



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
of Eastern Oregon

BISHOP SEARCH PROFILE 2015

“We are One Bread and One Cup”



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome

[Geography](#)

[History](#)

[Culture](#)

[Permanent Commissions](#)

[Ascension School Camp and Conference Center](#)

[Who We Are](#)

[How We See Ourselves](#)

[We Seek to Increase our Presence and Relevance in the World](#)

[Episcopal and Lutheran Cooperation](#)

[Financial Environment](#)

[The Bishop We Seek](#)



Welcome to the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

“We Are One Bread and One Cup”

website: www.episdioeo.org

Geography

Go east of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon to see the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon (EDEO). Although we are in the eastern part of our state, the mountains, high desert, canyons, vast rivers, sagebrush, golden wheatfields, cattle and cowboys represent a decidedly western culture.



and boasts the remote and dramatic Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, North America's deepest river gorge. California and Nevada are our neighbors to the south.

One of Eastern Oregon's most beautiful treasures is Crater Lake National

The western boundary of our diocese is defined by the Cascade mountain range running north to south, with one third of our congregations near or on Highway 97, often called The Dalles-California Highway.

To the north of the diocese, the mighty Columbia River divides Oregon from Washington where it has carved through volcanic rock, easily seen in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic area.

The Snake River is the natural border between Eastern Oregon and Idaho

Park which is the deepest lake in the United States surrounded by 2,000 foot cliffs, and a violent volcanic past. Mt. Hood, Oregon's highest peak, is a volcano in the northwest corner of the diocese and much of the remainder of the area in eastern Oregon is the rugged Columbia Plateau, formed from lava flowing in the cracks of the earth. The Basin and Range Region to the southeast is marked by high basins and a few steep mountains.

AT A GLANCE

- 22 Parishes
- 19 Counties
- 69,000 Square Miles



History

This rugged and vast land of eastern Oregon is what the early missionaries encountered when Episcopal churches were founded in this area. For example, “Old La Grande” was a small, pioneer community in the 1850s and the 1860s and was a regular stopping point for travelers on the Old Oregon Trail from Boise to Portland. They traveled by horseback, covered wagons, oxen hauled freighters, and later on regular stage vehicles over the formidable Blue Mountains to Pendleton and even on to Portland.



“This rugged and vast land of eastern Oregon is what the early missionaries encountered when Episcopal churches were founded in this area”



After the scattered start of Episcopal churches in Oregon east of the Cascades, it finally coalesced into the Missionary District of Eastern Oregon in 1907, under Bishop Robert L. Paddock. It continued as a Missionary District under Bishops Remington and Barton, maintaining a vital partnership with 14 other “districts” in Coalition 14. In 1970, the district became a diocese in its own right and elected Bishop William Spofford.

Morris Hall - EDEO Diocesan Offices



Ascension Chapel

History cont.

Although EDEO does not have a traditional cathedral, it has its own special spiritual and gathering place in the Ascension Chapel, located at Ascension

and the Rev. Nevius planned the architecture. Ascension Chapel is one of several “Nevius” churches located throughout Oregon. When French died on a trip east in 1882 he left all his property at Cove to Bishop Morris in trust for the establishment of an Episcopal School for girls. French’s house was renovated and made into a school. The school flourished until a fire destroyed the school building. A day school was carried out for a few years until abandoned in 1900. After the arrival of Bishop Remington, a



“Ascension Chapel is one of several ‘Nevius’ churches located throughout Oregon”

Camp and Conference Center in Cove. Bishop Benjamin Wister Morris and the Rev. Reuben Nevius traveled to eastern Oregon in 1872, and convinced the community that Cove was the ideal place for a church. Samuel Gautier French, an 1862 pioneer of the Grand Ronde valley, contributed most of the money and labor,

church camp for young people opened in 1924. Ascension Camp and Conference Center has faithfully continued with those traditions and has expanded the offerings to include ecumenical seminars and conferences. In 2013, the diocesan offices were moved there to consolidate diocesan resources.



Bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

- Robert L. Paddock (1907-1922)
- William P. Remington (1922-1945)
- Lane W. Barton (1946-1968)
- William B. Spofford (1969-1979)
- Rustin R. Kimsey (1980-2000)
- William O. Gregg (2000-2007)
- Bavi E. (Nedi) Rivera (2009-)

Culture

The 69,000-square-mile diocese is comprised of 18 Oregon counties and one Washington county, with a total population of about 552,000. There are more than 2,600 Episcopalians in the diocese's 22 parishes. As mentioned, diocesan headquarters are in Cove, together with Ascension School Camp and Conference Center. In The Dalles, adjacent to historic St. Paul's Chapel, the newly restored diocesan archives are housed.

Hood River and The Dalles, located along the Columbia River Gorge, have a thriving tourist industry. The windy gorge provides a magnificent playground for windsurfers. Both towns support an agriculture economy of cherries and pears, with some vineyards and accompanying wineries enjoying a surge in popularity.

If you love horses and cowboys, then Fort Dalles Days and the Wasco County Fair will peak your interest. If more "wild west" is what you are looking for, the Pendleton Round-up held in September of every year is the biggest of the many rodeos held throughout eastern Oregon.

As you drive east from The Dalles toward Pendleton, you will see large wind farms. This industry has grown significantly since 2001 with most of it contained in Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, and Umatilla Counties.

The far eastern border town of Ontario is home to an important interpretive center, The Four Rivers Cultural Center. This museum focuses on the ethnic groups that helped settle the area—Basques, Japanese, Americans, Latinos, and the resident American Indians.



Culture, cont.



The town of Burns, to the south, is the gateway to Steens Mountain. Burns has maintained a great deal of the historical west in their county historical museum. And just 30 miles south of the city is Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The 185,000 acres provides a mecca for bird watchers as it is the habitat for over 250 species of migratory birds.

Only 25 miles from the California border is the city of Klamath Falls, home of the 173rd Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard. The Klamath Falls area also offers unique natural resources such as geothermal heat, which allows the municipal Ella Redkey swimming pool to remain open year-round.



The diocese has many outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy hiking, fly fishing, snowmobiling, snowboarding and skiing. Mt. Bachelor, Mt. Hood Meadows, and Timberline Lodge are just a few of the excellent locations available for those who love to recreate.

Sisters is nestled in the shadow of the Three Sisters Mountains (Faith, Hope, and Charity) and home to the largest outdoor Quilt Show in the world held on the second Saturday of July. The weekend following Labor Day also brings the Sisters Folk Festival, a national caliber event featuring folk, Americana and roots music.



The Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde Community, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and Klamath Tribes are all federally recognized Indian tribes located in Eastern Oregon.

OUR PERMANENT COMMISSIONS, Committees, and Communities.

The Diocese of Eastern Oregon has responded to the 2012 General Convention by reporting specific responses to the Secretary of Convention. Our efforts since the GC have addressed most of the resolutions in some form and were reported to the Secretary of Convention. Two areas of mission that resonated with our diocese resulted in the formation of two permanent commissions at our 2014 Diocesan Convention.



Environmental Justice Commission

The Environmental Justice Commission of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon is a group of lay and clergy leaders of the diocese who focus on environmental issues from the perspective of a people of faith. Care and justice for all creation is a core value of The Episcopal Church. Eco-justice ministries seek to heal, defend, and work toward justice for all God's creation and to respect the kinship and connection of all that God created through education, advocacy, and action. We believe in environmental sustainability – promoting lifestyles that are socially, environmentally, and economically responsible – and making informed choices to improve the quality of our lives and that of the planet for future generations.

The convener of this commission has sent out various action alerts important to eastern Oregonians and has recently accepted a position in the environmental field.



Cursillo

Cursillo Community is lay-led, a part of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon that was founded to meet the growing spiritual needs of all people of all Christian denominations in the Diocese. It is part of a world-wide community which began with the Roman Catholic Cursillo movement.



EDEO Commission on Celebrating Diversity & Anti-Racism

For many years Anti-Racism training in EDEO was outsourced to neighboring dioceses and other conferences. After an in-house gathering with Eric Law from Kaleidoscope Institute and our Convention at Four Rivers Cultural Center the following year, we began to develop some ongoing work in the diocese: first by calling together an Anti-Racism Commission and then with our work at our Convention on the Umatilla Reservation in 2014,

The Commission sought out more training and worked to learn best practices in neighboring dioceses before setting its own agenda. In so doing, and in response to our learnings in Appreciative Inquiry (e.g., “You get more of what you talk about” and “The question is key.”) and our last two conventions, the Commission renamed itself the Commission on Celebrating Diversity. In 2015 its focus is to help congregations and the diocese itself respond faithfully to the 2014 Resolution on Niix Naknuwi Tiicham which was developed with the help of some key Indian leaders in the Episcopal Church.



