



Name of Committee, Commission, Task Force or Program:

Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations Program

Mission/Purpose Statement:

The work of ecumenical and interreligious relations in the diocese and The Episcopal Church is grounded in our belief that we are called to live in unity and peace with all God's people. We embrace opportunities to build relationships with other churches and multifaith groups, recognizing that we are created to be in communion with others in a way that leads to flourishing for everyone. We develop and strengthen these relationships through dialogue and engagement that may include ministry sharing and clergy exchange.

We view this work as striving for the "oneness" Jesus speaks of in John's Gospel (chapter 17)—a unity characterized by love for our neighbors and respect for the dignity of all creation.

Summary of Current Year's Activities:

- 2026 - Wyoming Interfaith Network Collaboration – In Wyoming, the Episcopal Church has long been involved in ecumenical and interreligious work. Much of the work occurs through participation in Wyoming Interfaith Network programs throughout the year. Additionally, programs and efforts sponsored by The Episcopal Church and other religious organizations are used to promote inter-denominational and interreligious relations across the state. One recent example is the Voting Information Palm Card that spoke through a faith lens and focused on shared community.
- 2026 – Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO) Network – I was asked by the network executive committee to develop and administer a grant program for the organization. The first grant cycle opened nationwide on Pentecost 2026 with the first grants to be awarded in November 2026.
- January 12-15, 2026 – State Ecumenical Executives Gathering, Phoenix, Arizona – Attendees included ecumenical executives from Oregon, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Louisiana, Wyoming, and Colorado. During the meeting, discussions centered on how to best leverage our resources across Christian

traditions to address poverty and civil rights. Presentations on cyber security and technology will be used to provide a safe way to connect and share resources. Workshops included presentations by The Shapiro Foundation on the Turning Point Foundation and by Caleb Campbell, author of *Disarming Leviathan*.

- January 18-25, 2026 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Procured and distributed prayer cards and informational letter to each Episcopal congregation prior to the week of prayer encouraging their participation in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- November 17-19, 2026 – National Workshop for Christian Unity, Chicago, Illinois – The National Workshop for Christian Unity continues to be the only gathering of its kind at a national level in the world. The annual event brings together ecumenical representatives, ecumenists, and interested members from all churches who share one faith, one baptism in Jesus Christ. The majority of attendees are from the Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA), Roman Catholic, United Methodist, and Evangelical/Pentecostal denominations.

The 2025 workshop focused on Ecumenism 201 and the future of Ecumenism. A highlight of the 2025 workshop was the presentation by the Rt. Rev. Ann Ritonja, Bishop Suffragan of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries. Bishop Ritonja shared several insights about chaplaincy in the armed forces, Federal Bureau of Prisons, and Veteran's Affairs facilities. Bishop Ann also serves as Vice-Chair of the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations for The Episcopal Church. The breakout sessions for 2025 included Nicaea 2025, Immigration, Christian Nationalism, and Christian Persecution.

Financial Report:

Budget Item	2026 Current and Projected Expenses	2027 Proposed Budget pending approval	Comments
National Workshop for Christian Unity	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	2026 meeting will be held in Chicago 2027 meeting location TBD
EDEIO diocesan dues	\$ 400	\$ 400	Dues are collected in the Fall. Dues owed for 2026 = \$350 Dues owed for 2027 = \$400
Wyoming Interfaith Network dues	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Annual judicatory member donation
State Ecumenical Executives Meeting	\$ 1,776.15	\$ 1,700	2026 meeting held in Arizona 2027 meeting will be held in New Mexico

Annual Convention Materials	\$ 500	\$ 500	Brochures, etc.
Contingency Funds	\$ 200	\$ 200	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity materials.
Total	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	

* Italicized numbers are estimates pending event, invoice, and payment in 2026.

- National Workshop for Christian Unity: This is an annual conference attended by several denominations and their equivalents of Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers. NWCU was formed in 1963 as a response to Vatican II and the desire to train local leaders in ecumenical ministry. It is sponsored by the National Ecumenical Officers Association. (www.nwcu.org) The annual business meeting of the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers is held during the gathering. The conference provides education, updates, and networking in the ecumenical and interreligious realm to include with members of The Episcopal Church's Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.
- Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Dues: This is an annual payment from each diocese in support of the organization of Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO). The monies are used to support the work of the elected EDEIO leaders and the preparation of the annual meeting of NWCU.
- Interreligious Work in Wyoming: The Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming has been involved in the work of Wyoming Interfaith Network and its predecessor organization, Wyoming Association of Churches, since its inception 50 years ago. Each judicatory/faith tradition in the network provides annual support to WIN's work. As a key member of the network, it is incumbent upon the diocese to continue its generous support of WIN and interfaith work across the state of Wyoming. In full disclosure, the Rev. Annemarie Delgado currently serves as the Executive Director of WIN.
- State Ecumenical Executives Meeting: This is an annual meeting attended by leaders of several ecumenical organizations including the National Council of Churches. The content is self-developed and governed providing an opportunity to coordinate and network on several justice initiatives across state ecumenical organizations including WIN and WEJust. These organizations are also connected to The Episcopal Church initiatives for ecumenism, interreligious relations, and justice. The meeting is usually held in the January timeframe each year.
- Annual Diocesan Convention Materials: This is a new initiative to help inform members of the diocese about ecumenical and interreligious work. The Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer stays connected through the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer network to the work done by the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations on behalf of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church. The diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer is then responsible for ecumenical and interreligious advocacy and sharing of such information within the diocese. As such, in conjunction with the maintenance of a website page (<https://www.episcopalwy.org/eir>), it is planned to continue to provide EIR information on and promote ecumenical and interreligious relations at each diocesan convention.

- Contingency Funding: In order to be able to take advantage of additional EIR opportunities such as materials for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, this request for a small contingency amount is included in the overall budget request.

Plans and Projections for the Coming Year:

January 11-14, 2027 – State Ecumenical Executives Gathering, Santa Fe, New Mexico

January 18-25, 2027 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

February 1-7, 2027 – World Interfaith Harmony Week

November 2027 – National Workshop for Christian Unity, Location TBD

January – June 2027 – Education of General Convention Delegation on ecumenical and interreligious resolutions being proposed at convention.

Other activities are to be determined.

Membership/Leadership:

- April French, PhD. – St. Matthew's Cathedral, Laramie

April serves as Secretary of The Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations. As such, we collaborate on sharing information and latest actions.

Gratitude/Acknowledgements:

Thanksgiving for April French's collegial collaboration in this ministry. I deeply appreciate April's willingness to share her knowledge and experience to enhance ecumenical and interreligious relations in the diocese.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Annemarie Delgado
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Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming