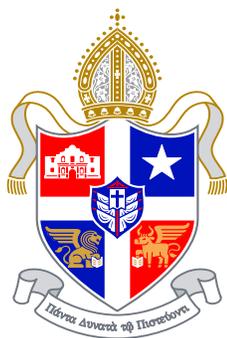


THE 115TH ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS



the Way of
“Walk in Love
— as —
Christ loved us.”
— Ephesians 5:2

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It will be my joy to welcome you to the 115th Council of the Diocese of West Texas in McAllen, February 21-23. And it will be a blessing to join with you in celebrating our life together and continuing the work our Lord has given us to do.

“Walk in love as Christ loved us” is our Council theme, as well as the Bible verse (from Ephesians) that will illumine and shape our mission and ministries in 2019. Throughout Council we will connect this passage to our Presiding Bishop’s call to the whole

Church to re-engage with “The Way of Love,” seven spiritual habits to strengthen our discipleship and help us do the work of the Kingdom of God.

To consider “walking in love” begins easily enough. Who wouldn’t want that? It brings to mind peaceful strolls, enlivening hikes, healthy exercise - with people we love or in happy solitude. But “Walk in love” is followed by “as Christ loved us,” and so we must consider the quality and the content of that love: what does Christ’s love look like?

We believe that Christ loved (and loves) us completely, whole-heartedly, and without crossing his fingers. That’s challenging. To love the difficult and annoying, to love those with whom we profoundly disagree, to love the unlovable is hard. To love someone (even those we love most) generously and selflessly may be harder still. Paul brings the verse (and his meaning) to a sharp point with his next words, “and gave himself up for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.” For Paul, the deepest and truest expression of love is found in the Word-become-flesh, Jesus Christ, who embodies the love of God, and reveals the source and foundation of all love worthy of the name.

It’s worth remembering that this verse is often used as an “offertory sentence” on Sunday mornings, just before the offering is collected. It reminds us that our monetary offerings (and our offerings of time and talent) are intended to be self-offerings expressing our thankfulness for the sacrificial love of Christ. That is, as members of Christ’s Body, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are drawn to participate in Christ’s life and love, for us and for the world.

The passage reminds us that all of our planning, organizing, budgeting, and doing (at Council, in our churches, and in our homes) are intended to be expressions of this love of God revealed in Jesus. To paraphrase Paul in First Corinthians, if the Church is not living and working with love, then we’re just making noise and killing time.

Council is a busy time. We do a lot in two and a half days, and I am very mindful of, and thankful for, the generous offering of your time to the life and mission of your church and to the Diocese. My prayer is that all that we do together will embody and proclaim the extravagant and redemptive love of Jesus, that the whole world may see us walking together in this love toward the Kingdom.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

David M. Reed
Bishop of West Texas

February 21 - 23, 2019
McAllen Convention Center
700 Convention Center Blvd
McAllen, TX 78501

council-dwtx.org

Beginning at Diocesan Council 2019 and continuing throughout the year, you are invited to label photographs and stories of your experiences walking the way of love with the social media hashtag:

#WalkinLove 

Search for this term to follow other’s walk through the seven practices for a “Jesus-Centered Life”: Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest, and Turn.

Together we continue to go “this way” toward the Kingdom, to “walk in love as Christ loved us.” Along the way, we continue reaching out to be Jesus’ witnesses in our corners of the world.

Connect with the Diocese of West Texas’ social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter with the username: [@diocesewesttx](https://www.facebook.com/diocesewesttx)



KEY SPEAKERS



The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutiérrez, Bishop of Pennsylvania will address Council 2019 during the Bishops' Luncheon on Friday, February 22 at 12:00 p.m. in Exhibit Hall B. He will speak to our Council theme, "Walk in love," and how to answer this call in our churches, our families, and our communities.

Bishop Gutiérrez was consecrated on July 16, 2016 as the 16th Bishop of Pennsylvania. Before his ordination as bishop, Gutiérrez served as Canon to the Ordinary, Chief

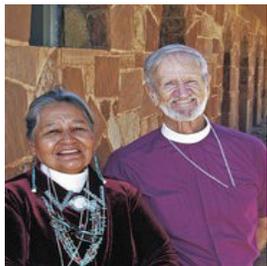
Operating Officer, and Chief of Staff in the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande. Bishop Gutiérrez has focused his ministry on emphasizing the sacred presence of Jesus Christ, empowering laity, inspiring creative solutions for church growth, emphasizing the missions of the church, social justice, poverty, and ensuring that transparency is part of everything.