The Mission of Ascension School Camp and Conference Center is to provide a place apart for all God’s children to gather and to share, to be refreshed by the joy of God’s creation, nurtured in the bounty of holy love and challenged to the ministry of Christ’s Gospel.

Ascension School provides opportunities for Christian formation through adult and youth programming in a natural setting and Christian environment.

The History of Ascension School

Ascension School Camp and Conference Center began in 1882, with the gift of 100 acres from Samuel Gaither French, to establish a girls’ boarding school. The school officially opened on September 4, 1884 with 40 boarding pupils and 25 day pupils supervised by 6 teachers. The Ascension Episcopal School for Girls flourished until a cold morning on July 29, 1892, when a fire in the fireplace got away from them and



burned the school to the ground, leaving only the carriage house (Morris Hall currently). Morris Hall now houses the Diocesan Office. The land lay fallow until June 1924 when Bishop William Remington decided to open a summer camp for the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon. The summer camp has run continually since then,

this past summer being the 90th season. The heart of the camp has always been and still is the Ascension Chapel, built in 1876. It is listed on the national historic registry as is the accompanying rectory (Barton House).

In 1998, Ascension School stepped into another path in development with the building of Kimsey Commons - a state of the art adult conference center. Kimsey Commons boasts a self-contained unit for upscale conferencing for up to 60 people with housing for 22 in double occupancy rooms with private baths. The dining hall and kitchen can serve up to 60 people. Kimsey Commons has allowed the camp and conference center to offer adult retreats for the Diocese as well as the surrounding communities.

In 2015 we remodeled our summer camp dining room and will begin building a new multipurpose building that will serve both the summer camp program and the adult programs. These capital improvements are made possible by Ascension School’s successful capital campaign conducted in 2014. www.coveascensionschool.com

Ascension School’s Core Values:

- Deepening people’s spiritual awareness
- Working for social justice
- Environmental Stewardship
- Working to respond to human need by loving service

Diocesan Clergy

- Parochial Clergy (16)
- Non Parochial Clergy (8)
- Deacons (11)
- Retired Clergy (20)
- Retired Bishops (2)
- Retired Deacons (2)
- Non Canonically Resident Clergy
- Licensed to Officiate (6)
- Resident Clergy in Communion
- Licensed to Officiate (3)

Standing Committee

- Kim McClain, Trinity, Bend (2017)
- The Rev. Jed Holdorff, Trinity, Bend (2017)
- The Rev. Anna Carmichael, St. Mark's, Hood River (2016)-President
- Charles Cagle, St. Andrew's, Burns (2016)
- The Rev. Ted Rodrigues, Church of the Transfiguration, Sisters (2015) – Secretary
- Ann Havill, Trinity, Bend (2015)

Bishop Nominating Committee

- The Rev. Katy Anderson, Heppner
- Fabian Baker, Klamath Falls
- The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake, Baker City
- The Rev. John Collins, Sisters
- Terry Rahmsdorff, Bend
- Julie Reynolds, Canyon City
- The Rev. Dcn. Marilyn Roth, The Dalles
- Arlene Ullman, Bend



EDEO Clergy gather at the 2014 Convention at Church of the Redeemer in Pendleton

How we See Ourselves at This Point in Time

Three of the twelve responses to questions that are asked from the Office of Transition Ministry

1. Describe a moment in your diocesan worshipping community's recent ministry that you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

A dancing bishop, a gloriously packed sanctuary, and music filling the rafters was the culminating celebration of Eucharist for the 2014 Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal family of Eastern Oregon. The convention convened at the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute on the Umatilla Indian Reservation utilizing this facility as an opportunity to invite our Indian neighbors to participate in special events of the weekend. This resulted in educational and meaningful experiences that have led us to a deepening awareness of American Indian culture and to consider new paths in our mission in ministry. During the course of the weekend, the convention engaged with local tribal members as well as leaders in Indigenous Ministry of the Episcopal Church that included a resolution responding to "Niix Naknuwi Tiicham: Taking Good Care of the Land" and an evening banquet that involved a tribal troupe in full regalia and all present participated in a friendship dance. Sunday morning concluded with a procession, music, choir, clergy fully vested seated among the congregation and publicly renewing their ordination vows, baptisms and a confirmation. This weekend has been described by many as one of the most meaningful gatherings of this diocese.

