

Biographical Information
The Rt. Rev. Rustin R. Kimsey,
The Fifth Bishop of Eastern Oregon, Retired
Assisting Bishop for Navajoland, Retired

A sixth generation Oregonian, Rustin R. Kimsey was born in Bend, Oregon, educated in public schools, the University of Oregon (B. S., 1957), the Episcopal Theological School (B. D., 1960), and eastern Oregon (1960 to present). He has been married to Gretchen Beck Rinehart Kimsey since 1961 and their progeny are birth children Sean and Megan, foster son Larry, grandson William and granddaughter Lauren. Rustin and Gretchen served churches in Redmond, Baker City and The Dalles before being elected the Fifth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon in 1980. His Christian formation has been via churches and communities of eastern Oregon, a myriad of church meeting environments, focusing on Mutual Ministry efforts, paying attention to Celtic Christian history, and becoming a grandfather.

Bishop Kimsey has attended each General Convention of the Episcopal Church from 1967 to 2000, chaired the Deputies' Committee on the Church in Small Communities, served two terms on the Executive Council of ECUSA (1969-1976) and (1988-1994). He was the clerical representative for ECUSA on the Anglican Consultative Council, chaired the Planning Committee for ECUSA's first Partners in Mission Consultation, served on the Columbia River Gorge Commission, convened a national Episcopal conference devoted to the agriculture crisis in America, was an observer for Witness for Peace to the Nicaraguan elections in March of 1990, served as President of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, chaired the Domestic Missionary Partnership (formerly Coalition 14), and served as chair of ECUSA's Standing Commission for Ecumenical Relations from 1994-2000. Bishop Kimsey retired in June of 2000. In the Fall of 2001 he worked with Bishop Steven Plummer and the Navajo people in Fort Defiance, AZ for two months as a clergy volunteer. After the death of Bishop Plummer in 2005 Bishop Kimsey was appointed Assisting Bishop for Navajoland and served until July, 2006. He has led various retreats for faith communities, assisted with pilgrimages to Scotland and Ireland, and shared his Episcopal ministry with congregations and dioceses.

(Revised 04/10/08)