The Rt. Rev. Lloyd Allen, Bishop of Honduras, will address Council about ongoing and new mission partnerships between our dioceses. Visit the World Mission Booth at Council to speak with him further.

Consecrated on October 20, 2011 Bishop Allen is the first Honduran born Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras. During his tenure, the Honduran Episcopal

Church has undergone major changes and growth. Upon taking office, he immediately began encouraging the Honduras church, a mission diocese, to aspire to self-sufficiency.



The Rt. Rev. David Bailey, Bishop of Navajoland, returns to our diocese to address Council about our blossoming mission partnership. Visit the World Mission Booth at Council to speak with him further.

Bishop Bailey has served as Bishop of Navajoland since August 7, 2010. His episcopate has centered on melding Navajo tradition with Episcopal Church customs; raising up indigenous ordained leadership; developing programs

to combat substance abuse and domestic violence and to support veterans; and developing new sources of income.

The Most Rev. Francisco Moreno, Primate of the Anglican Church of Mexico and Bishop of Northern Mexico, and the Rt. Rev. Benito Juarez Martinez, Bishop of Southeastern Mexico, will return to our diocesan Council. This year, we honor Bishop Martinez on the occasion of his retirement, after many years of shared ministry and friendship between our dioceses. Martinez was ordained to the priesthood in 1973 and the Episcopate on November 13, 1999. About his ministry, he says, "My life with Jesus Christ has been a pilgrimage that has given me the opportunity to meet and learn from many brothers and sisters of almost all the American Continent. I give thanks to our Almighty God because He has been my inspiration and my guide."

COUNCIL REGISTRATION is open online for:

- Churches - clergy, clergy spouses, delegates, alternates
- Individuals - visitors, volunteers
- Childcare
- Exhibitors
- Youth in Action

Sign up at council-dwtx.org. Registration will close Monday, February 11.

SUMMARY OF FEES

Registration:

- Clergy, Delegate, Alternate
Includes Friday Luncheon and Banquet \$165
- Clergy Spouse
Includes Friday Luncheon and Banquet \$120
- Individual \$35
Without meals, see below
- Childcare \$20
Per child, per day

Meals - Thursday:

- Commission for Women's Ministry Luncheon \$25
- Christian Education Dept. Working Lunch \$25
- Small Church, Big Mission Dinner \$25

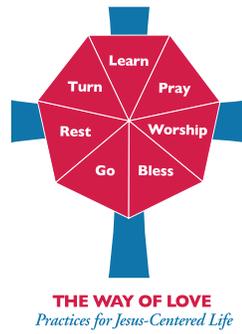
Meals - Friday:

Included in Church registration. Individuals, see prices below.

- Bishop's Luncheon \$30
- Council Banquet \$40

Reserve a banquet table for ten online or in person by Thursday, February 21 for \$200, benefitting Vital University Missions in the Valley.

THE WAY OF LOVE



This year Bishop David Reed invites all congregations to participate in *The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*, an intentional commitment to a set of spiritual practices, developed by the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry.

Bishop Curry introduces this Rule of Life saying, “Today I believe our vocation is to live as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. But how can we together grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world?”

The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus-Centered Life is designed to be spare and spacious, so that individuals, ministry groups, congregations, and networks can flesh it out in unique ways and build a church-wide treasure trove of stories and resources.

I pray we will grow as communities following the loving, liberating, life-giving way of Jesus. His way has the power to change each of our lives and this world.”

Visit the Way of Love website for print materials, online resources, small group curriculum, and more at episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love.

In addition, our bishops and diocesan staff are creating an online resource portal using Basecamp, the collaborative tool first introduced with *The Story*. Print resources and Basecamp instructions will be available this spring at dwtx.org.

REACHING OUT

ProjectMEND Council in Action is partnering with the diocesan Military Ministry and ProjectMEND to provide vital medical equipment for those in need. ProjectMEND’s mission is to provide refurbished medical equipment and other assistive technology devices to individuals who need it. They assist Texas veterans - any person discharged from the armed forces, including surviving spouses and dependents, at no charge.

Bring your donations with you to Council and support this cause. Drop off smaller items at the ProjectMEND Council Booth. The ProjectMEND truck will park in the convention center parking lot on Friday and Saturday to collect larger items. *Note: canes and crutches are not needed at this time.*

Needed Donation Items:

- Shower chairs, tub transfer benches, bedside commodes
- Wheelchairs, transport chairs, rollators (*walkers with all wheels and a seat*)
- Adult diapers (pull-ups) sizes L or XL
- Home medical beds

Questions? Contact Leslie Mixson at leslie.mixson@dwtx.org.

NOMINATIONS & VOTING

At Diocesan Council, lay and clergy members are elected to various boards and committees. The 2019 Council will elect new members to the following governing bodies:

- Executive Board
- Standing Committee
- Trustees of the Episcopal Church Corporation
- Trustees to TMI Episcopal
- Trustees to Sewanee: the University of the South

The 2019 Nominations Book, including job descriptions and nominee information, along with the Episcopal Church Canons and Diocesan Canons that apply, is online at council-dwtx.org/business/nominations.

WORSHIP

• Council Eucharist

Thursday, February 21
5:30 p.m. in Exhibit Hall B
Clergy are invited to vest, in green stoles, beginning at 5:00 p.m. in Room 101A. Bishop Brooke-Davidson will preach, and Bishop Reed will celebrate.

Banners: Bring your church’s banner and stand (labeled with church and city) to Council for use in worship procession.

• Morning Prayer

Friday, February 22
8:00 a.m. in Room 103
Led by Bishop Brooke-Davidson

• Council Prayer Chapel

will be open during Council business sessions in Boardroom 1 and is hosted by the Daughters of the King.

GATHERING OPPORTUNITIES

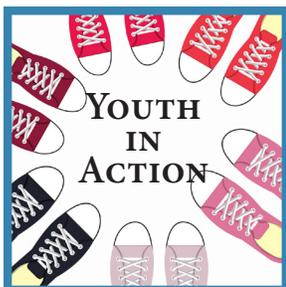
Thursday, February 21

- **Commission for Women's Ministry (C4WM) Luncheon**
11:15 a.m. in Room 103
Cost: \$25 per person
Hosted by the Commission for Women's Ministry.
Join the Commission for Women's Ministry for fellowship and a Call to Prayer to begin the process toward honoring the 2021 Most Honored Woman.
- **Christian Educator's Working Luncheon**
11:15 a.m. in Room 101C
Cost: \$25 per person
Hosted by the Christian Education Committee.
Adult, Children, Youth, and Family Ministries clergy, staff, and volunteers are invited to meet and share ideas with fellow Christian Education workers. To attend, but not eat, contact Sarah Kates, Christian Education Committee Chair, at sarah.kates@att.net.
- **Small Church, Big Mission Dinner**
7:30 p.m. in the McAllen Convention Center, room to be announced
Cost: \$25 per person
Hosted by Church of the Holy Spirit, San Antonio.
Recognizing the developing community among smaller churches in the diocese, delegations from missions and smaller parishes are invited to an evening of fellowship.

Friday, February 22

- **Clergy Spouse Luncheon**
12:00 p.m. in Room 103
Cost: included in registration
The Clergy Spouse luncheon is an opportunity for clergy spouses to gather for food and fellowship, and to welcome the newest spouses to our diocese.
- **Bishops' Luncheon**
12:00 p.m. in Exhibit Hall B
Cost is \$30 per person; see page two for full details.
- **Council Banquet**
5:00 p.m. Non-alcoholic Border Buttermilk tasting in the Ballroom
6:00 p.m. Reception in Exhibit Hall B
6:45 p.m. Seated Dinner begins
Council Banquet is a family reunion, a wonderful meal shared with friends, and a fun look back at a piece of the rich history of our diocese.

YOUTH IN ACTION - FEBRUARY 22 TO 24



Youth in Action is celebrating its tenth year of service! Like Diocesan Council, Youth in Action is a time of reunion, renewal, and building community for youth, reaching out in love, as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Youth in Action 2019 has two main service projects: outdoor painting and gardening at **The Comfort Home**, a nonprofit providing end-of-life care, and helping to sort donated food at **Emily's Meals**, which serves 50 meals a day to people living without shelter.

The registration cost is \$35 for youth and sponsors. More details and links to sign up can be found online at council-dwtx.org/youth-in-action.