.  Oversees disciplinary matters, ordination process, and general policy development.  Contact through Las Vegas office.

Secretary and Office Manager  Barbara Lewis manages daily inquiries, prepares Diocesan Convention Journals, maintains communication materials and databases, coordinates parish and national report data (but not parochial reports).  Maintains Bishop’s calendar and schedules parish visitations.  Notary.  Travel arrangements for all diocesan business (Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, staff, etc.).  Las Vegas office.


Finance Officer  Irv Cousins directs the administration and finances of the Diocese, and works with Treasurer John Curtis to prepare reports to Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, Diocesan Convention, and the national church.  Oversees Parochial Reports.  Oversees insurance programs for the Diocese (property, liability, and employee medical).  Diocesan payroll.  Las Vegas office.

Deployment Officer  Mike Link assists congregations in transition when clergy leadership changes.  He provides support for those congregations in developing parish profiles, working through the actual search process, and developing letters of agreement and ministry covenants.  He can provide assistance to clergy seeking other positions as well as graduating seminarians.  Contact through Las Vegas office.

Youth Missioner  Adam Dawkins fills this position half-time, sharing his ministry with St. Paul’s, Sparks, where he serves as Children and Family Minister.  Oversees diocesan youth programs and events, Galilee summer programs and mid-winter diocesan camp.  Provides support and assistance to parishes of the Diocese in matters relating to youth and young adult ministry.  Oversees training for those who work with young people.

Missioner to the Marginalized  Phil Carolin serves the underserved, primarily through the Immigrant Worker Citizenship Project, ministry to the Twelve-Step community, and work with the unions of Las Vegas.

Prisons Missioner  Jane Foraker-Thompson serves as Head Chaplain for the Nevada Department of Corrections and provides assistance in prison ministries throughout the Diocese.

Newspaper Editor  Barbara Wies solicits and edits diocesan news for the Desert Spirit.
Diocesan Officers

**Chancellor** George Allison provides legal advice and consultation to the Bishop, Standing Committee, and Diocesan Convention.

**Treasurer** John Curtis oversees budget development, financial and asset management of the resources of the Diocese.

**Secretary of Convention** JoAnn Roberts-Armstead records and distributes proceedings of Diocesan Convention and Diocesan Council meetings.

Diocesan Governance

**Diocesan Canons** are available from the Diocesan office. Together with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church (national church), these are the laws that govern diocesan life. Please consult them!

**Ecclesiastical Authority** is exercised by the Diocesan Bishop and the Standing Committee.

**Standing Committee** includes six members, one lay and one clergy elected at each Diocesan Convention, with terms lasting three years. Together with the Bishop, they oversee the long-term assets of the Diocese, consent to ordinations and consecrations, and have a role in disciplinary proceedings.

**Diocesan Council** includes six clergy, three lay members, and four youth members. The youth are elected by Diocesan Convention for one-year terms; the others for staggered terms of three years. They set direction for the Diocese and oversee its program and annual budget. They act in the stead of Diocesan Convention between conventions.

**Diocesan Convention** meets annually, usually in October, Friday morning through Sunday morning. Friday is normally devoted to education and workshops, with business matters beginning Friday evening. Ordinations of transitional deacons are normally held at Convention. The business of the Diocese to be considered includes any resolutions of policy, adoption of an annual budget, electing members of Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, the Galilee Board of Trustees, and, every third year, Deputies to General Convention, as well as receiving annual reports from diocesan bodies and the Bishop. Each congregation sends delegates to Convention, including the wardens and clergy, two youth, and a number of additional delegates based on the
size of the congregation.

**Convention Journals** are published in two forms each year – one that precedes Diocesan Convention and contains any proposed resolutions; reports from various diocesan bodies; information on nominees; a proposed budget and agenda for Convention; and a Directory of parishes and lay and clergy leaders in the Diocese.

The Post-Convention Journal is issued about three months after Convention, and contains reports of the actions of Convention as well as an updated Directory.

