

Episcopal Recovery Ministries

The Episcopal Recovery Ministries (ERM) Committee exists as a resource for people seeking information, guidance, and consolation in their struggles with substance use disorders. ERM focuses on the person who is addicted and on the people who are affected by another's addiction. ERM offers information to enable all those affected by addiction to find the help they seek.

Current members of ERM are:

- Kay Fletcher, member of St. Martin's Episcopal Church - Ellisville - kfletc1031@aol.com
- The Rev. Loretta Go, Chair and Deacon at St. Martin's Episcopal Church - Ellisville and All Saints and Ascension – Northwoods – lgo1957@aol.com
- The Rev. Earl Mahan, Rector of Hope Episcopal Church – Town and Country – earlmahan@gmail.com
- Michael Watson, member of All Saints and Ascension – Northwoods
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- Mabelle West, member of All Saints and Ascension – Northwoods – macwest24@yahoo.com

The 180th Diocesan Convention passed a resolution (Nov. 22, 2019) to reestablish the Episcopal Recovery Ministries. Under the able leadership of The Rev. Sally Weaver, the committee has since worked diligently to set up and maintain its website -- www.ermdiocesemo.org – which contains links to resources throughout the state of Missouri, such as:

1. Times and locations of meetings for addicts and family members
2. Detoxification, rehabilitation, and housing facilities
3. Pain management groups for chronic pain sufferers whose access to opioids has been adversely affected because of the addiction crisis.

This year, 12-step meetings are slowly returning to in-person meetings throughout our Diocese in the aftermath of the pandemic. ERM members, with the assistance of Janis Greenbaum, Diocesan Communications Officer, gathered at Grace Church in Kirkwood to record a 12-step recovery liturgy, which is posted on our website.

Eleven Narcan Boxes have been installed in the St. Louis Metro area, and ERM is working to erect the first Narcan Box in the West County area, to be located at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Ellisville. We are meeting to discuss and explore various ways to partner with other like organizations to raise awareness.

Rev. Weaver moved on to the national chapter of ERM and passed leadership of the Diocesan chapter to the Rev. Go. Together they will advance ERM initiatives throughout the Diocese of Missouri, Province 5 and the National ERM.

ERM welcomes ideas and suggestions for improving the website and our service to the Diocesan community. Substance use disorder is a major issue in American society. But there is help and there is hope.

Submitted by the Rev. Loretta E. Go
Episcopal Recovery Ministries Committee Chair
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