2. How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon (EDEO) values its pioneer history and rural western independent ethos. Our variety of moderate size urban congregations and small town church communities located over a vast geographical area remain committed to sustaining a viable, relevant, and mission oriented diocese. We are willing as a people to be creative about forming partnerships that allow us to explore different and innovative ways of being Diocese, seeking opportunities to develop ministry and adjudicatory community bridging common boundaries of faith and traditional geography.

We embrace technology to facilitate relationship and communication and have consolidated physical resources for effective management. EDEO Council and committees supplement their scheduled face-to-face meetings with video teleconferences, and use websites, Facebook, The Oregon Trail Evangelist (our diocesan newspaper), and electronic news and messages from the diocesan office and the Bishop to be informed. EDEO relocated its headquarters to the site of the diocese's Ascension School Camp and Conference Center in the majestic community of Cove. Youth camps, spiritual retreats and seminars have been held in this location since 1924.

How We See Ourselves at This Point in Time (cont.)

Three of the twelve responses to questions that are asked from the Office of Transition Ministry (OTM): (Cont.)

3. Describe the diocese's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Our two most recent Diocesan Conventions express our desire to have a multi-cultural focus on ministries with people not traditionally served by The Episcopal Church in Eastern Oregon. The 43rd Convention on October 11 – 13, 2013 in Ontario was held at the Four Rivers Cultural Center and Museum which celebrates the people from varied ancestries – Hispanic, American Indian, Japanese, Chinese and Basque who settled in the region. The keynote speaker was the Rev. Canon Anthony Guillen, TEC Missioner for Hispanic/ Latino ministries as well as for Diversity, Social and Environmental Ministries. He inspired an awareness and commitment within our diocesan community to address these issues in an intentional and significant way. The diocese subsequently established permanent commissions: Environmental Justice Commission and the Commission on Celebrating Diversity. As mentioned before, our 44th Convention focused on our relationship with our American Indian neighbors and encouraged us to find ways to heal the wounds that still exist from our country's mistreatment of them.



We seek to increase our presence and relevance in the world.



Our changing presence in the world

Eastern Oregon is a vast geographic area that as a whole has often been described as a rural environment with many of its people claiming an ethos of independence perhaps based on the traditional history of settlers moving into the region. In recent years we have come to explore new partnerships, not only among our congregations but also between our congregations and other churches, schools, agencies and non-religious programs. In addition, we have been examining our assumptions in light of a changing world and looking at traditional history.

Our conventions have focused on themes including reaching out to indigenous and Latino\Hispanic populations in truthful and respectful ways. There are efforts underway to partner with Oregon Humanities to engage in the issues that impact us all. Our Environmental Justice Commission and the Commission on Celebrating Diversity are actively raising awareness and finding ways to shape our ministries. Oregon's marriage equality law presents our diocese with new opportunities to live into being the people God calls us to be. Some of our congregations have shared ministry with PFLAG and some have celebrated the blessing of same-gender unions. We value diversity and respect different opinions. The focus of this summer's camp program is on world religions.



Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

ECUMENICAL
MINISTRIES
of OREGON

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy. EMO has had a consistent presence at the annual conventions of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon and the diocese has provided members on their board. <http://www.emoregon.org/>



Haiti

The Diocese of Eastern Oregon has participated with various groups and individuals traveling to Haiti to assist in response and development efforts over recent years, including a most recent trip in early 2015 where they contributed school supplies, new furniture for the school and teacher training and support.



We seek to increase our presence and relevance in the world (cont.)