**Mission Districts** The Diocese is divided into four regional Mission Districts: South, Central, Northwest, and Frontier. The leadership (and any interested persons) in each Mission District gathers three or four times yearly to learn, dialogue, consider regional ministry issues and diocesan matters, and engage in training.

**Galilee Board of Trustees** oversees the operation and maintenance of Galilee Episcopal Camp and Conference Center. The Board includes members appointed by the Bishop, members elected by Convention, and members nominated by the Board and confirmed by the Bishop. They report to the Standing Committee, which oversees all real assets of the Diocese.

**Commission on Ministry** includes twelve members, lay and ordained, representing the geographic diversity of the Diocese. Members are nominated by the Bishop and confirmed by Diocesan Convention. The Commission has responsibility for the encouragement and support of all baptismal ministries, including vocational discernment, licensing preachers and catechists, overseeing continuing education for licensed and ordained ministers, and for overseeing the process leading to ordination of deacons and priests. At present, they also oversee the anti-racism and abuse avoidance training for the Diocese, as well as provide direction for congregational development initiatives. Each congregation has a member of the Commission on Ministry acting as liaison.

**Abuse Avoidance** training is mandated for all pastoral ministers – clergy and those who engage in pastoral ministries such as Eucharistic Visitation. Additional training is required for those who work with children and youth – Sunday School teachers, youth workers, camp counselors, etc. Training must be updated every two years.

**Complaints Regarding Sexual Abuse, Exploitation, or Harassment** are received by the Bishop or the Canon to the Ordinary. A separate Policy Manual details the procedures. Oral complaints may be made at any time, but a written complaint is necessary for proceedings to be initiated.

**Anti-Racism** training is mandated for all church leaders: clergy, wardens, vestry members, licensed ministers, members of Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, the Commission on Ministry, and Deputies to General Convention. We seek to provide regular opportunities for growth and deeper engagement with this issue.
Parish Life and Governance

Parishes and Missions are not normally distinguished once a congregation is recognized by Diocesan Convention. Missions are congregations still in the organizing process, or congregations within the prison system. Parishes gain right of representation at Diocesan Convention once they are organized and recognized by Convention.

Self-Sufficiency Each congregation is expected to be self-sufficient in its worship, mission and ministry, and financial responsibilities. The personnel and program resources of the Diocese are available to assist congregations when they are not meeting the goals of self-sufficiency.

Incorporated and Unincorporated parishes both exist in the Diocese of Nevada. Incorporated parishes hold title to their land and buildings (if any) in their own name, and in trust for the Diocese of Nevada and the Episcopal Church. Unincorporated parishes may have land and buildings, but title is held by the Diocese. All congregations must seek the permission of the Ecclesiastical Authority before seeking a loan, beginning major construction, sale or acquisition, or any other act that may encumber the property.

Governance Parishes are governed in one of three ways: by partnership between rector, wardens, and vestry; by wardens and vestry (without a rector); or, in congregations with fewer than 40 members, by a “vestry of the whole.” Diocesan Canons provide direction for the ways in which these different types of leadership can work.

Each congregation holds an annual meeting at which it adopts a budget, elects a secretary, treasurer, roughly one-third of its vestry members, and its delegates to Diocesan Convention. The congregation may elect two wardens from among its vestry members. In congregations with a rector, the rector may appoint one warden. Parish bylaws often define this process.

Each congregation is entitled to be represented at Diocesan Convention by the two wardens, its clergy, two youth delegates, and a number of additional delegates based on the size of the congregation’s membership.

Notice of parish elections (vestry, wardens, and Convention delegates) should be forwarded to the Diocesan Office (Barbara Lewis) as soon as possible after the Annual Meeting.

Clergy Leadership is provided in a variety of ways in the Diocese. Non-stipendiary or bi-vocational priests and deacons who have secular employment, or are retired, serve in most of the congregations of the Diocese. Larger congregations may call clergy to full or part-time employment in recognition of the cleric’s time commitment to that congregation. The call of rectors, their responsibilities, and authority are governed by national and diocesan canon.
**Personnel Policy** is addressed in a separate document, and includes matters of clergy and lay employment.

