

## **Annual Reports of the Diocesan Commissions**

Chairs of all diocesan-supported commissions, committees and task forces that do not present reports at convention are asked to provide a written report with the following information for ratification by the convention:

1. Mission of the commission
2. Where and how often the commission met in 2023
3. Accomplishments of the commission in 2023
4. Goals of the commission for 2024
5. Current membership of the commission

### **Canonical Commissions**

*(Commissions whose make-up, terms and duties are spelled out in the canons of the church)*

Budget Committee

Commission on Congregational Life

Commission on Ministry

Convention: Agenda and Dispatch of Business\*

Convention: Constitution and Canons\*

Convention: Credentials\*

Convention: Nominations\*

Convention: Resolutions\*

Diocesan Council

Disciplinary Board (Regional)\*\*

Finance Committee

Standing Committee

Trustees of the Church Foundation

Trustees of the Diocese\* (William Cooper Procter Memorial Fund)

*\*report presented at convention*

*\*\*no report filed*

## **Budget Committee**

Submitted by Patrick Hreachmack, chair

### **Mission of the Commission**

Per Canon XIII, the Budget Committee performs the following functions and duties:

- (a) Accept requests for funding for all program and project work.
- (b) Shall adjust the requests and estimates as needed to achieve a balanced Budget.
- (c) Keep the Diocesan Council and Convention Delegates informed regarding the Budget.
- (d) Present the prepared Budget for approval by Diocesan Convention.
- (e) Incorporate any Diocesan Convention recommendations into the Budget.
- (f) Report the final Budget to the Congregations.

### **Meetings in 2023**

Four live meetings and two Zoom meetings

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

The Budget Committee did achieve a balanced Budget and submitted said Budget as per Canon XIII.

### **Goals for 2024**

Budget Committee will continue the same goals as set forth above.

### **Membership**

Patrick Hreachmack, chair

Anne Brack

Rev. Jean Cotting

Rev. Waren Huestis

Larry James

Jin Davis

Joseph Schenk

Brad Strum

Nancy Talley

## **Commission on Congregational Life**

Submitted by the Rev. Michael Tigner, chair

### **Mission of the Commission**

The Commission on Congregational Life is responsible for implementing the mission strategy for the diocese. The commission is charged with encouraging, supporting, evaluating, and seeking opportunities for development and growth for congregations throughout the diocese.

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

Working from our \$250,000 budget for the year, we awarded grants for projects initiated by over a dozen congregations. We also launched an experimental partnership between CoCL and Healthy Congregations in order to see if congregations in the diocese could benefit from sending clergy and lay leaders through their program. All year we have worked to clarify the identity and strategy for CoCL in light of the bishop election this year and the development of the New Episcopal Communities department of the diocese.

### **Goals for 2024**

We will continue to work toward more clarity of the identity and strategy of CoCL as the strategy for cooperation with New Episcopal Communities and the mission strategy of the diocese comes into focus. We will seek to increase our membership to the 12-member limit in order to increase our ability to support congregations in the coming year. We will share a video presentation at the diocesan convention this year to spread the word about exciting new initiatives that CoCL has supported this year and inspire congregations to create their own innovative projects.

### **Membership**

#### **2023**

Robin Holland

The Rev. Peter Homeyer

#### **2024**

Wendell Mulford

Anne Shuff (treasurer)

The Rev. Michael Tigner (Chair)

#### **2025**

The Rev. Meredith Day Hearn

Drew Abbott

Ron Brown Gray

The Rev. Terri Thornton

## **Commission on Ministry**

Submitted by Robin Holland, chair

### **Mission of the commission**

The work of the CoM is mandated by the Canons of The Episcopal Church. The CoM works on the selection and formation of those called to ordained ministry, to assist in the discernment of those called to lay ministry, and to advise the Bishop about all of these ministry-related activities.

### **Meetings in 2023**

The Commission met in person at Procter Center 4 weekends and held 4 additional Zoom meetings.

