Vice President Report

September 2026

The Board of Trustees had one of their two yearly in-person meetings in September. Our thanks to the Rev. Bret Hayes and everyone at Trinty Church in Folsom for hosting our meeting.

Our gathering started with dinner with members of the Standing Committee. We were able to catch up on issues that are facing both the Board and the Standing Committee in an informal way. Strengthening these bonds strengthens the work both governing bodies do for the Diocese of Northern California.

The board heard from the Mission Apportionment Process (MAP) team giving us a preview of their presentation to Convention in October. They are currently finishing their data gathering phase of the project, but have discovered that some information requires more follow-up. They are beginning to craft budget scenarios with a range of formulas for the board to consider. Look for an update from the MAP committee at Convention.

The board created a subcommittee to investigate investing more with the Environment Social Governance Diversified Fund offered in our diocesan investment funds. We formed a working group to study the issue and further define responsible stewardship of our investment resources.

The board approved the 2027 Congregational Range sheet.

The Board of Trustees approved the 2027 diocesan budget There is no proposed change to apportionment rates in 2027, extending the reduction approved in 2026 for an additional year. In order to reach a balanced budget with the reduction in apportionment revenue, where possible budget line items were reduced by 10% and these cuts combined with our sustainable draw from investments and board authorized draws to fund the Curacy Program and the Diocesan Bookkeeper position allows us to reach the goal of a balanced budget. The budget included a 2.9% COLA increase. A copy of the 2027 budget was distributed at Convocation last Saturday and will be included at Convention on October 24.

The Diocese received a generous bequest from Sister Eileen “Tina” Ferriot. Following her work throughout our diocese for years, the Board distributed the bequest in the following way: 10% to the Bishop’s Discretionary fund, 20% to the Missional Fund, 30% to Disaster Relief Fund and 40% to the Archdeacons Fund.

The Board heard from the Employee Practices and Benefits Committee regarding the 2027 Annual Enrollment for medical and dental plans. The Board voted to approve the plans which include the same plan offerings as 2026. However, the average increase of the

premiums is 10.26%, which is more than double last year's increase. In addition, the Board voted to transition the Office of the Bishop staff to pay 100% of the PPO70 plan for the staff member, and 50% of the difference in the cost for employees for the Employee +1 or family plan. The Board also voted to update the Denominational Health Plan language to reflect that the Church Pension Fund now covers both short-term and long-term disability.

Finally, the Board thanked the members who completed their terms: Geri Cunningham, Fernando Dizon, Amelia Oliver, Brian Rebholtz, Don Taylor, and Daphne Vernon.

Margie Harrison-Smith

2026 Vice President