

Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Virginia

Ericka Masias Campos, President

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gifts each of you has received. I Peter 4:10

2022 Annual Report to the Dioceses

With the grace of the Holy Spirit, the mission of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) is to share the love of God by making Christ known in the world through prayer, education, concern for others, and joyful service. This report summarizes our activities this year.

The diocesan ECW Board of Directors conducted its first meeting on January 22, a virtual meeting powered by Zoom. ECW Chaplain, the Very Reverend Kim Coleman, shared an inspirational message celebrating the feast day of Florence Li Tim-Oi and set the tone for ECW by asking: “When the crowds look at ECW, how will they know we follow the one whom God appointed to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release of the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor?” President Ericka Masias Campos then called for ideas and plans to address the work of ECW for the year.

In the history of the ECW of the Diocese of Virginia, the organization has a Hispanic President, the first to represent Latino women. She is looking forward to working with all local parishes in supporting their ministries and outreach and establishing the ECW’s relationship with the new Bishop on a firm foundation. There is much work that women of the Episcopal Church can do together. They lead their families in making a difference in the entire community and in the world.

In a subsequent meeting of the board on February 5, 2022, the group reviewed the Very Rev. Kim Coleman’s flyer and discussed plans for the Lenten Retreat and whether future meetings be virtual or hybrid. The group believes that better attendance is possible if meetings are hybrid, since the Diocese of Virginia is large, and many people are still hesitant to attend in-person gatherings because the risk of COVID infection remains high. Committee chairs reported on their various ministries, including plans for collecting and sending offerings to the United Thank Offering, for soliciting applications for scholarships, and for Church Periodical Club grants. In global ministries, the chair hopes to clarify the priorities and budgetary considerations, and she hopes that parishes will respond to the survey so that we have a clearer understanding of the countries and ministries that are receiving attention and their needs. The Ecumenical and Social Justice Committee Chair expressed a desire for the ECW to continue in all our efforts to be involved in Sacred Ground and book groups, and she recommended that members also consider visiting and being involved with the African American Heritage Center in Charlottesville.

The Lenten Retreat was a hybrid meeting. Formerly known as “Lenten Quiet Day,” it was renamed because our activity is not QUIET! This is an annual event hosted by the ECW. It was held on March 5, 2022, and facilitated by the Right Reverend Jennifer Brooke-Davidson and the Very Rev. Kim L. Coleman, ECW Chaplain. The theme was “Practicing the Way of Love,” and we drew upon Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s book, *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*, to examine our biblical mandate to practice unconditional love in all that we teach and proclaim. In honor of Women’s History Month, special attention was given to the role of women in Bishop Curry’s life, as well as women in Holy Scripture whom God used to cultivate a commitment to love.

The ECW Executive Board met on April 21, 2022, in preparation for the annual spring meeting. This hybrid meeting was held at La Iglesia Episcopal De Santa Maria, Falls Church, on May 7, and it was hosted by the women of Santa Maria. Highlights of this meeting included a presentation by Michelle Trampe, who is director of the Central Virginia Justice Initiative, and who gave an update on steps being taken to stop human trafficking in Virginia. The keynote speaker, the Rev. Deacon Natalie Perl Regan, St. Thomas, McLean, presented a guided imagery evolving from the gift of an empty cup and focusing on the idea that God can use our hearts, minds, and energies if we are silent before God and invite God to fill us as an empty vessel with God’s plan. The women of Santa Maria served a delicious buffet, offering both breakfast and the lunch that followed the meeting. The worship service took place in the Santa Maria Temple and was led by the Rev. Roberto Orihuela, Vicario Parroquial and Co-celebrant/Preacher, the Very Rev. Kim Coleman, Co-celebrant. The Rev. Katherine V. Ferguson served as Deacon and Ericka Masias Campos served as translator. The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Virginia extend deep thanks to the community and ECW members of La Iglesia Episcopal de Santa Maria, and the music directors, Julio Cuellar at Santa Maria, and Patrick Kabanda, Trinity, Arlington, for the beautiful service. The United Thank Offering at this meeting totaled eighty-five dollars.

The ECW Board of Directors met again on June 3 to continue program planning. Heartfelt concern was expressed that the ECW organization cannot accomplish its ministry and grow without dedicated collaboration and help from everyone working together. We discussed the need to examine the role of ECW in the Diocese and improvements that would generate greater interest and involvement. Like other church organizations, much of our work has been disrupted during the pandemic. We have been unable to meet and enjoy the close social interactions that promoted our ministries.

On July 8, Kathleen Jimerson, the Scholarship Committee Chair, gathered members of that group at her home. A total of about \$4,000 was awarded to ten applicants who are college students and members of Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of Virginia. It is hoped that scholarships in the future can also be offered to applicants who are in vocational and apprenticeship programs.

Following up on the concerns expressed at the June 3 meeting, President Ericka Masias called for the ECW Board to meet on August 18 and invited Bishop Goff to join us in a discussion on how ECW might address the opportunity to revitalize the organization. The group identified several areas that need changes, and President Masias Campos appointed an *Ad Hoc* Committee to review the concerns and to plan next steps to address these concerns. The small group met on August 23 to review the organization and to discern any changes resulting from this review that would improve the ECW in the future.

The ECW will schedule the annual fall meeting, and that date and information about the

meeting will be forthcoming in future communications.

Submitted with thanksgiving,
Ericka Masias Campos
ECW President
Diocese of Virginia
September 15, 2022

AND CHANGE THE WORLD.

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute the 10 of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.