

Episcopal Church in Western Oregon
Report to the 136th Annual Meeting of Convention
October 26, 2024

WORK GROUP ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

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Activities Report

- Represented the Episcopal Diocese at the Legislature in hearings and meetings
- Spoke to Episcopal congregations about Universal Health Care
- Preached/presented Universal Health Care at a variety of other congregations
- Served on community panels/discussions on the topic
- Attended the far majority of Health Care for All Oregon meetings local to group members
- Worked with HCAO at health fairs, festivals, etc, to educate the public in both English and Spanish on Universal Health Care
- Built relationships with numerous individuals, congregations, clergy and group leaders in effort to educate them and guide them toward our goal
- Provided written materials for the above, and encouraged them to support the legislative effort

Expenditures

- None: all materials provided by HCAO or donated
All mileage used was within sixty mile driving range or donated
No occasions for overnight accommodations

2023 Goals Progress

- The activities above fulfilled most of the stated 2023 goals, but staff considerations kept us from travelling to the reaches of the diocese.
- Staff expansion efforts were almost negligible

2024 Goals

- We will continue fulfilling 2023 goals, with extra attention focused on staffing the group with younger people who come from a variety of ethnic, cultural and economic circumstances
- We will continue to partner with Health Care for All Oregon as is required by the November 2017 convention resolution. This partnership, has each long session of the legislature, moved us significantly forward toward universal health care in the state of Oregon: 2019 passed legislation declaring that Oregon will have universal health care.; 2019 passed legislation in the form of an amendment to our constitution that enshrined “Health Care is a Human Right”; 2021 set up the Governor’s Task Force on Health Care; 2023 passed legislation to fund and set up the governance board to bring forth the actual fleshed-out plan for universal health care in Oregon for the legislature to vote on in 2025 or 2026
- Re-engage in congregational outreach, education and guidance in person