**Covenant of Ministry** Each member of the clergy in a congregation is expected to develop a Covenant of Ministry in conjunction with the Vestry of the Parish. These are reviewed annually as part of a Mutual Ministry Review. This model is strongly encouraged for other ministers in the parish – Preachers, Sunday School teachers, employees, etc. Each Covenant should address, at a minimum, matters such as times of work, mutual expectations, mutual ministry reviews, and the normal reimbursement of expense for pastoral ministry, continuing education, and attendance at required diocesan gatherings (Diocesan Convention and clergy conference, for example).

**Mutual Ministry Reviews** are annual opportunities to engage in a review of a congregation’s life. Assistance in conducting such a Review may be sought from the Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Staff, or other skilled leaders in the Diocese.

**Visiting Clergy** may be invited by the Senior Warden or the Rector, if a Rector exists in a parish, to preside and preach as appropriate. In Episcopal congregations, only Episcopal and ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) clergy may preside at Eucharistic services. Others may be invited to preach on occasion. If a congregation wishes to use visiting clergy on more than an occasional basis, contact the Bishop’s office. When inviting a visiting priest to preside at Eucharist and/or preach, it is appropriate to compensate that person for travel costs and to offer an honorarium.

**Bishop’s Visitation** is a regular, usually annual, opportunity to review the mission and ministry of the congregation as a constituent member of the larger church. The Bishop normally presides and preaches at the regular weekend services, and meets with the vestry to review the state of the congregation. It would be highly appropriate to schedule mutual ministry reviews in the months immediately preceding a visitation, and to provide the results of that review to the Bishop before the visitation. The Bishop will also review the Service Register as well as the Parish Register; please make both available in the sacristy. The Bishop welcomes opportunities for teaching adults or providing a forum for questions and answers. The Bishop will gather separately with clergy (and spouses) if possible. Appointments with postulants and candidates are also possible by prior arrangement.

When a visitation is scheduled with the diocesan office, please inform the office of the service times, whether you use the Revised Common Lectionary, and any special requests. If you use a mass setting other than the standard, and want the Bishop to chant, please provide the music and two weeks notice. The Bishop will use the parish’s vestments if desired, but please advise the office ahead of time.

If a baptism is to be celebrated, the Bishop normally asks the priest who prepared the candidate to do the actual baptism. The Bishop presides and chrismates. Adult baptisms (and concomitant confirmation) may also be scheduled during regional confirmations.

Diocesan Canon designates the “offering not otherwise specially designated” at the time of a visitation for the Bishop’s discretionary fund. It is appropriate to so inform the
congregation, either in the bulletin or newsletter ahead of time. Please send a check to the diocesan office rather than handing the Bishop an envelope.

Parish Finances

Parish Audits are expected annually. This is a safeguard for all concerned – treasurers, vestry members, and those who count the weekly collection. These do not need to be formal external audits every year, but it is good practice to have an external audit every three to five years. Mission Districts might consider developing teams who are capable of doing such audits, and exchanging auditing duties between congregations. More information and assistance is available from the Diocesan Finance Officer (Irv Cousins).

Parish Budget is to be submitted to the diocesan office each year by 31 January.

Parochial Report is to be submitted by 31 January each year. This can now be done online, with a copy to the Diocesan Office (consult Irv Cousins).

Theological Education funds – Diocesan Canons expect that at least 1% of a parish’s previous year’s net disposable income will be contributed to one of the accredited seminaries of the Episcopal Church. At least half should go to the Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

Diocesan Asking is set by canon at 25% of income, with exclusions for designated outreach monies, clergy housing allowance, and church mortgage payments. Congregations more than two months in arrears will be visited by a team from the Diocesan Council to offer assistance. Representation at Convention can be affected if the arrearage continues.

