

# REGIONAL REPORTS FOR 2008

## REGION 1

---

Imagine a territory stretching east from Hallock to International Falls, south to Brainerd, west to Fergus Falls, and back to Hallock again. Now, imagine 17 churches, among them 9 of the 13 Native American churches in the Diocese of Minnesota, and you have a pretty good picture of the territory covered by Region One. Many of our congregations are small, and we must be creative as we do God's work by the lakes, in the woods, in missions and incorporated churches, near the Northwest Angle and along Interstate 94. We share clergy among congregations and some priests work in 3 or four congregations. We also have two churches with Total Ministry Teams.

This year, we have been able to provide funds for several youth activities, including a youth mission trip to Kansas, a youth ski trip, and TEC.

Since we have many Native American congregations in our region, a recurring theme in our meetings is racism. We strive to eliminate racism and improve our tolerance and understanding of Native American culture here in the region. As we continue on the path of mutual understanding, more and more elements of Native American forms of worship are being incorporated into services all over the region. We hope to encourage a broader understanding of this culture and its rich and significant contributions to the development of the Diocese of Minnesota. To honor and preserve this important aspect of the heritage of the Diocese, we plan to submit to the Search Committee and the Transition Committee a resolution that will require (a) cultural sensitivity and competence for candidates for bishop and (b) the inclusion of Native American cultural components in the consecration of all new bishops in this Diocese.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Besse  
Region 3

## REGION 2: NO REPORT RECEIVED

---

## REGION 3

---

Region 3 extends from Holy Trinity, Litchfield, in the south to St. John's, Aitkin, and St. Helen's, Wadena, in the north. Our region has basically one full-time priest at St. John's, St. Cloud. All the other parishes are either Total Ministry congregations or have supply clergy. This makes it very difficult and challenging to marshal interest and rally support for regional activities because of the absence of consistent leadership from full-time clergy.

Father Michael Wyatt of St. John's, St. Cloud, was immersing St. John's in shared ministry. Unfortunately, he became gravely ill in the fall and had to resign from his position. St. John's now has an interim priest, the Rev. Michele Morgan. St. Stephen's in Paynesville and Good Samaritan in Sauk Centre have been engaged in spiritual gifts discernment as well as discernment for leadership positions on the ministry team. Our Saviour in Little Falls engaged in spiritual gifts discernment and have discerned seven people for their Total Ministry team. They have been using Life Cycles as spiritual formation, with Father Steve Haptonstahl as team mentor and companion.

Good Samaritan held its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Community-Wide Thanksgiving Eve service with St. Paul's Catholic Church, Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, and the First United Methodist Church of Sauk Centre. This was highly successful as an ecumenical service.

Father Rob Cavanna is co-chair of the Transition Committee. Mary Brugger of St. John's, St. Cloud, and Luci Youngblood of Our Saviour, Little Falls, continue to serve on the Search Committee. Myra King of St. Helen's, Wadena, is on the Standing Committee.

Regional meetings aren't well attended, and it is the recommendation of our region to look at a more meaningful structure to better inform and actively involve both the laity and clergy. We have given this recommendation to those working on Goal 3 of the Mission Strategy Network – "Recreate the Diocese as a Network." It is our belief that the regional structure, at least in Region 3, needs study and examination in view of its lack of authority and the fact that the information presented in the regional meetings can be obtained from a variety of other sources. The regions should perhaps be re-organized and used for clergy and the new bishop to get to know each other better. This should also help the new bishop learn more about individual parishes and their needs.

