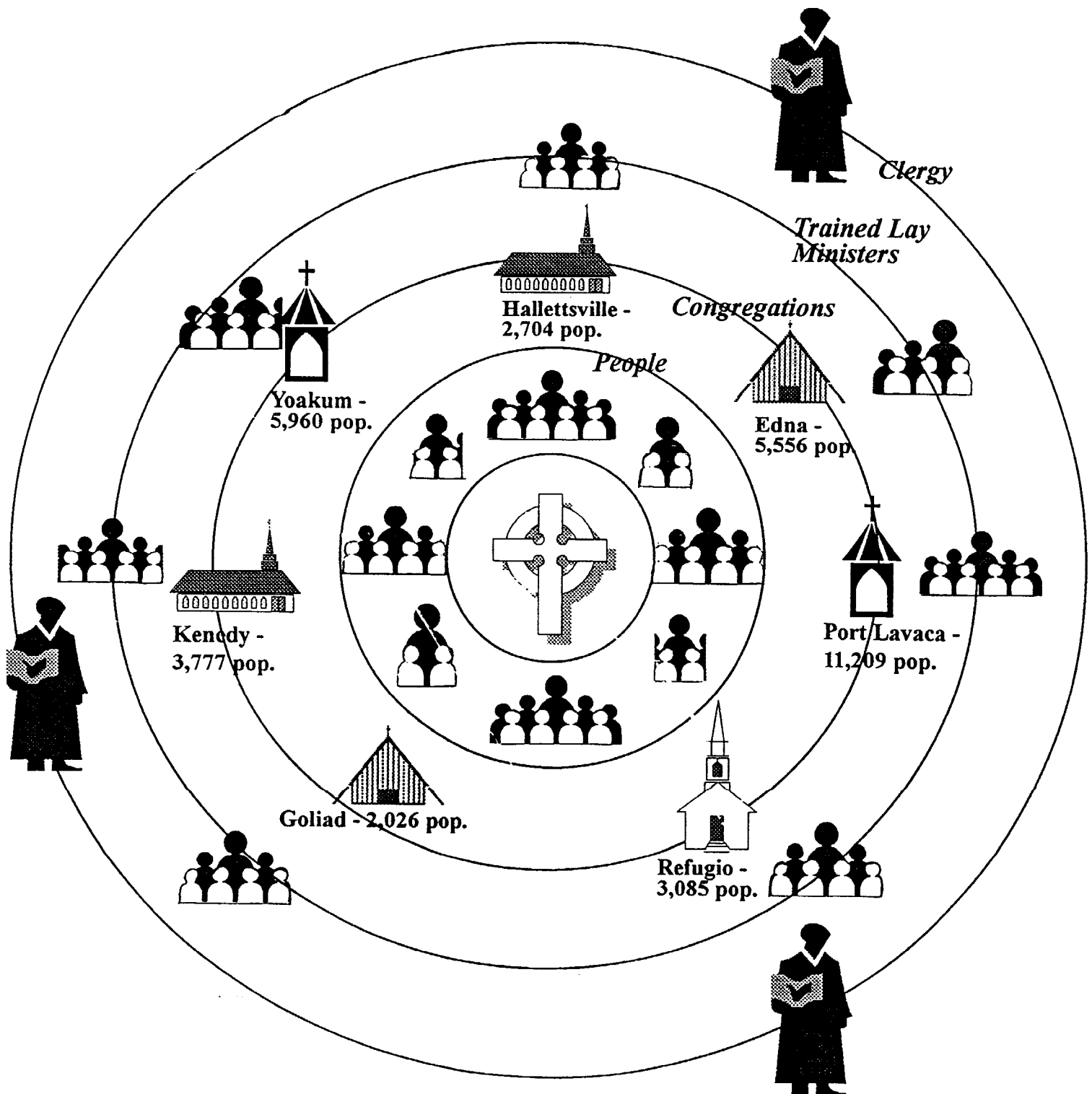


# PARTNERS IN MINISTRY



EASTERN CONVOCATION  
DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS

COVENANT  
FOR PARTNERS IN MINISTRY  
EASTERN CONVOCATION  
DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS

Spring 1995

# **COVENANT FOR PARTNERS IN MINISTRY**

## **EASTERN CONVOCATION**

### **DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS**

This document evidences the covenant of the following congregations, namely:

St. James - Hallettsville  
Grace Church - Port Lavaca  
St. Stephen's - Goliad  
Holy Communion - Yoakum  
Ascension - Refugio  
Trinity - Edna  
St. Matthew's - Kenedy

and the Diocese of West Texas to be Partners in Ministry, clearly committing, as congregations, as Bishop's Committees, as Vestries, as orders of lay, as bishops, priests, and deacons, to each and all, to minister to the needs of all Episcopalians in the Partners group, to strengthen the Church, and to seek to spread the Gospel to those outside the Church.

In furtherance of our Covenant, we each adopt the following principles:

Our Vestry/Bishop's Committee is itself committed to regular prayer for Partners in Ministry in this Convocation in the organizing phase and throughout the implementation period.

Our Vestry/Bishop's Committee will commit to prayer in behalf of Partners in Ministry in this Convocation at every service conducted in our church.

We agree that Partners in Ministry will be served by the ministry of a team of Clergy, who will be versed in approaches to area ministry and have the ability to meet diverse congregational needs.

