

Dear Friends in Recovery,

We on the board of Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church (RMEC) wish you a happy and holy Christmas!

I am writing to report on the good things that have come about this year as the result of God's goodness and guidance, your support and work, and the companionable and steady work of the directors of Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church.

Here's a flavor of what's happened this year:

- The board entered into a new phase of commitment and mutual love and support that also included mutual aid and accountability. To this end, we developed a set of guiding principles and standards for our common work, and this has proved transformative for the way the organization is performing.
- We launched a new website that included a more functional way for visitors and members to access recovery-related information, and also streamlined payment and distribution of literature.
- We launched *Through the Red Doors* a recovery blog where members can share their experience, strength and hope.
- We settled all of our outstanding debt obligations, end the year with an \$8,000+ bank balance, simplified our banking and accounting systems including our handling and distribution of literature. These were major advances, and the work was performed entirely through the voluntary efforts of members and our treasurer, Shannon Tucker.
- Plans for our 2012 Gathering in Miami this April are well in hand, and we're looking forward to what is sure to be a grand reunion!

As 2011 comes to a close, I want to welcome our newly elected directors, announce the names of our 2012 officers, thank all the directors, and especially acknowledge the contributions of those who are leaving the board at the end of this year.

First, I'm delighted and honored to be able to introduce to you our new directors who were nominated by RMEC members and elected to the board by acclamation on November 17, 2011:

- Ms. Kathy Cody Gallaway is the Secretary/Treasurer of Linking Lives, a nonprofit organization supporting programs that advance the medical and social services provided in Ethiopia. As a founding board member, she is committed to fundraising, communication and project development. She travels to Ethiopia two or three times a year to work on the projects of

Linking Lives, which assist people living with HIV/AIDS, fistula, alcoholism and substance abuse. She recently returned from Ethiopia where in response from local physicians she organized a series of training events about the treatment of alcoholics and substance abusers as form of medical practice to leaders of Ethiopia's medical community and governmental leaders.

- The Rev. Carlton Kelley RN, a priest in the Diocese of Indianapolis and a registered nurse practicing in the fields mental health and addictions at the state hospital in Richmond, Indiana. Carlton is an associate of the Order of Julian of Norwich.
- The Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke recently retired as Staff Chaplain at Trinity Church Wall Street in New York City and Missioner to St. Paul's Chapel at Ground Zero. He was also an Adjunct Professor at the General Theological Seminary in New York City where he taught a course entitled "The Pastor's Role in Ministering to the Alcoholic." Stuart is a frequent retreat and quiet-day conductor throughout the Episcopal Church. He lives in Durham, North Carolina.
- The Rev. Dr. Robert Hughes is the Norma and Olan Mills Professor of Divinity at the School of Theology, Sewanee: The University of the South, where he has taught systematic theology and spirituality for 34 years. He is a priest of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, and Board president of GOAL Project (Global Outreach for Addiction Leadership and Learning), an ecumenical mission society dedicated to taking twelve step recovery where it does not exist in support of addiction recovery and impacting domestic violence and sexual abuse, HIV/AIDS, and human trafficking.

I also want to announce that the board elected the following as officers for 2012:

- President: The Rev. Kevin Cross
- Treasurer: Mr. Shannon Tucker
- Secretary: Ms. Wendy Barraco

And finally, I close by thanking all of our serving directors whose wisdom, hard work, courage and perseverance has made all the difference to the vibrancy and strength of RMEC as a vital resource for the Church and those seeking to recover from addiction and codependency:

Ms. Wendy Barraco
Rev'd Cathy Brunson
Rev'd Kevin Cross
Rev'd Ann Goraczko
Dr. Lisa Fortuna, MD
Rt. Rev'd Greg Rickel
Ms. Lynn V. Schmissrauter


Rev'd Dr. Joanna Seibert
Mr. Shannon Tucker

We also wish a fond farewell to board members who are leaving at the end of this year. We thank Lynn Schmissrauter for her skill in leading much of our group process work, and for her good humor and candor. We thank Ann Goraczko for her wise leadership, accurate board minutes and for being our unofficial chaplain. We thank Joanna Seibert who so often is the very voice of love and wisdom in meetings and emails! And we thank Hank LeBeau, for his witness of love and for calling us to seek out in all our work God's kingdom of justice and mercy. We will miss you greatly, but our missing you will be much tempered by the frequency of our calls for your continued gifts.

To close with a blessing –

May the awareness of God's love surround you, the guarding of Christ's power shield you, and the vulnerability of our God as infant open you to all that is good in this life, and all that is eternal in the next. Amen.

Love, your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael" followed by a small plus sign (+).

The Rev'd Michael J. Ryan
President