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

Explorers' Retreat – Jan 2023 – in-person for the first time since the pandemic – 6 Explorers participated

Spring Meeting – March 2023 -3 Explorers advanced to Regional Discernment Committees (RDCs)

May 2023 – RDC training -3 RDCs

Oct 2023– Candidacy and Ordination interviews – 7 Postulants interviewed for Candidacy

Postulancy interviews- 2 Explorers were re-interviewed after a period of further discernment

Nov 2023 – TBD – Explorer Information Session (for Explorers who want to attend the Jan 2023 Retreat) – Sat Dec 16 by Zoom

Dec 2023 – TBD – Expect to interview 3 Explorers and make recommendations to the Bishop for Postulancy

### **Goals for 2024**

- To continue the work of the Commission in helping discern and form those who feel called to ordained ministry.
- To implement a new process for the first 2 years of discernment designed to improve the current RDC process.
- To increase opportunities for discernment for those called to lay ministries.

### **Membership**

Robin Holland, chair	2025	Rowena McGregor	2024
Miriam McKenney	2023	Stacey Sands	2024
Vicki Zust	2023	Jason Prati	2024
Stephen Smith	2023	Allison English	2025
Lauren Faller	2023	Chris Nelson	2025
Anne Cappelletti	2023	Craig Klein	2025
Mary Louise Thomas	2023	Jermaine Carew	2025
Paul Scanlan	2024	Kathleen Crossman	2025
Anne Shuff	2024	Philip DeVaul	2025
Barbara Bass	2024		

## **Diocesan Council**

Submitted by Kathy Mank, recording secretary

### **Mission of the commission**

According to Canon XII, "The Diocesan Council shall have charge of the coordination, development, and prosecution of the missionary, education, and social work of the Church, and of such other work as may be committed to it by the Diocesan Convention."

### **Meetings in 2023**

The Council met five times all in hybrid format for maximum participation. For the March 2023 meeting, we met at Christ Church Cathedral to participate in the diocesan ordination service. Four meetings, including the retreat, were held at Procter Center to support the operations of this mission-critical diocesan asset. Diocesan commissions have been encouraged to utilize Procter for hybrid meetings.

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

#### February Council Retreat

In the spirit of continuing to strengthen internal functioning and establish norms for committee work in community, the Steering Committee hosted an overnight retreat at Procter to develop a shared idea of the preparation we expect from one another for meetings and the ways in which we will handle discussion and dissent. The Rev. Warren Huestis offered the Holy Manners resource tool for respectful and inclusive discussions. The Steering Committee will share the results and knowledge gained from the retreat in the onboarding of new Council members in December. The retreat will be a resource for future Diocesan Councils.

#### Congregational Contacts Initiative Continues

Each year, congregations are required to submit three important documents (Parochial Report, Annual Report, and Audit) as well as to remain current on their Mission Share payments. The Diocesan Canons specifies that congregations that do not comply are to be denied voice and vote at annual conventions. Katherine Wagner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, managed the Congregational Contacts work where all Diocesan Council members were assigned congregations/parishes to encourage compliance with canonical deadlines and to provide an awareness of Diocesan programs and resources that could assist them in ministry. All congregations had complied with the canonical requirements prior to the electing convention. The Council voted by poll to grant seat, voice, and vote for the handful of congregations that struggled to meet hard and fast canonical deadlines but met the requirements prior to the Convention.

#### Procter Center, Facilities Assessments and Budget Committee Support

The Procter Board and Bishop Smith along with staff members considered many options about how to revitalize and restore the mission-critical Procter Center. The very first Facilities Assessment report was delivered to Canon Getreu at the beginning of 2023 recommending three tiers of improvements for the Procter Center. The first-tier items were necessary to open the summer camp program. The council kept current with the actions of the Procter Board, the Trustees, and the Church Foundation and voted where necessary to proceed with the repair and maintenance items. The diocese proceeded with the consulting firm to provide Facilities Assessments to any congregation that requested an assessment, which are required for any Church Foundation grant application. Canon Getreu is collecting and analyzing the results for discussion with congregations about their deferred maintenance items with immediate need.

