



Province I Episcopal Church Women

Province 1 ECW Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 18, 2024, on Zoom
Minutes

The Rev. Elizabeth Habecker opened the meeting with prayer

After a welcome the roll was called: 19 people were present from 4 Province 1 Dioceses: Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island and Western Massachusetts. Guests from: the dioceses of Long Island, Texas, SW Florida, and the diocese of Perth, Anglican Province of Western Australia. A quorum was present. We always like to meet in person, but the experience of the Zoom style of meeting has been very positive for wide attendance and programing.

Our guest speaker was The Rev. Alison Gilchrist, of Girls Friendly Society Perth, Australia. A few “take aways were: Don’t throw out the baby with the bathwater, catalyze a friendship revolution, starting small and doable, and aimed at enabling friendships, connecting lives, and growing hope. A few of their successful initiatives, are Wednesday Women and Friendship Fridays, Engaging Generations and the Sunflower Club. Watch Alison’s presentation here:
<https://youtu.be/J0gpFIg8Lig>

Other guests were:

Will Harron, Province 1 Coordinator, who brought greetings from the Province Conference. Province 1 is small but mighty with support from all dioceses, and who desire to collaborate. He talked about the various ministry networks in the Province; Province 1 Deacons network, Indigenous Peoples Justice Network, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Network, Becoming Beloved Community Network, and Episcopal Path for Creation Justice - <https://www.episcopalcreationpath.org/> Will reminded us about grant money available for new initiatives that involve two or more dioceses: (more about grants: <https://province1.org/grants/>) Will is happy to answer additional questions: coordinator@province1.org

Lisa Bortner, candidate for President of the National ECW, talked about her vision of women’s ministries as a place where women can find fellowship, break bread together, and talk about Jesus. She would like to focus on spiritually centered programs with service to all levels. Her vision is to provide leadership training to raise up leaders in the wider church. She plans to rethink women’s ministries, meeting with and encouraging province president and diocesan networks. She asks for our prayers and prays that she will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Karen Patterson, our current National ECW President, gave us a “taste’ of what to expect at the 2024 Triennial Meeting in Louisville, KY. The Keynote speaker will be a priest from Alaska, along with a range of workshops and speakers. The documentary, *The Philadelphia Eleven*, will be shown, and there will be a party celebrating the ECW’s 150th Birthday with beverages and cupcakes. Triennial Meeting information Here: <https://ecwnational.org/triennial-meetings/2022-2024/>

Business Portion of the Meeting

- The 2023 annual meeting minutes approved by email vote were entered into the record.
- The 2023 financial reports were approved and entered into the record.
- Recognition of the appointment of the Province 1 United Thank Offering Representative: The Rev. Dcn. Tracy Shaffer, Diocese of Maine, who introduced herself, is in the process of onboarding and will start in July.
- Elections:
 - Lois Frankforter was elected Province 1 ECW Representative to the National ECW
 - An uncontested slate of officers was elected: Lois Frankforter, President; Margaret Noel, Vice President; The Rev. Elizabeth Habecker, Secretary; and Susan Howland, Treasurer.

Rev. Liz closed the meeting with prayer:

Minutes transcribed from the recording. Here: <https://youtu.be/GEr8cYjo3pQ>

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