

Episcopal Relief & Development

Report to the Convention of the Diocese of West Tennessee

Episcopal Relief & Development is the compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. Hearing God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, Episcopal Relief & Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world.

At the end of 2016, Episcopal Relief & Development's Board of Directors approved a new logo and a new strategic plan that affirms and expands the organization's programs in three key areas: Early Childhood Development, Combating Gender-Based Violence, and Resilience & Climate Change.

Our work with Women focuses on helping communities promote the rights of women and children and move toward the vision that everyone deserves a life free from violence in a society where they are treated with dignity and respect. Only then can communities truly heal and thrive.

Our work with Children supports and protects kids under six so they reach appropriate health and developmental milestones. This focus on early development is foundational and critical to helping children achieve their full potential as future contributing members of their communities.

Our work on issues related to Climate focuses on how families and communities can work together to adapt to the effects of rapidly changing weather patterns. This work includes preparing for and recovering from climate-caused traumas such as floods, hurricanes and other disasters.

The programmatic philosophy of Episcopal Relief & Development is one that recognizes that genuine, sustainable change happens only when it comes from within an individual and within a community. Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) is an approach that catalyzes change and development based on utilizing the existing gifts and capacities of people and their communities. The ABCD model discourages development brought in from an outside source, but rather energizes change and development from within. Through our church's historic faith connections, we are deeply embedded in local communities around the world. We work closely with these communities to determine how to best meet their needs. We never impose solutions; rather, we listen, learn and work together to build upon local knowledge and strengths that already exist. As a result, our partners and community members are able to live and sustain fuller, more productive lives.

The work of Episcopal Relief & Development is brought home to our province, our diocese and our faith communities by the volunteers that comprise the Network. The Network is a ministry of education and encouragement. Network Members have the opportunity to encourage the diocese to contribute to Episcopal Relief & Development and become part of a collective of caring individuals who work together for lasting change. Network Coordinators recruit members of their diocese to serve as parish representatives so that they can highlight the work of Episcopal Relief & Development in their congregations. The Network makes a difference!

The current list of Network Representatives from the Diocese of West Tennessee includes:

All Saints'	Nancy Oshea
Annunciation	
Dalvary	Nobell Wilson
Christ – Brownsville	
Daughters of the King	Lydia Gibson
Emmanue	Colenzo Hubbard
Emmanue Center, Inc	Colenzo Hubbard
Episcopal Church Women	Jean Arehart
Good Shepherd	Bill Fry
Grace – Paris	Dorothy Herzog
Grace-St. Luke's	Betty Johnson
Holy Apostles	Pam Hassler
Holy Communion	Hester Mathes
Holy Trinity	Jamie Cubine
Immanuel – LaGrange	
Immanuel – Ripley	Martha Webb
Integrity	
Ravenscroft Chapel	
St. Andrew's	Rachel Stolze
St. Anne's	Jack Rogers
St. Columba	Erad Thompson
St. Elisabeth's	Noah Campbell
St. George's	Dorothy Wells
St. James – Union City	Carclyn Conum
St. James – Dclivar	Barney Gordon
St. John's	Dean Taylor
St. Joseph's	Colenzo Hubbard
St. Luke's	Cody Elue Miller
St. Mary's – Dyersburg	Gary Meade
St. Mary's Cathedra	Evelyn Pety
St. Mary's Episcopal School	Katherine Bush
St. Matthew's	Dun Brooks
St. Paul	Debbie Dugard
St. Philip	Terry Street
St. Thomas – Somerville	Nancy Jehl Boatwright
St. Thomas the Apostle	Corothy Farmer
Thistle & Dee	Eyleen Farmer
Trezevant Manor	Rcbin Hatzenbuehler
Trinity – Mason	

If your faith community or organization is not listed, or if your group does not have a Network Representative listed, or if you are listed in error, please, contact the Diocesan Coordinator, Deacon Tommy Rhoads, (731) 445-8478, tommy@estlukes.org.

You can have a positive, tangible impact on the world through Episcopal Relief & Development that is consistent with your faith and faith expression and aligns with the Episcopal Church's commitment to peace and justice. Supporting Episcopal Relief & Development is one way for you to fulfill your vows in the Baptismal Covenant.