The Council's canonical obligation to support the Budget committee in approving a convention budget continued with the simplified zero-based budget strategy implemented for diocesan programs. As part of this process, the Council has developed a stronger relationship with the Finance committee, which is now requested to report to the Council at every meeting in addition to the Treasurer reporting the financial results.

### Model Alcohol Policy Development for the Diocese and Congregations

Bishop Smith tasked Diocesan Council to update and bring into the 21<sup>st</sup> century a workable diocesan alcohol policy. Most every diocese churchwide publishes their alcohol policy on their websites. Southern Ohio had not addressed this Safe Church matter in over 20 years. During all five of our meetings, we worked hard to pass a diocesan policy and a model policy for congregations to adopt. The model policy is a strongly suggested form but does not have an enforceable provision for implementation and adoption. The bishop and the Council had the future of the diocese in the forefront when working on this policy, not the past.

### **Goals for 2024**

1. Welcome our Bishop-elect, The Rev. Canon Kristin Uffelman White, to Diocesan Council.
2. Collaborate with the work of the Reparations Committee Task Force responsible for the Sesquicentennial Project, the Parish History Project, and the hiring of a Black Missioner for the diocese. Focus on what resources, both human and financial, can make reparations a reality in Southern Ohio.
3. Strengthen Becoming Beloved Community commission offerings and support the Director of Dismantling Racism in anti-racism training and advocacy actions throughout the diocese.
4. Continue oversight of the redevelopment work of the Procter Center and the Procter Board.
5. Keep energizing the Creation Care commission's initiatives in energy conservation, recycling, food insecurity, socially responsible investing, and worship.
6. Offer the Systemic Review committee's task force report on right-sizing all commissions and committees of the diocese to our Bishop-elect as a starting place for potential action.
7. Infuse the Council's congregational contacts work with passion for connecting all congregations to the diocese in both ministry and financial compliance.
8. Ground our work in the knowledge and love of Jesus by following the Way of Love.

### **Membership**

The Rt. Rev. Wayne Smith, President  
The Rev. Alice Connor 2023  
Kathy Mank 2023  
Melissa Shirley 2023  
David Thomson 2023  
The Rev. Warren Huestis (unexpired term) 2023  
Ericka Hall 2024  
Larry James 2024  
The Rev. Peter Homeyer 2024  
The Rev. Bruce Smith 2024  
Katherine Wagner 2024

Nancy Talley, 2025  
Spencer Izor, 2025  
The Rev. Pamela Fairley, 2025  
Patrick Hreachmack, 2025  
Joshua Sherwood, 2025

### **Appointed Members:**

James Davis, 2023  
Kyle Vath, 2023  
The Rev. Theorphlis Borden  
Nadya Richardson, Treasurer

## **Finance Committee**

Submitted by Nadya Richardson, chair

### **Mission of the commission**

The Finance Committee oversees the fiscal responsibilities of the diocese as outlined in Canon X. The Finance Committee typically meets quarterly to oversee the actual spending versus the diocesan budget.

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

- One of the most important functions of the committee is to act as the Diocesan Audit Committee. The Finance Committee is responsible for the hiring of the auditors, reviewing the audit report, and managing any problems noted. At the completion of our audit, the auditors (Clark Schaefer Hackett & Company) had no disclosures to make regarding our accounting practices, an excellent outcome of the process.
- The Committee reviewed the Mission Share payments by individual churches and spent a considerable amount of time discussing the collections rate.
- A sub-Committee was formed to provide individual assistance to congregations regarding their financial reports (parochial, annual, and audit).

