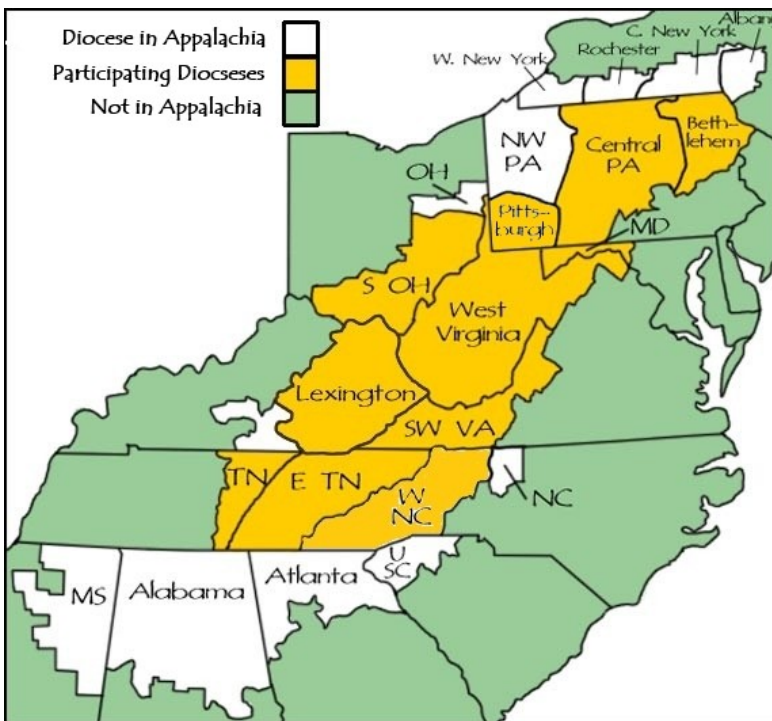


Why does Appalachia matter?

- The Appalachian Region is the 205,000-square-mile region that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi.
- Forty-two percent of the Region's population is rural, compared with 20 percent of the national population.
- Currently, over 80 of the counties in the Appalachian region are economically distressed.
- The poverty rates for Appalachia average about 18% as compared to 13% for the nation as a whole. Literacy rates remain well below national averages.
- In many parts of the region, poverty rates are well over 20% and as high as 54% in some counties.
- Because much of the Appalachian region remains isolated, health care is still difficult to access in some areas; prescription and illegal drug abuse continues to rise in Appalachia.
- Safe and affordable housing is still a major barrier for many of those Appalachian people living in poverty.
- Episcopal Appalachian Ministries has helped facilitate under privileged people receive over \$124,000.00 in resources, in this last triennium; these resources went directly to ministry in Appalachia through the Small Grants Initiative and the summer work camps.



“In response to our baptismal vows, Episcopal Appalachian Ministries serves a specific and unique region in America and manifests the love of God through education, advocacy and mission.”

A network of Episcopal Ministries serving the Appalachian region...

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