Episcopal Relief & Development

ERD has been part of every diocesan convention program and supported throughout the year by all our congregations. This relationship has been enhanced by a member who has been the diocesan ERD Chairperson and on the ERD Executive Board for many years. The diocese has established a campaign by resolution – “Carry the Water Campaign 2015” -to participate in a significant way by financially supporting ERD’s efforts to help ensure access to clean water by building water systems and promoting hygiene and sanitation. A resident expert on survival and response to catastrophic emergencies is regularly traveling our diocese to educate congregations. <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>



Indigenous Ministries of the Episcopal Church

The 2014 Diocese Convention was held at the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute and the facilities of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indians Reservation. Chuck Sams, Communications Director CTUIR, opened the convention with Niix naknuwi Tiicham – Taking Good Care of the Land A Native Perspective on American Indian History. Sarah Eagle Heart, Officer for TEC Indigenous Ministries, and Elsie Dennis, Co-Chair First Nation Committee of the Diocese of Olympia, both spoke and facilitated at the convention and Elsie gave a sermon at the concluding service. A resolution in response to Niix naknuwi Tiicham was passed that began and intended to sustain a relationship – on terms that are mostly determined by the tribe not by us –

with the tribe(s) nearest to our congregations.

[Read More about Indigenous Ministries of the Episcopal Church](#)



Cooperation between Lutherans and Episcopalians and Beyond

Several of our congregations worship in ecumenical settings. We have a strong partnership with the Oregon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and hope we can continue to strengthen that partnership not only as congregations but also as judicatories. Each of the congregational partnerships has different ways of being partners.

St Andrew's Episcopal and Peace Lutheran in Burns share St Andrew's property and a Lutheran pastor who receives the bulk of his compensation from other sources for his ministry at Living Waters Mission on the Paiute Reservation and as an EMT in Harney County.

St Mark's Episcopal and Good Shepherd Lutheran in Madras worship in Good Shepherd's church, and share a new Lutheran pastor after having an Episcopal rector for ten years.

All Saints' Episcopal and Hope Lutheran Church in Heppner alternate not only worship books but buildings week to week. This congregation has a noteworthy ministry in a children's outreach "First Friday Friends of

Jesus" where all children are invited to participate in Bible stories, games, crafts, and food. Schools in Heppner, like in several towns in eastern Oregon,

do not have classes on Fridays, so this program fills the gap one week each month.

Other congregations are beginning to think about similar partnerships.

In addition, two congregations see themselves as fully ecumenical and both are served by Episcopal rectors:

All Saints of the Cascades in Sunriver had been joined in ministry with Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church when it began to increase its membership with others from other traditions and became the Sunriver Christian Fellowship. They meet at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Sunriver. Church of the Transfiguration in Sisters describes itself as one congregation with two worship styles. The early service is ecumenical, celebrating the Eucharist once a month. The later service is Episcopal. Both services include a broad range of music with the choir generally singing at the both services.



THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



Our Finances

The 2015 budget is a reflection of our common life together and our vision to meet the needs both within and outside the diocese. A copy of our 2015 Diocesan Budget can be found at:

[View Our 2015 Diocesan Budget](#)

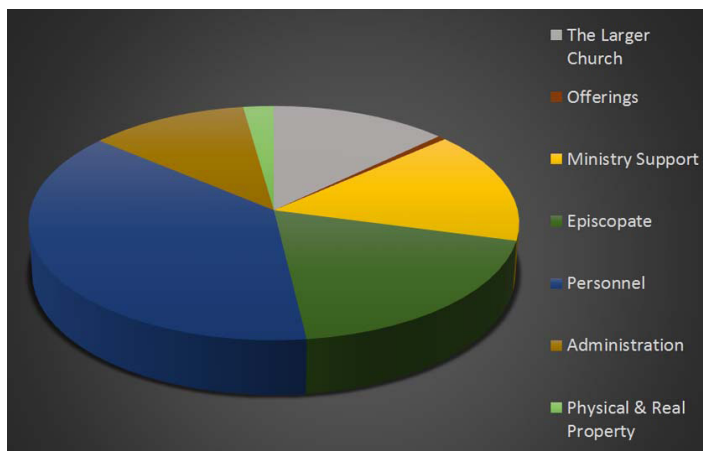
The Income Side of the Budget

Description	2015 Budget	Percentage
Net Assessments	\$375,000	83%
Other Income	\$12,500	3%
Grants/Loans	\$20,500	5%
Investment Income	\$40,000	9%
Transfer of Funds	\$4,500	>1%
Total Income	\$452,500	