### **Goals for 2024**

- In an effort to assist smaller parishes and missions with financial management and reporting, the Finance Committee is in the process of developing financial policies and procedures with a focus on the smaller churches. If requested, members have volunteered to assist, in person, with implementation.
- Continue to foster trust with transparency

### **Membership**

Nadya Richardson, Chair  
Jeff Baldrige  
Cynthia Bronson  
Clifton Flemister  
John Harris  
Patrick Hreachmack  
Bill Ubbes  
Carolyn Wilmesherr  
Dot Yeager

## **Standing Committee**

**Submitted by Dr. James Allsop, president**

### **Mission of the commission**

The Standing Committee serves as the bishop's council of advice in the everyday life of the diocese.

The Standing Committee provides consent for all bishops elected in the Episcopal Church, reviews candidates for ordination, gives the bishop advice and consents for the purchase, sale, and encumbrance of church property, and discusses with the bishop cases of conduct involving clergy. The Standing Committee and the bishop often discuss church initiatives at the national, diocesan, and local levels. The Committee serves as the ecclesiastical authority in a diocese in the absence of a bishop.

### **Meetings in 2023**

We met over 25 times. The majority of the meetings were held on Zoom.

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

We were able to facilitate the election of the next bishop of the Diocese of Southern Ohio. The nominating committee did an outstanding job of identifying nominees and the transition committee coordinated the logistics of the discernment retreat and the meet and greets. The special convention came off without any issues. We continued to manage the whole search and transition process in a financially prudent manner.

Another important accomplishment was that we have made the compensation package of the bishop more transparent. This work was done in coordination with the Trustees of the Diocese as well as members of the diocesan staff. In addition, we made the effort to communicate with the diocese frequently and in a transparent manner.

Finally, we have continued to execute the other part of our mission that involves church property transactions and clergy development and discipline in a timely manner.

### **Goals for 2024**

We will continue to work on the transition process. The Standing Committee will work closely with the Transition Committee to ensure we have a glorious ordination ceremony in February of 2024. In addition, we will work to help the bishop elect have a smooth transition. Review requested real estate transactions. Review any cases of alleged clergy misconduct. Review and provide consent for all newly elected in the Episcopal Church.

### **Membership**

Barry Feist	2023
The Rev. Canon Scott Gunn	2023
Dr. Elizabeth Barker	2024
The Rev. David Kendall-Sperry (Vice President)	2025
The Rev. Jed Dearing (Secretary)	2025
Dr. James Allsop (President)	2025

## **Trustees of the Church Foundation**

Submitted by John Gustafson, president

### **Mission of the commission**

The Church Foundation was created in 1922 as a corporation to hold title to real estate and to manage, control, mortgage, and convey this property under the direction of the "Bishop and Chapter of the Diocese of Southern Ohio." There are five Directors and John Gustafson is the current President.

The Church Foundation receives as its major source of revenue an allotment from the William Cooper Procter Endowment Fund annual income. The main purpose of this income is to award grants to congregations for emergency capital needs.

These grants must adhere to the criteria used for the William Cooper Procter Fund's grants. Church Foundation also:

- (a) Provides mortgages, usually for non-parochial housing, from the Wells Fund.
- (b) Performs long lasting repairs on Diocesan-owned properties.

### **Meetings in 2023**

Quarterly, via Zoom - (Dec 2022, Feb, May & Aug)

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

For 2023, Church Foundation was granted \$300,000 for emergency grants to congregations for physical plant needs.

October 2022 – September 2023, the Church Foundation has given \$111,764 in grants to 5 congregations.

#### December 2022 Meeting

No funds available to award the \$89,870 in requests for improvements. Tabled requests to first quarter 2023.

Funded St. Edwards, Whitehall emergency request of \$6,500 for a handicap bathroom advancing 2023 grant funds.