Liturgical Matters

Baptism is appropriately reserved to the “great days” (Easter Vigil or Easter Day, Pentecost, All Saints’ Day, and the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord) or the time of the Bishop’s visitation. Congregations should consider and develop their own baptismal policies – i.e., when baptism will be held, what preparation is expected, who is an acceptable candidate (e.g., any baby whose parents ask, or only those with a tie to the congregation) etc. Some congregations decline to baptize an infant or child until the parents have made a will and designated guardians (see the rubric on p 455 of the Book of
If baptism is to be part of the Bishop’s visitation, please advise the diocesan office at least two weeks before the visitation. Normally the Bishop will ask the priest to do the actual baptism, and the Bishop will chrismate.

**Eucharist** The Book of Common Prayer liturgies (or authorized liturgies from Enriching Our Worship) are the norm on Sunday mornings. If you wish to use other texts on a regular basis, please ask permission of the Ordinary.

Use of the Revised Common Lectionary is permitted, but please advise the Diocesan Office (Barbara Lewis) if this is regular practice.

Whenever possible, the liturgically appropriate persons should lead portions of the service: a deacon should read the Gospel, coordinate the Prayers of the People (but not necessarily lead them), bid the Confession, set and assist at the table, and give the Dismissal. The deacon may also bid the Nicene Creed. The readings, including the Psalm, are appropriately read or led by lay persons, who may also lead the Prayers of the People. When the Bishop is present, the Bishop appropriately gives absolution, preaches, and presides at Eucharist. The Bishop may on occasion delegate the ministry of preaching to another, lay or ordained.

This Diocese does not permit use of the so-called “deacon’s mass,” in the belief that this kind of liturgical proceeding does not uphold the fullness of our understanding of Eucharistic theology or baptismal ecclesiology. Morning Prayer is always an alternative for Sunday worship if a priest is unavailable. Communion under Special Circumstances is intended for those who are unable to attend a regular Eucharist – i.e., those in hospital, nursing homes, or shut-in. Those in prison may also receive communion in this manner.

**Regional Confirmation** is the diocesan norm, scheduled at a convenient time within Eastertide. The Bishop expects that, under normal circumstances, those being prepared to be confirmed, received, or reaffirm their baptismal vows will attend the regional event. The Bishop will consider pastoral exceptions for good cause. Regional preparation is strongly encouraged – share the teaching load, and introduce parishioners to their counterparts in other congregations!

Confirmation is a mature affirmation of one’s faith. In addition to adequate catechesis, the candidate is expected to be capable of such a mature affirmation. The Bishop will rely on the judgment of the Catechist or other Presenter in that regard.

Please send the appropriate forms to the Diocesan Office (Barbara Lewis) two weeks before the confirmation service. We record confirmations and receptions, but not reaffirmations.

Presenters and confirmands should plan to arrive 30-45 minutes before the service. Normally, the presenting clergy or catechists will sit in the congregation with those to be presented. Clergy may vest or not, as desired. Each congregation presents its candidates individually. Each candidate should have a legible name tag (first or baptismal name, if different). It would be gracious for the host parish to provide these.

If there are candidates to be baptized at this service, that action occurs before confirmation (order of action: baptism, confirmation, reception, reaffirmation of baptismal vows). If candidates will be baptized, the Bishop will ask the priest (if any) from the sponsoring
parish to do the actual baptism, and the Bishop will chrismate (anoint with chrism). Note that if an adult is baptized in the Bishop’s presence, and the Bishop chrismates, that constitutes confirmation.

Please bring your confirmation (baptism, reception, etc.) certificates (already filled in), prayer books or Bibles to be given etc., and Parish Registers (to record confirmations and baptisms). The Bishop will sign all of these before the service, so they need to be available at least 45 minutes ahead of time!

If other propers are not to be used, the Propers for Confirmation are preferred: Isaiah 61:1-9, Psalm 1 or 139:1-9, Romans 12:1-8 or Ephesians 4:7,11-16, Luke 4:16-22. Planning this liturgy is more complex than normal; consultation with the Diocesan Office (Bob Nelson) is helpful and necessary.

**Marriage** Preparation is expected to include significant pre-marital counseling. A number of persons in the diocese are trained in the PREPARE/ENRICH curriculum, but other modes of preparation are certainly appropriate. This is an excellent opportunity to counsel the couple in their need to make wills, as well as observing the rubric on p 445 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Note that if one party has been divorced, 30 days’ notice is required in asking the Bishop’s permission to solemnize the marriage. The appropriate form is available from the Diocesan Office (Barbara Lewis).

