

**Report from Regional Presidents' Retreat
Shrine Mont
June 16-17, 2017
Submitted by June Huber, President, Region IV**

**Exploring the Changing Landscape of Formation and Transition in the Diocese
(Ed Keithly)**

- Of our 180 churches, 23-40 churches are “in transition” (change in clergy).
- 70% fewer applicants for rectorships than 15 years ago.
- More rectors leaving after conflict within the parish (not misconduct).
- More straight-out-of seminary rectors.
- Fewer associate rector positions.
- Diocese providing transition support for clergy and for churches.
- The ordination process has grown 75% over past 10 years. More LGBT, non-white and under 40 years old.
- Transition and ordination goals include racial diversity, continuing education, helping first-time rectors, putting development up front.
- Transition and ordination hopes include funded mentor training and stipends, continuing education for everyone every year, small professionally-facilitated colleagues groups.

Re-visioning the Regions (Diane Miller)

- Standing Committee approved recommendations of Region Re-visioning Task Force.
- Changes go into effect after 223rd Annual Convention on November 4, 2017.
- Regions will continue to be based on geography.
- No change envisioned for Region IV.
- Bishop Johnston will appoint a Dean for each new and revised region.
- Other adjustments may be made – all Deans, Executive Officers and Presidents are “potentially in play.”
- New Deans effective after November 4, 2017.
- There will be a new Regional Portal on the Diocesan website. This will take the place of current regional websites. Regions will no longer have to pay for a website. There is a detailed plan for it. It is still “under construction.” We will preview the initial version at the November 4 Convention.
- Region IV will need to identify someone to maintain our portion of the website.
- Establishment of “Communities of Ministry” (virtual regions) so that congregations can collaborate on shared ministries without regard to geography. They will have their own area within the Diocesan Regional Portal.