#### **Total in December 2022 = \$6,500**

#### January – September 2023

- a. Trinity Church, Hamilton \$22,141
- b. Trinity Church, Troy \$28,123
- c. St Paul's Church, Chillicothe \$50,000 matching grant
- d. St. James Church, Zanesville \$5,000

#### **Total in 2023 = \$105,264**

Additionally, \$375,052 has been paid out for Creation Care Energy Efficiency Grants:

October 2022 - December 2022

Indian Hill, Cincinnati	\$8,911
Calvary, Clifton	\$10,000
All Saints, Portsmouth	\$9,300
Christ Church, Ironton	\$8,056
St. Albans, Bexley	\$10,000
St. Philips, Columbus	\$10,000
St. James, Piqua	\$10,000
Christ Church Cathedral	\$10,000
St Peters, Gallipolis	\$8,000

January - July 2023

St Margaret, Trotwood	\$10,000
Holy Trinity, Oxford	\$10,000
Epiphany, Nelsonville	\$10,000
All Saints, Portsmouth	\$700
Redeemer, Cincinnati	\$10,000
Christ Church, Springfield	\$10,000
St. Paul's, Logan	\$10,000
St. Simon, Lincoln Heights	\$10,000
Christ Church, Glendale	\$10,000
St. Anne, West Chester	\$10,000
St Thomas, Terrace Park	\$10,000
Trinity, Newark	\$10,000
Good Shepherd Athens	\$5,350
Grace, Cincinnati	\$10,000
St John, Worthington	\$10,000
St Barnabas, Montgomery	\$10,000
St Andrews, Pickerington	\$10,000
St John, Lancaster	\$8,300
St Luke, Granville	\$5,222
St James, Westwood	\$10,000
St Paul, Dayton	\$10,000
St John, Columbus	\$6,450
St James, Zanesville	\$10,000
Trinity, McArthur	\$10,000
St Timothy, Cincinnati	\$10,000
St Paul, Chillicothe	\$10,000
St. Mark, Columbus	\$10,000
Grace Church, Pomeroy	\$6,000
St Andrew, Cincinnati	\$10,000
St Mary, Waynesville	\$10,000
Trinity, Hamilton	\$10,000
St Luke, Granville	\$4,777
St. Mark, Dayton	\$3,185
St. John, Lancaster	\$800

These grants are sponsored by the Trustees of the Diocese funded by the William Cooper Procter Fund.

The Church Foundation has loans to parishes from the Wells Fund. Churches undergo a loan application process. After successful completion of the loan application, a loan may be granted by the Church Foundation. The Bishop and Standing Committee approval are part of the process. Current outstanding balances on these loans, as of September 30, 2023, are reported below:

Holy Trinity, Kenwood 2019	\$14,777
St. Luke's Church, Granville 2019	\$114,379
Christ Church, Ironton 2019	\$99,035
St. Matthew's, Westerville 2019	\$71,154
Holy Trinity, Kenwood 2022	\$21,219
St. John's Worthington 2022	\$36,609
St. Barnabas, Montgomery 2022	<u>\$225,625</u>
Totals through September 2023	\$582,798

**New Loans in 2023**

Trinity, Troy 2023	\$29,120 (began August 2023)
Total New Loans in 2023	\$29,120

Total Loans Outstanding September 2023 \$611,918

**412 Sycamore, Inc. loans incorporated into the Church Foundation loan portfolio:**

All Saint's, Pleasant Ridge	\$85,000
All Saint's, Pleasant Ridge	\$61,169
St. Francis, Springboro	\$233,185
St. Andrew's, Pickerington	\$59,874
Good Samaritan, Amelia	\$201,683
St. Margaret's, Dayton	<u>\$900,000</u>
Total 412 Sycamore, Inc. Loans	\$1,540,911

Gabriel's Place was sold in 2023 to Avondale Development Corporation. St. Andrew's, Dayton in under contract to be sold after due diligence period expires.

The Church Foundation continues to manage the Latino Ministry Center in Forest Park, Ohio, (formerly Holy Spirit Episcopal Church) and has been making improvements to the facility.

**Goals for 2024**

To continue to marshal our very limited resources in order to maximize benefits and the physical and financial health of our properties across the congregations of the DSO. We aspire to be true long-term partners with our congregations and their many historic and meaningful properties as best we can.

We will continue to show no favoritism or bias in our decisions and hope that congregants in the DSO understand that because of our limited resources, every request is met with serious inspections, honest debate and thoughtful questions leading to what are difficult final decisions.

