



**Province V Executive Board
report to the
Diocese of Missouri
2023-2024**

October 1, 2024

Submitted by: Betty L. Bowersox

Province V is a network of 12 (soon to be 11) dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The Diocese of Missouri is one of those 12 (11). The changing number of dioceses is due to the combination of resources, not that any left the province. This year, the Dioceses of Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, and Eau Claire reunited into the Diocese of Wisconsin. In October 2024, the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan will complete their process of juncture into the Diocese of the Great Lakes.

The Theme of Province V: CONNECT. NETWORK. SUPPORT.

Connect people to people and people to resources.

Network to build communities across diocesan lines.

Support each other in a variety of ministries.

There are several resources available at the provincial level. Please review this report and share information with others in your worshipping community!

Leadership

The Province V Executive Board is responsible for the operations of the province. There are 17 members of this board, which includes the 11 diocesan representatives, 2 members (one lay and one clergy) who serve on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and 4 elected officers. Each diocesan bishop appoints a representative; I have been appointed to this task for the Diocese of Missouri. The full list of members can be found here: <https://www.provincev.org/exboard.html>

Board members meet monthly via Zoom to share resources from our dioceses and hear about and help develop provincial events and programming. I am also on the Leadership Coaching Project Task Force (not as a coach), work on special projects with the Bylaws Task Force, participate in bi-annual Anti-Human Trafficking Zoom prayer services, and proofread the Province V monthly newsletters and other Board documents prior to issue throughout the year. The board gathers in-person once per year to build deeper connections and have in-depth conversation about vision and strategic planning for the province.

The Rev. Heather Barta serves as coordinator of Province V. Her role is to provide support to leaders of existing networks and create new opportunities for people across the province to connect with each other to build networks of support.

Big Provincial Gathering / Synod 2024

In April 2024, Province V hosted the third Big Provincial Gathering (BPG) with its Synod meeting in South Bend, IN. There were 225 who attended the BPG with a record-breaking 160 deputies and guests at Friday's Synod meeting, which included House of Deputies President Julia Ayala Harris as the keynote speaker. Friday evening, the BPG began with Eucharist. The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter, Bishop of Fond du Lac / Eau Claire and Vice-President of the Province V Executive Board, presided and President Ayala Harris preached. On Saturday, 42 workshops spanning 18 different themes were offered. Five pre-event ministry training workshops were also offered.

Province V Awarded \$470,956 in Grants

This is the biggest news all year!

Province V is excited to have received a number of Spring 2024 grant awards for provincial initiatives and books for fall's Creation Care retreat. Please celebrate with us! If any of these topics are of interest to you, we are looking for volunteer team members to create and launch the initiatives. Contact provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com.

- **2024 United Thank Offering Grant, \$55,000**

This grant will launch Province V's new *Engaging Gender Complexity (EGC)* initiative. *EGC* will help individuals and worshipping communities create welcoming space for *all* people and will equip participants to welcome gender-diverse individuals into their community without causing harm to or undue emotional and psychological labor for them. Episcopalians are called by our baptismal vows to promote the dignity of every human being, counteracting historical and current traumas perpetuated on gender-diverse communities. Guided by trained facilitators, in-person gatherings will be a laboratory to learn more about gender-diversity and practice radical hospitality towards these individuals and communities. Faith communities informed about gender-diversity have the potential to be places of refuge, modeling this radical welcome to the wider world.

- **2024 Constable Fund Grant, \$30,000**

Funds a two-course digital curriculum to inform, form, and transform individuals and communities concerning gender diversity and catalyze personal and communal efforts in line with General Convention's Resolution D 030 (GC80) "to welcome and support people and communities of diverse genders, including transgender and non-binary." The first course entitled *Embracing Gender Diversity (EGD)* will be administered through Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation's *Pathways for Baptismal Living* program. The second course, *Facilitating EGD (FEGD)*, will prepare facilitators to host in-person, in-depth conversations that grow from questions that are raised in the first course.

- **2024 Becoming Beloved Community Impact Grant, \$10,200**

This grant will help create and disseminate the new *Trafficking: Faithful Response and Support* initiative, to be available for individuals and communities across the church. Leaders will learn more about human trafficking, including identifying the signs and responding to suspected trafficking. This program will also help communities of faith identify ways to support victims of trafficking as they work toward renewed life.

Learn more about our partner:

Total Life Wellness at <https://totallifewellness21.wixsite.com/total-life-wellnes-2>

Resources are available at Province V's Anti-Human

Trafficking webpage: <https://www.provincev.org/antihumantrafficking.html>

- **2024 Church Periodical Club (CPC), \$756**

This grant provided books to Province IV and V's Creation Care Event held in the fall. Province IV and Province V Creation Care Networks jointly hosted this creation care retreat in the Diocese of Kentucky on September 12-15, 2024, with guest retreat leader Margaret Bullitt-Jonas of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Margaret is co-author of the book, *Rooted and Rising*, which was provided to all the participants. The Provinces are grateful for the CPC's support as we continue to share ways of caring for all of creation. Visit <https://revivingcreation.org> to explore Margaret's work.

- **2024 Trinity Church's Leadership Development Grant, \$375,000**

Over 3 years, this grant will fund Province V's Campus Ministry Developer position to help communities that 1) serve or wish to serve institutions of higher education without campus ministers; 2) wish to actively support the work of their local embedded campus ministers, and/or 3) want to learn how to engage more authentically with young adults overall. Trinity Church's Leadership Development Grant collaboratively addresses urgent gaps in leadership education with faith-driven mindsets and practical skills for the Church and for people in leadership roles outside the church, empowering them to achieve common goals.

Learn more about Trinity Church's Vision for Leadership

Development: <https://trinitywallstreet.org/grants-partners/leadership-development>

Networks

<https://www.provincev.org/networks.html>

The networks continue to expand to serve leaders across the province. Networks are open to any person who would like to be connected to others working on similar ministries. If there is a network that you might find helpful, contact the coordinator, Heather Barta at provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com.

Leadership Coaching Project

<https://www.provincev.org/lcp.html>

Trained lay and ordained coaches are available to work with individuals, teams or groups on your goals and challenges. These coaches are available to any person interested in working on ministerial or personal goals. All coaches will provide a complimentary "introductory" meeting so that you can ask questions about coaching with them and get to know each other. Rural Area Ministry Specialists are available at a reduced rate to leaders in rural areas. ("Rural Area" is defined as a town with a population of 20,000 or fewer.)

Fall events

Sept 12-15, 2024 – Creation Care Network Event, Louisville, Kentucky

October 8-10, 2024 – Campus Minister Retreat, Madison, Wisconsin

Connecting to the Province

Sign up for the monthly newsletter at the bottom of the website: <https://www.provincev.org>

General Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ProvinceFive/>

Creation Care Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082984106362>

Dismantling Racism Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078969506674>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/provincefive/>

Please feel free to contact me for more information about anything presented in this report.

Faithfully,

Betty L. Bowersox

Bowersoxb@gmail.com

314.378.6067