

The EDOW & ESM Covenant Goals for 2009 **January 1, 2009 Draft**

The Covenant goals for 2009 for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and Episcopal Senior Ministries have five primary focal points:

1. Implementing the recommendations of the Aging Agenda Report of 2007.
2. Enhancing and supporting the development of Parish Senior Ministries throughout the Diocese.
3. Strengthening the ties and coordination among existing Episcopal-affiliated housing and services for the elderly.
4. Increasing the awareness and support within the Diocese for all the Episcopal-affiliated senior housing, aging services and caregiver support that is available.
5. Recognizing the contributions of older Episcopalians and volunteers who coordinate and provide services for the elderly.

1. Implementing the recommendations of the Aging Agenda Report of 2007.

Background: The Aging Agenda Report recommends development in four areas: 1) affordable senior housing and support services for residents, 2) community based services to help people stay safely in their own homes in the community, 3) volunteer recruitment, training, and management to support existing and new projects, and 4) education and training and both program and fiscal development.

Action Plans:

- ESM, with the support of the Diocese and through its partnership with THC Affordable Housing, will actively seek to develop new affordable senior housing in the Diocese and look at ways to provide more support to current residents in the Episcopal-affiliated affordable senior housing communities in the Diocese.
- ESM will seek ways to expand both its Age-In-Place Services and its geriatric care management services – ESM Cares. Both are affordable service options. Age-In-Place, in addition to its free volunteer-based services launched a home repair and maintenance service with a sliding fee scale in 2008, and plans to expand this service beyond Wards 4 and 5. ESM Cares services Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties in Maryland and the District of Columbia.
- ESM and the Diocese will work together to support the priorities identified in the Aging Agenda Report.
- ESM will promote the work of volunteers supporting aging services in the Diocese and continue to work with congregations and the National Cathedral on educational programs, models of engagement, and volunteer activities.

2. Enhancing and supporting the development of Parish Senior Ministries throughout the Diocese.

Background: Congregations provide a frontline response to the challenges of aging and caregiving for their members, their families, and others. Clergy and lay members work

together to provide pastoral and spiritual support, encourage peer support as well as on the development of educational and social programs. They also make appropriate referrals to other professional and volunteer assistance for those who are preparing for retirement, caregiving for elderly relatives, friends, children and grandchildren, and for those who are looking for meaningful and fulfilling volunteer work.

Action Plans:

- ESM and the Diocese will promote the designation of one or two ESM Parish Contacts in each congregation and the development of the team approach to encourage clergy and lay volunteers to work together to respond to the needs of the elderly and caregivers in each congregation and share information on Diocesan programs and aging services and resources.
- The Diocese will host an event for the Rectors and ESM Parish Contacts in October to thank them for their work and encourage their ministry to the elderly and caregivers in their congregations.
- ESM will coordinate the Parish Senior Ministries Council with regional representation and provide training and support to Parish Contacts in congregations.
- ESM and the Diocese will spotlight examples of successful Parish Senior Ministries to encourage others to follow their lead.
- ESM's Director of Parish Volunteer Services will assist congregations in developing Parish Senior Ministries and help bring speakers and other expertise to congregations to enhance their Parish Senior Ministries.
- The Diocese, with the help of ESM, will introduce new clergy in the Diocese through the Fresh Start program to the issues and resources on aging in the Diocese.

3. Strengthening the ties and coordination among existing Episcopal-affiliated housing and services for the elderly

Background: While each of the existing Episcopal-affiliated senior housing and service programs has its own Board and unique service in the Diocese, the missions are related and there is a tie to the Episcopal Diocese. Working together can strengthen and enhance the Diocese's ministry to the elderly as well as benefit each housing community and service.

Action Plans:

- ESM will continue to pursue expanding its Board to include Board member representation from other Episcopal-affiliated senior housing and services in the Diocese.
- ESM will continue to gather staff representatives from Episcopal –affiliated senior housing and services to share endeavors and plan joint projects – such as the simultaneous open houses.
- ESM and the Diocese will promote Parish Volunteer Days for Seniors as a way to educate congregations about the available services and as a way to provide volunteer support to Episcopal-affiliated senior housing and services in the

Diocese.

- ESM and the Diocese will use their print media and websites to promote and support these Episcopal-affiliated senior housing communities and services.

4. Informing Episcopalians and others about the senior housing, aging services and caregiver support available in the Diocese.

Background: Many Episcopalians in the Diocese are not aware of the services available through ESM and other Episcopal-affiliated senior housing communities and services in the Diocese. Not only are Episcopalians missing out on valuable services, but these services could benefit from serving more Episcopalians and from the support and endorsement more Episcopalians could provide.

Action Plans:

- The Diocese and ESM will designate one Sunday in May Older Americans' Month, (May 3, 2009) as the annual Episcopal Senior Ministries Sunday to promote Episcopal –affiliated senior housing, aging services and caregiver support to encourage both awareness and support for these services.
- ESM and the Diocese will use their websites and print media and other means of communication to educate Episcopalians and others about the available services.
- ESM and the Diocese will have a venue at the Diocesan Convention to help educate delegates about the aging services in the Diocese.
- The Diocese will recognize ESM's 85th Anniversary and services at Diocesan Convention with a courtesy resolution, through its website and media, and by encouraging participation in ESM's Leadership in Aging Awards & 85th Anniversary Gala – Magical Moments –2009 on June 4, 2009.

5. Recognizing the contributions of older Episcopalians and volunteers who coordinate and provide services for the elderly.

Background: For the past 14 years, ESM and the Diocese have held annual Senior Celebrations during May, Older American's month. As many as 74 congregations have participated in these celebrations. These are truly Diocesan-wide events.

Action Plans:

- ESM and the Diocese will sponsor a Diocesan Senior Celebration on May 7, 2009. The Senior Celebration will be in the form of a worship service at the National Cathedral with a reception to follow. Congregations in the Southern part of the Diocese are organizing their own Senior Celebration event.
- ESM and the Diocese will encourage congregations in the Diocese to participate in the Senior Celebration Worship Service.
- ESM and the Diocese will use their websites and print media to thank and spotlight both older volunteers and the organizers and caregivers of senior ministry programs in the Diocese.