## **Membership**

The Rev. Canon Sallie Schisler, Vice President (2023)

David McKenney (2024)

The Rev. Anne Warrington Wilson (2025)

Harold Patrick (2026)

John Gustafson, President (2027)

## **Trustees of the Diocese**

Submitted by Jon B. Boss, president

### **Mission of the commission**

The Trustees exist as an entity within the Diocese of Southern Ohio to receive and invest funds given to the diocese as endowments. The Trustees carry out those responsibilities by:

- Advising and concurring with the bishop in the use of the William Cooper Procter (WCP) Endowment; e.g., the annual WCP Budget. This includes reducing the “draw rate” from 4.00% to 3.75% for 2023. That reduction reflects both the significant gains in the past three (3) years, and our analysis that the growth rates experienced during those 12 (twelve) Quarters will not be experienced in the forthcoming few years. 2023’s draw rate was based on the average value of the WCP portfolio for the 12 Quarters ending with the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2023. 2024’s draw rate of 3.80% includes funding for the Reparations Task Force and Black Missioner.
- Assessing all other applications for grants, expenditures and loans from the WCP Endowment and the more than sixty (60) other funds under their jurisdiction.
- Providing congregations and related organizations the opportunity to invest in either or both the Consolidated Growth and the Consolidated Income funds. The respective balances as of August 31, 2023 were \$30,950,098 and \$13,033,809. The Consolidated Growth Fund returned 13.0% for the trailing year, 0.90% below its benchmark. The Consolidated Income Fund returned 0.40% for the trailing year, 0.75% greater than its benchmark. The funds are invested with PNC Bank and subject to the Investment Policy Statements developed and monitored annually by the Trustees. Currently there are 98 accounts in these two funds with 60 being “Trustee” accounts and 38 accounts invested by 21 congregations, along with the Minority Empowerment Initiatives Trust (MEIT), the Lawrence Home Association, and the Diocese of Southern Ohio Memorial Scholarship Fund. As of August 31, 2023, the total assets of the 98 accounts invested in the Funds was \$47,345,998, including cash.

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

- Continued the partnership initiative begun in 2020 with the Commission on Congregational Life (CoCL), the Trustees of the Church Foundation, and Diocesan Council in responding to the financial challenges faced by our congregations during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this assistance that ended on June 30, 2023, the Trustees made COVID-19 related grants to 16 (16) congregations, for a total of \$146,855. An additional \$138,600 in loans were provided to twelve (12) congregations.
- Continued and expanded the deadline to June 30, 2023 for energy efficiency measures in partnership with the Creation Care & Environmental Justice Commission. Each congregation could apply for a \$10,000 grant to improve the energy efficiency of their parish. They **could** also apply for a \$10,000.00 interest-free loan repayable over five (5) years. The Commission awarded 57 congregations grants up to \$10,000 for a total investment of \$529,488. Additionally, \$101,208 in no-or low-interest loans were awarded to eleven (11) congregations.