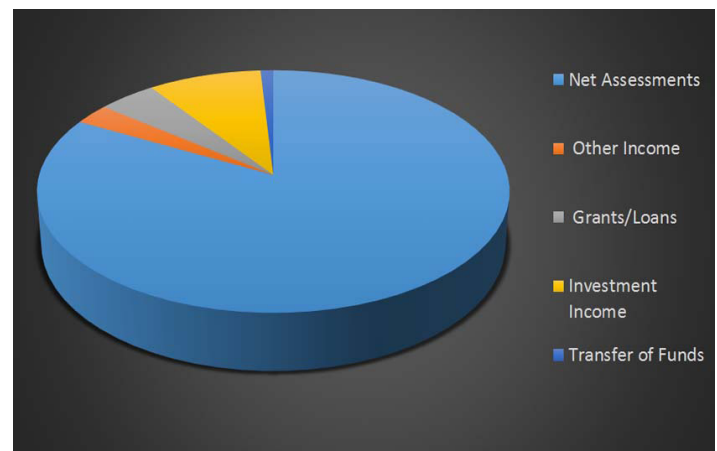
The Expense Side of the Budget

Description	2015 Budget	Percentage
The Larger Church	\$58,500	13%
Offerings	\$2,730	1%
Ministry Support	\$70,350	16%
Episcopate	\$85,600	19%
Personnel	\$171,799	38%
Administration	\$52,540	12%
Physical & Real Property	\$10,100	2%
Total Expenses	\$451,619	

Expenses at a Glance



Income at a Glance



Our Finances, cont.



Establishment of a General Endowment Fund

The Diocesan Council is currently in the process of establishing a new and separate fund to be known as “The Endowment Fund” to administer and manage existing donor restricted funds, Council Designated funds, and all future gifts and bequests received by the diocese. The philosophy and objectives of these efforts are to provide a total return commensurate with an established Spending Policy (3% - 5% annually) and achieve a level of growth in principal to keep pace with inflation (net of all investment fees) and any growth in excess of inflation to be balanced against an objective of capital preservation.



Diocese of Eastern Oregon and is located in Cove. Cove is a quiet town nestled in the foothills of the Walla Walla Mountains and recently became the Diocesan Headquarters thereby creating efficiencies for both Ascension and EDEO operations. Fund raising efforts in collaboration with the Episcopal Church Foundation surpassed the \$400,000.00 initial goal to upgrade and enhance these facilities that have been a special place to generations of Episcopalians and friends in the region.



Katherine Bisbee II Fund Grants

Each year the diocese provides grant funding to assist parishes in their outreach ministry through the Katherine Bisbee II Fund. Bisbee grant applications must be submitted in October and awards are made following the selection process by Diocesan Council that November.

Bisbee grants seek to support start up or “seed” projects with a high level of direct service. Diocesan Council encourages applications from congregations new to the grant process. The Fund seeks to support projects with a high level of participation by the recipient communities.

In past years Bisbee grants have been awarded to various food pantries, community gardens, ecumenical efforts to assist after-school programs and parish first aid efforts. Bisbee grants typically supply some of the needed funds to support new ministries and are typically \$500 to \$1,500. The application asks potential recipients to describe the proposed ministry and provide a budget. The applicant is asked in what ways the parish supports the ministry. The applicant is also asked to provide a Vestry resolution supporting the grant request. Bisbee grants seek to assist grassroots ministries that will become sustainable and serve their communities.



Eastern Oregon Episcopal Foundation

The Eastern Oregon Episcopal Foundation, which oversees a permanent revolving loan fund, was created in 1952 by the 42nd annual Convocation of the Missionary District of Eastern Oregon. The

Foundation’s investments presently total about \$450,000. In addition, EOEF owns a farm in Athena, Oregon, whose earnings are shared equally by the Foundation, Ascension School and the diocese. EOEF has a mission to establish permanent funds that provide low-cost or interest-free loans of up to 10 years. Grants are confined to projects “for the formation, education and training of the people of the diocese for mission and ministry and/or emergency building grants.” The Bishop is chair of the Foundation Committee and its Board of Trustees.



Ascension School Camp and Conference Center

Ascension is an essential ministry of the Episcopal

The Bishop We Seek

Titus 1: 7-9 For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain; but he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it.

