

Committee for Ministry with Older Adults: Report to 240th Diocese of New Jersey Convention

Begun in 2013 with the endorsement of the late Bishop George E. Councell and continuing with the strong support of Bishop William H. Stokes, the Committee hosted a lecture by The Rev. Barbara Crafton, offered workshops with the late Jonathan Eliot (former Communications Director of the diocese) on developing oral history projects in parishes, surveyed parishes, offered some on-line resources and links, gave modest grants to New Jersey and diocesan organizations serving older adults, and sponsored annual services of Evensong Honoring Older Adults (2013-2019) at Trinity Cathedral through the gracious hospitality of Dean René Rory John and staff. The joyful annual services filled the cathedral with those nominated by their churches for distinguished service to their parishes and beyond, joined by their sponsoring clergy, family members and other well-wishers. For some honorees, it was their first visit to Trinity Cathedral.

Unfortunately, the annual services were discontinued during Covid and the Committee has not been active since then. Our hope is that with the counsel of Bishop Sally French, we can determine whether and how to regroup, identify new leadership and members. Certainly, the need for a focus on older adults is more important than ever in light of the demographics of our diocese and denomination.

—The Rev. Jane T. Brady-Close, Co-Chair