It is agreed that for the duration of this Covenant, each congregation will agree to be served collectively by the Clergy team called forth and appointed with the Canon Missioner officially designated as Rector or Vicar of each congregation. All other canonical and fiscal responsibilities of the Vestry/Bishop's Committee will remain undiminished.

It is agreed that the Clergy team called forth and appointed to this ministry will be composed of a minimum of two full-time Clergy. Housing within the Eastern Convocation and other details will be negotiated by the Partnership Council. Other full-time or part-time Clergy or lay staff will be appointed, subject to available funding.

It is agreed that the Canon Missioner, assisted by the Clergy and lay team members, will have primary responsibility for the building of the appropriate team structure. The advice of the Partnership Council and congregations will be actively sought for the accomplishment of stated objectives.

It is agreed that the following functions for Clergy responsibility are appropriate, though functions may vary in each congregation:

Be an evangelist

Administer the Sacraments

Provide Eucharist every week in every congregation

Share in the intentional calling forth of lay leadership

Train the laity

Provide pastoral care

Provide spiritual direction and support

Lead liturgical planning

Continue a review of structure and program

Evangelism training and leadership

We agree that lay leadership in the churches who make up the Partners in Ministry will be called forth and trained to serve with the Clergy in the ministry of the church.

It is agreed that the following areas of lay responsibility are appropriate, though functions may vary in each congregation:

Evangelism of community

Share in the calling forth of lay leadership

Lay leadership

Renewal of lapsed members

Catechism training

Serving with Clergy in pastoral matters

Conduct appropriate liturgy in absence of Clergy

Various ministries in the community

Educational leadership

Ministries in church administration

It is agreed that a Partnership Council will be established to plan, coordinate, and administer the work and corporate budget of Partners in Ministry in this Convocation. The Senior Warden or Bishop's Warden of each congregation and one other member designated by each congregation shall be members of the Council. The Canon Missioner will serve as presiding officer of the Partnership Council. All other Clergy and lay staff will be ex-officio members of the Partnership Council.

Participating congregations agree to pay over to the Partnership Council such common percentage of their net disposable income as defined in the annual Parochial Report, toward the payment of clerical, lay staff, and other costs of Partnership Council activities as is determined by the Partnership Council. These funds, plus whatever funds the Council obtains from the Diocese and other sources, shall be the basis for paying the Partnership Council's expenses.

It is agreed that the Partnership Council will establish its own rules of order and will have as its functions:

- to call forth the Canon Missioner from a list of Clergy submitted by the Bishop
- to ratify other staff Clergy and lay staff upon recommendation of the Senior Priest
- to prepare, define, and adopt a budget on behalf of all participating congregations inclusive of at least all staff expenses for the team

- to prepare, define, and adopt an income budget based upon an agreed common percentage of each congregation's net disposable income as established by the Council as defined in the Parochial Report
- to define objectives for Partners in Ministry
- to develop a structure for the Partnership Council for the proper administration of Partners in Ministry, including a set of written By-Laws for the Partnership Council.

It is agreed that the Partnership Council, in the accomplishment of its functions above, will be empowered by Vestry/Bishop's Committee to act on their behalf.

The Bishop or his designee shall be a member ex-officio of the Partnership Council and shall function in his own right or as the Bishop's designee.

It is agreed that the member congregations of Partners in Ministry, in order to implement its objectives, will covenant for a period of three (3) years from the date of the signing of the Covenant. All congregations will commit themselves to active and determined participation for the duration of that period.

It is agreed that the design and objectives for the Partners in Ministry will be reviewed at least annually by the Partnership Council and the office of the Bishop, and the results communicated to each congregation.

Six (6) months prior to the conclusion of the third year period, participating congregations through their representatives to the Council will review their relationship to the area ministry. The Council will be advised by member congregations no later than

ninety (90) days prior to the termination date whether their participation in Partners in Ministry is to be terminated, or continued into the future.

This Covenant is adopted by the following Partner congregations, whose Senior Warden or Bishop's Warden signs below to evidence the consent of the respective Vestry/ Bishop's Committee as incorporated into a Resolution duly passed at a meeting of such body, a copy of which is attached, and by the Bishop as evidencing the consent of the Diocese.

<u>Church</u>	<u>Name and Position</u>	<u>Signature</u>
St. James Hallettsville		
Grace Church Port Lavaca		
St. Stephen's Goliad		
Holy Communion Yoakum		
Ascension Refugio		
Trinity Edna		
St. Matthew's Kenedy		

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For the Diocese of West Texas  
by The Rt. Rev. James E. Folts



Design Team who Created the Form of this Covenant:

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Rev. William Dugat, Jr. - Victoria  
Robert Cheever - Yoakum  
Verna Cheever - Yoakum  
Mary Ann Pagel - Yoakum  
Emma Williams - Yoakum  
Dorothy Anderson - Hallettsville  
John Simpson - Hallettsville  
Pelinda Smith - Kenedy  
Lillian Hester - Kenedy  
Jane Robicheaux - Goliad  
Beall Emmond - Goliad  
John C. Brooke - Goliad  
Brenda Johnson - Edna  
Harrison Stafford - Edna  
Rev. Scott Penrod - Edna  
Archdeacon C. Eugene Jennings  
Bishop James E. Folts  
Rev. Canon Edmund L. Dohoney  
The Ven. Gary R. Lillibridge  
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