The scripture from Titus sets the biblical standard for a Bishop in the early Christian Church. The Diocese of Eastern Oregon adds to the above what is on our hearts in this diocese in the 21st Century. She or he as a sister or brother in Christ will naturally emulate much of what Titus reminds us of. More specifically we seek someone who:

Focuses on strength of relationship over structure. EDEO focuses on connection with each other with a strong appreciation for all orders of ministry – laity, diaconate, presbyter, and bishop.

Engages the diocese in all of its geographic diversity. One third of our congregations have full time clergy, the other 2/3rds are served in various other creative ways. All are faithful, committed and need varying types of formation and congregational assistance to remain strong.

Communicates to remain connected to all of EDEO in all its geographical vastness using up to date technology.

Takes the Gospel seriously and goes with us to the hard places of racism and understanding the ramifications of privilege.

Leads in strong ecumenical relationships and other partnerships.

Demonstrates bold creativity in facing a challenging future.

The Bishop We Seek - Discernment

The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon has spent a large part of 2014 listening and discerning the needs and wants for our future leadership in the diocese. To achieve this, we undertook a diocesan-wide survey with all our congregations. Our leadership body, Diocesan Council (together with Standing Committee), was guided by a discernment consultant during one of their meetings together. Both processes helped to coalesce a clearer picture of this rural diocese in the Episcopal Church.

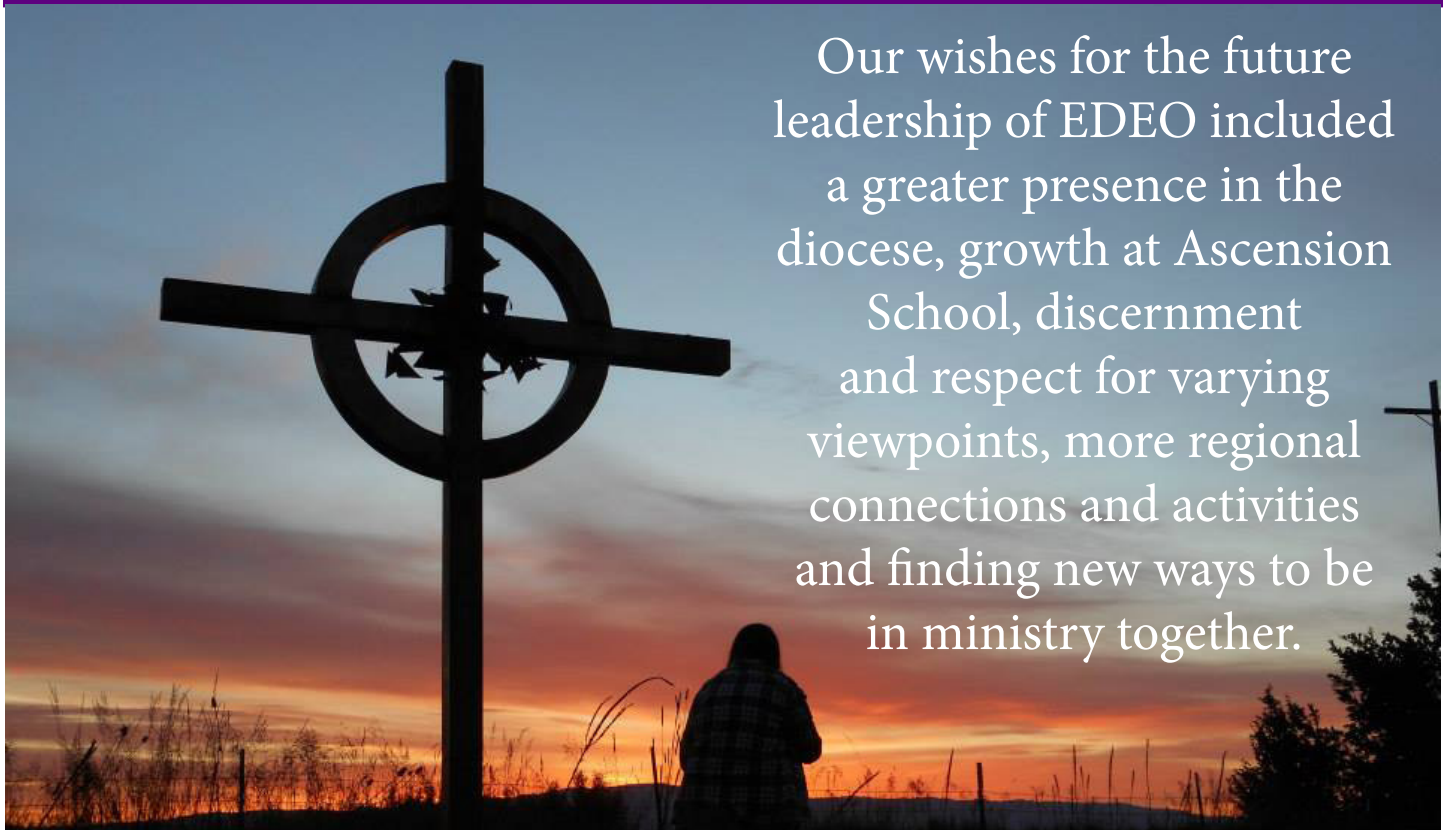
- Diocesan Council asked congregations about their memories of the past and hopes and dreams of the future. Congregants were asked to tell their stories, naturally, beginning with experiences with our current Bishop Bavi (Nedi) Rivera. Bishop Rivera’s joy and abundance of the Holy Spirit became evident from the beginning with her inspiring visitations. Bishop Rivera’s strong support of outreach and in-reach in our communities and the world was also strongly evident.
- When questioned about other memorable experiences in congregations in this diocese not related to the present Bishop, people drew on their experiences with the weekly worship services, the priest or pastor, Christmas service, and Evening Prayer during Holy Week. Cursillo experiences also were fondly recalled.
- Other ideas and thoughts emerged when asked about change, specifically change in the diocese in the past 5 years. For many people, Bishop Rivera has brought a sense of unity, positivity, and hopefulness and expects the best of us. We felt we were more open to change and inclusiveness than 5 years ago, and increased focus on why we should be a diocese.