In conclusion, the people in our congregations continue to look for ways to reach out beyond their walls to serve others. Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity, local food shelves, and other ministries are just some of the places where our parishes go beyond themselves to serve the poor and marginalized in their communities. We look forward to the election of a new bishop and with it renewed and re-energized hope in an Anglican expression of Christianity in all of central Minnesota, as well as the entire diocese.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Dr. Robert C. W. Cavanna  
Dean, Region 3

## **REGION 4: NO REPORT RECEIVED**

---

## **REGION 5: NO REPORT RECEIVED**

---

## REGION 6

---

Region 6 encompasses churches in a wide umbrella of north metro suburbs and up into greater Minnesota – from Stillwater to Plymouth – with White Bear Lake, Roseville, Anoka, Hinckley, and Elk River in between. Our people share together the joys and challenges of participating in God’s mission in the suburbs and towns around us, using both traditional and total ministry models, in especially difficult economic times this past year. We meet quarterly at each other’s churches and work to build strong networks of communication and shared ministry projects. We are very involved with the Mission Strategy Network process for our diocese.

The Rev. Dick Matthews is our sub-dean, and our Diocesan Council representatives are Rev. Mark Kelm and Mrs. Martha Beckwith. Many people in our region are elected or appointed members of various commissions and committees of the diocese and so bring to our gatherings timely information and valued points of view on the issues that matter most to us as Episcopalians in Minnesota. We are encouraged and empowered in ministry by all the wonderful work being done in our region in response to God’s call to us.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Dr. Neysa A. Ellgren  
Dean, Region 6

## REGION 7: NO REPORT RECEIVED

---

## REGION 8

---

In 2008, Region 8 experimented with a new model of shared leadership and purpose of our meetings. Four members of the region agreed to meet with the dean to plan meetings and shared the responsibility of convening them. And at our January meeting we identified topics of mutual interest for our congregations and met throughout the year to share ideas/resources on those topics. We also committed to beginning each meeting with a reflection on Scripture, using the model of Gospel Based Discipleship, and to leave time at the end of each meeting for sharing news of our congregations.

The Region met in January, 2008. Our primary agenda was to discuss and agree upon the shared model of leadership. Aron Kramer, Jim Huber, Minnie Steele and Phil Bradley accepted the responsibility of shared leadership with the dean, Mariann Budde.

We met again in February: our primary agenda was to elect our representatives to the Bishop’s Search and Transition Committees; Bob Lennie was elected to the Search Committee and Chris Bowman and Kathryn Olson were elected to the Transition Committee.

In April, Region 8 met again, and the topic for discussion was "Sunday Mornings in Our Congregations." The purpose for our gathering was to learn about each other's worship experiences on Sunday morning, to gain a greater appreciation of the variety of our congregations, and to introduce our worship leaders to one another, so that in the future they might work in greater collaboration. In addition to Region VIII representatives, we invited worship leaders to join in the conversation.

In June, our focus was stewardship. We extended an invitation to all metro-area congregations for a discussion on the spiritual foundation of stewardship. We shared ideas, best practices, and discussed ways to overcome common obstacles.

The last Region 8 meeting of 2008 was in October, to prepare for Diocesan Convention.

The clergy of Region 8 also met throughout the year for prayer, mutual support, and discussion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mariann Edgar Budde  
Dean, Region 8

## REGION 9

---

The churches of Region 9 met several times in 2008 to discuss diocesan business and to share the joys and challenges of church life together.

In the first half of the year, Region 9 met to discuss the four Mission Strategy Network (MSN) Goals, including ways that we could implement these on a regional as well as congregational basis. One of the developments out of this has been the creation of a joint Youth Confirmation Class; another has been the beginning of a Habitat for Humanity Barbeque and Project.

We also met to elect the Rev. Neil Willard and Mr. Scott Gregory to serve on the Bishop Search Committee; and Mrs. Sarah Armstrong to serve on the Transition Committee.

Later in the year, the Region IX Deanery put forward a proposal to revise Minnesota Canon 310 to establish a better procedure for handling personnel issues for diocesan staff. We were pleased that a compromise was reached with the bishop on this matter at Diocesan Convention.

There has been a growing spirit of collegiality and mutual support among our churches and our clergy throughout the past year, for which we are very grateful. We look forward to the coming year as we elect our next Bishop, with hope and trust that God will lead us in fulfillment of our mission to be a vital and growing Episcopal presence in the western metro area.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. John Peters,  
Dean of Region 9  
Rector, St. Alban's, Edina