The normal presider at Holy Matrimony is a priest. If a deacon feels urgent need to exercise this ministry, contact the Bishop.

All clergy need to be aware of the complex process involved in gaining recognition from the County Clerk. Such recognition is necessary before a cleric may sign the Marriage License. When clergy from outside the diocese are invited to preside at a marriage in Nevada, they need to be informed of this requirement in adequate time to satisfy it.

**Blessing of Unions** The Bishop will consider a request from a parish to bless a same-gender union when: the parish has a policy, to include counseling for the couple; that counseling has taken place and results in a belief that a faithful life-long partnership can be entered; and when a Christian community is ready and able to gather with the couple to bless their union. We should note that the same expectations obtain for a couple of mixed gender asking the church to bless their marriage.

**Licensed Ministries** include Eucharistic Visitors (those who take communion to the shut-in, using the liturgical rite developed for this purpose), Preachers, Worship Leaders (formerly known as Lay Readers), and Catechists. Eucharistic Ministers (formerly known as LEMs) are trained and recognized in their own congregations to assist with the distribution of Communion at a regular public Eucharist.

Eucharistic Visitors must be trained in that ministry and receive sexual abuse avoidance training. A letter from the parish clergy or wardens to the diocesan office giving evidence of that training is required before a license can be issued.

Preachers and Catechists follow a rigorous course of training and examination under the
direction of the Commission on Ministry. Licenses are issued by the Bishop after certification by the COM.

Worship Leaders may be trained within the parish or regionally. A letter from the parish clergy or wardens to the diocesan office giving evidence of that training is required before a license can be issued.

**Renewal of Ordination Vows and Blessing of Oils** is normally offered in each Mission District during Holy Week. Congregations are encouraged to offer to host the service, either in conjunction with a parish liturgy or separately. Contact the Las Vegas office (Barbara Lewis).

**Ordinations** for vocational deacons and priests are normally held in the sponsoring parish, at a time when representatives of the Diocese can be present (i.e., not on Sunday morning). Transitional deacons will be ordained at Diocesan Convention whenever possible. Ordinations are scheduled in consultation with the Diocesan Office (Bob Nelson), and are not publicized until all necessary preliminaries, including consents, have been satisfied. Invitations are the responsibility of the ordinand and the sponsoring parish; mailing labels can be provided by the Diocesan Office. Inviting the preacher is the prerogative of the Bishop (who will gladly receive suggestions). The service bulletin should be provided to the Bishop’s office two weeks ahead.

---

**Clergy**

**New Clergy** who become resident in the Diocese of Nevada, either by ordination, change of canonical residence, temporary duty (e.g., interim work), or active retirement, are invited to annual clergy conferences and to Diocesan Convention. An invitation to participate in Fresh Start will be extended to all newly active clergy. Clergy new to the Diocese must have a background check and complete a social history form before licensing or the acceptance of Letters Dimissory; contact the Diocesan Office (Bob Nelson).

**All Active Clergy** are expected to attend clergy conference and Diocesan Convention, unless excused. Active clergy are expected to make annual report of their continuing education to the Commission on Ministry, by 1 Advent, and to include a plan for continuing education for the coming year. The Commission on Ministry has some funds available to assist in continuing education, with the expectation that the cleric pays one-third of the cost, the parish one-third, and the COM one-third.

**Covenant of Ministry** Each member of the clergy actively serving in a congregation or in diocesan ministry is expected to develop a Covenant of Ministry, either in conjunction with the
Vestry of the Parish or with the Bishop. These are reviewed annually as part of a Mutual Ministry Review. This model is strongly encouraged for other ministers in the parish – Preachers, Sunday School teachers, employees, etc.