.....

“What people valued most in Eastern Oregon included a sense that the diocese is geographically large but could also discern a closeness to each congregation and dedication to all EDEO churches. An openness to new ideas, new ways of being a diocese, and ecumenism were highly valued.”

.....

- Moving from the past to the future, congregations responded to the question concerning the future of the diocese. At the top of the list was the need to attract young people, youth programs, Sunday school and spiritual education of children. Ascension School Camp and Conference Center is dedicated to promoting lifelong Christian formation opportunities. www.coveascensionschool.com
- When asked to discern what supports best experiences of diocesan leadership, the Council responded determination, networking, community, recognizing commonalities, and importantly, education. Getting beyond the traditional role of rector and getting people out into the world and do was a response that can carry over to a bishop as well. Core values that give life and vitality to EDEO were considered and once again, high on the list was determination, connectedness in our geographical vastness, stability, and relationship.



Our wishes for the future leadership of EDEO included a greater presence in the diocese, growth at Ascension School, discernment and respect for varying viewpoints, more regional connections and activities and finding new ways to be in ministry together.

As you prayerfully consider entry into the process for nomination as a candidate for bishop or are a bishop looking for an opportunity to engage in a creative, collaborative and motivated diocesan environment, know that we are praying for you to take a look at the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon.

Entering this process is a journey that begins in mutual discernment that we are committed to making a rewarding experience.

Our time together shall be an honest sharing of ourselves; intentional, focused and prayerful. Our goal is to assess our mutual needs and aspirations in an environment that is comfortable and enriching for all of us. We look forward to getting together to discern whether we are ultimately called to a relationship in leading the church in eastern Oregon.

We pray that this journey in Christ will develop into a deeper understanding of our

mission and roles in the Body of Christ in the world. This profile is intended as a picture-in-time of who we are as the Diocese of Eastern Oregon and the person we seek to share in the leadership as we live our Christian faith.

We hope that this profile is helpful in your discernment and may be a starting point for further conversation. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel welcome in contacting the Nominating Committee, The Rev. John Collins at jrcsisters@gmail.com

May God Bless us and our journey together,
Diocesan Council of Eastern Oregon

Nominations and other materials should be submitted by email to the Nominating Committee at edeelections@gmail.com. For further information concerning the nominating process please see the Bishop Search tab on the diocesan website episdioeo.org