

Covenant Between the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and Episcopal Senior Ministries

January 15, 2008

This Covenant between the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and Episcopal Senior Ministries in the Diocese of Washington covers a second three-year period and is renewed for the purpose of coordinating, promoting and expanding Episcopal ministries, services, and advocacy for older persons, the family members and caregivers of the elderly, and those preparing for their later years within the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Washington, (EDOW), is the legal entity of the Episcopal congregations within the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. The Diocese is governed by its elected and appointed Diocesan Council. There are 90 Episcopal congregations within the Diocese of Washington. The area of the Diocese includes: the District of Columbia, and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles and St. Mary's.

Episcopal Senior Ministries, (ESM), is a nonprofit corporation established in 1924 in the District of Columbia, following approval of the Convention of the Diocese of Washington in 1923. ESM's mission is to serve older adults throughout the Diocese of Washington and it is the only Episcopal organization with this diocesan-wide mission. ESM is governed by an elected Board of Governors from Episcopal congregations in all regions of the Diocese of Washington.

By this Covenant, the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and Episcopal Senior Ministries agree to work together to coordinate and enhance ministry to older persons in the Diocese of Washington as follows:

- EDOW agrees to recognize and actively promote ESM as the coordinating agency of senior ministries within the Diocese. ESM agrees to continue to engage all Episcopal affiliated senior housing and programs within the Diocese in a joint annual plan to coordinate the activities, visibility and promotion of these independent entities, and to work with EDOW to further these entities within the scope of this Covenant. ESM also agrees to work with all Episcopal congregations to further the intent of this Covenant.
- EDOW agrees to recognize and promote ESM as the primary aging information resource and clearinghouse for the Diocese. ESM agrees to provide aging-related and caregiving information and assistance to the Bishop, Diocesan staff, clergy and parishioners within the Diocese of Washington. Further, ESM agrees to provide aging information and assistance to EDOW's Communications Department for use in its publications, listserv, and website. ESM also agrees to make available educational forums and training on aging related topics to the parishioners and clergy of the Diocese.
- EDOW and ESM agree to work together to advocate for justice and the services needed for the elderly in the Diocese. ESM will take the lead in determining the issues, recommend a level of effort, and work jointly with EDOW to address advocacy issues.
- EDOW and ESM agree to work together to implement the goals and initiatives of the Aging Agenda Report for the Diocese of Washington.
- EDOW agrees to provide financial support for the work of this Covenant through the Seton Belt Trust Funds when funds become available, and ESM agrees to expend additional Board, staff/consultant and volunteer time and expertise to fulfill the commitments of this Covenant and report on all expended Trust funds.

- EDOW and ESM agree to work together to seek additional funding through grants, contributions, and private and public sources to develop new programs and services to meet the needs of older Episcopalians and other older persons within the Diocese of Washington.
- EDOW and ESM agree to establish specific, measurable annual goals for this Covenant and to evaluate the activities of this Covenant on an annual basis. Diocesan Council and the ESM Board of Governors will jointly participate in establishing the annual goals and evaluating the performance of this Covenant.
- EDOW will maintain a representative as a liaison to sit with the ESM Board and to represent of ESM with Diocesan Council to ensure an effective and productive mutual relationship.
- EDOW and ESM agree that unplanned, new opportunities and external influences may surface during the course of the year. A consensus by the governing bodies of EDOW and ESM can amend the annual goals for substantive matters. Emailed resolutions and votes can be used in lieu of a meeting if the matter is time-sensitive. Changes can be proposed by either governing body.
- EDOW and ESM agree to report to Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Convention on the established goals, outcomes and evaluation of this Covenant on an annual basis.
- EDOW and ESM agree that this Covenant alone does not create joint liability for any activity stemming from this Covenant. Each entity maintains its own autonomy and liability. EDOW and ESM agree to hold each other harmless of all liability stemming from this Covenant.

The second term of this Covenant is for a three-year period beginning January 2008.

The Presiding Officers of EDOW and ESM represent that their governing bodies have approved this Covenant and are prepared to move forward with great enthusiasm to fulfill its intent.