

Alcohol & Drug Dependency and Recovery Ministries Committee Report to the 222nd Diocesan Convention

Our mission statement asserts, "Our sole purpose is the wholeness of all who are affected by the disease of drug and alcohol dependency. We seek to be proactive in the diocese and responsive to the medical and pastoral needs of parishes and persons through education, intervention, consultation and referral." To this end our committee has been hard at work addressing issues of dependency and recovery throughout our diocese.

In these earliest months of our development much time and effort has been given to forming priorities and setting goals. First and foremost, our desire is to inform our diocesan family about the many issues surrounding dependency and recovery, providing resources that are both readily accessible and practically useful. With this in mind, at this convention we are pleased to provide a packet of materials to each congregation in our diocese. These materials include information on 12-Step recovery, including AA, Al Anon, NA and Naranon. They also provide a broad knowledge regarding dependency and recovery among a variety of age groups from youth to seniors.

We are also pleased to provide our first committee brochure. This brochure reasserts our purpose and includes a copy of the *Diocese of New Jersey Policy on Alcohol Use at Church Functions*. Many thanks to Bishop Cancell for his leadership in the formation of this policy as well as his continued enthusiasm for our important work.

Beyond informational materials, we are happy to provide speakers for convocations, clericus gatherings and congregations. This past year we were delighted to accept invitations to address the clergy of Monmouth and Trenton-Burlington Convocations.

We are grateful to St. John's, Little Silver, for the gift of a start-up grant that allowed us to send a representative to the annual gathering of Episcopal Recovery Ministries in Tucson, Arizona, last May. It also allowed us the opportunity to share in a planning retreat at Francis House of Prayer in Rancocas. We found this retreat to be such a fruitful experience that we have planned one for both fall and spring in 2006.

Further thanks to all of our congregations who, through their 2006 Fair Share pledges, have enabled the addition of our committee in this year's diocesan budget. Please feel welcome to join us at an open 12-Step meeting that will take place in the chapel at 6:30 p.m. on Friday night during fellowship hour at this year's convention.

We look forward to further developing our ministry and invite others to join us in our work. Please feel free to contact any of our committee members, listed below:

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In Christ's Healing Love,

The Rev. Mark R. Van Sant