**Discretionary Funds** are the property of the congregation, not the cleric, and should be audited annually (by a confidential auditor). These discretionary funds are for the relief of the poor and to provide aid where there is a dearth of other resources. They are not to be used for regular parish expenses or for the cleric’s own benefit, including travel costs or attendance at educational events. Such expenses should be a budgeted business expense of the congregation, and a reimbursable pastoral expense line item is the easiest way to handle those. The cleric has a choice about how to treat monies received as thank-offerings for baptisms, weddings, or funerals. Ideally, the check is made out to the parish, designated for the cleric’s discretionary fund. The alternative is to receive the money personally and include it as income on the cleric’s tax return.

**Supply** Nevada has never encouraged the use of “supply clergy” as a long-term solution to the absence of priestly ministry in a congregation. However, when congregations find themselves in need of priestly ministry on an occasional basis, we encourage a theology of abundance – both in sharing the gifts of the priest with a congregation in need, and by the congregation in recognizing and remunerating the visitor. We do not maintain a schedule of supply fees, but do encourage reimbursement for travel expenses and an honorarium.

**Aspirants** to ordained ministry should consult with their parish clergy or with the parish’s liaison to the Commission on Ministry. The Commission on Ministry oversees the process of discernment, which begins in the local congregation. An interview with the Bishop follows. The Canon to the Ordinary (Bob Nelson) currently oversees the paperwork part of the process.

---

**Other Ministries in the Diocese**

**Galilee Episcopal Camp and Conference Center** is located on the eastern shore of Lake Tahoe, in the community of Glenbrook. Summer camping programs for children, youth, and families are an integral part of Galilee’s program. The rustic facilities are available for parish and other group use year-round. Jason Arnold is the Resident Manager. [www.campgalilee.com](http://www.campgalilee.com). The chapel at Galilee is also used by the congregation of St. John’s in the Wilderness.

Galilee is governed by a Board of Trustees, the members of which are elected or confirmed by the Bishop and/or Diocesan Convention. The Standing Committee provides oversight.

**St. Jude’s Ranch for Children** is located in Boulder City, and has a chapel associated with the Diocese of Nevada, but is not a ministry of the Diocese. St. Jude’s provides housing, healing, and formative ministry for neglected and abused children.
Kairos is a ministry of renewal offered in the prison system. Current weekends operate in northern Nevada.

Dias con Cristo is a Cursillo-like renewal experience conducted by an ecumenical body. Weekends currently take place in northern Nevada and northern California.

Integrity is a ministry of and with gay and lesbian people in the Episcopal Church. A chapter operates in southern Nevada.

Union of Black Episcopalians is a nationwide body of committed Episcopalians. Nevada’s chapter is headquartered in Las Vegas.

Episcopal Church Women operates formally in several congregations. Sharon Scott (Trinity, Reno) currently provides coordination at the diocesan level.

Daughters of the King has chapters in several congregations across the Diocese. Kathyleen Funk (St. Martin’s, Pahrump) is the diocesan coordinator.

Episcopal Relief and Development solicits funds in the Diocese for relief and development work domestically and internationally. Lloyd Rupp (St. Timothy’s, Henderson) is our diocesan coordinator.

RAIN (Religious Alliance in Nevada) is a coalition of religious bodies, representing the Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Lutheran (ELCA), United Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches in Nevada. Together they seek to lobby the Nevada legislature for social welfare. Current priorities include health care, criminal justice, children and family, revenue, and other issues.

Campus and Young Adult Ministries The Diocese participates in an ecumenical campus ministry at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, through “Crossfire” meeting at University Methodist Church on Sunday evenings. We also participate in Campus Christian Association, an ecumenical ministry at University of Nevada, Reno, currently staffed by the Rev. Ruth Hanusa (ELCA). There is also a group of young adults now forming in Reno for worship, discussion, and fellowship.

TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) is a renewal weekend for high school students, directed by the Diocesan youth ministry.

New Beginnings is a renewal weekend experience for middle school students, also directed by the Diocesan youth ministry.

PYE (Provincial Youth Event) and EYE (Episcopal Youth Event) are week-long summer experiences for high school students. Each occurs once every three years. EYE will be held in July of 2005, and the next PYE falls in the summer of 2007. Both are part of the Diocesan youth
ministry.