- Reinforced the commitment we made in the summer of 2020 to support Bishop Breidenthal’s call to the Diocese for “a diocesan conversation about reparations” by approving in September Bishop Smith’s request to commit up to \$200,000 a year beginning January 1, 2023 for the compensation and activities of the soon to be named Black Missioner, and the continuing work of the Reparations Task Force. In 2023 we added the provision that any portion of these monies that are not spent in a calendar year, will be held in reserve for use in future years. These actions are consistent with our two (2) 2020 resolutions as shown below:
  1. **Resolve that:** The Bishop and Trustees of the Diocese of Southern Ohio commit to partnering with the newly created Reparations Task Force, our four predominately African-American congregations, our Spanish speaking congregations, the Becoming Beloved Community Task Force, and the Minority Empowerment Initiatives Trust (MEIT) in investing in those empowerment strategies and goals that are consistent with the Baptismal Covenant’s call that we “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being,” and be it
  2. **Further resolved that:** The Bishop and Trustees of the Diocese of Southern Ohio explore with the Reparations Task Force, and the aforementioned stakeholders, the creation of a Diocesan Staff position whose focus would be to increase the vitality of the Black and brown communities of faith while also being an advocate for the engagement by all our congregations in responding to Jesus’ call to “Love our neighbors as ourselves”.
- Managed the equity portfolios of the WCP, Marjorie P. Lee (MPLee) and Consolidated Growth Funds consistent with the Episcopal Church Executive Council Corporate Social Responsibility Committee’s (CSRC) directives for socially responsible investments. PNC employs varied approaches in the selection of managers to meet this directive, including the exclusion of stocks as defined by the CSRC, and the inclusion of managers who integrate Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) factors and risks into their investment process.
  - As of August 31, 2023, the composite ESG Risk Score of companies’ exposures to and management of material ESG risks as measured by Sustainalytics, is 21.0, where 100 represents the greatest risk. This represents a 1.4-point improvement over the prior three (3) years, and indicates the level of material unmanaged ESG risk has been reduced.
  - The exposure to fossil fuel companies which generate at least **10%** of their revenue from fossil fuel products and services is less **1.3**, relative to the portfolio’s benchmark of 5.0%. . Importantly, the total carbon emissions generated by the companies in the portfolio is 2.8 million tons, or 49% of the total carbon emissions generated by the companies in the benchmark.
- Continued the quarterly draws from the Martha S. Chaney, the John N. Chaney and Ruth Dawson Lacey trusts for the benefit of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Hillsboro.
- Continued the Quarterly payments of the grants made to Bethany School (\$1,000,000) for the major renovation and expansion of their facilities in Glendale, and to Episcopal Retirement Services’ renovation of their Marjorie P. Lee Home (\$250,000) in

Cincinnati's Hyde Park neighborhood. The last of these payments were made in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2022.

- Re-appointed Jon Boss to represent the Trustees on Procter Center's Board of Directors and as their representative on the Board of the Episcopal Retirement Services Foundation.

### **Goals for 2024**

A "Facility Condition Assessment" has been underway to determine the extent of deferred maintenance challenges in our seventy-one (71) congregations. As of the date of this report, and with the assessments completed on twenty (20) congregations, the "Immediate Needs" amount to \$5,667,318. The current projection of costs over the next 10-15 years is \$9,242,550. At the same time, the Creation Care and Environmental Justice Commission has identified the potential investment of up to an additional \$525,000 for solar installations.

### **Membership**

#### **Elected Members:**

The Rev. David Pfaff - 2023

Jon B. Boss, President - 2024

The Rev. Jack Koepke, Vice President - 2025

Tyrone Yates - 2026 (\*)

Patricia Hassel - 2027

*(\*) Tyrone was appointed by the Trustees to fulfill Nadya Richardson's unexpired term until the 149<sup>th</sup> Convention*

#### **Appointed Positions:**

Nadya Richardson - Treasurer

Andrea Owens - Recording Secretary

Christine Perme - Corporate Secretary

## **Non-canonical Commissions**

*(Commissions that are formed and carry out their mission at the direction of the bishop)*

Advisory Committee on Compensation and Resources\*\*\*

Campus Ministry Collective\*\*

Creation Care and Environmental Justice Task Force

Episcopal Community Ministries

Faith-in-Life

Latino Ministry\*\*

Minority Empowerment Initiative Trust

Procter Board of Directors

Reparations Task Force

Women's Ministries (Episcopal Church Women)\*\*

*\*\*no report filed*

*\*\*\*The work of the Advisory Committee on Compensation and Resources has been folded into the work of Diocesan Council in 2023 and will cease to function.*

## **Creation Care and Environmental Justice Commission**

Submitted by the Rev. Craig Foster, co-chair

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

The Creation Care and Environmental Justice Commission (CCEJ) entered our second year with enthusiasm and projects on our table. We appreciate the interest we see throughout the diocese and the support we are receiving.

Formation and Liturgy: Working with Faith in Life and the Canon for Formation, we engaged Deep Green Faith to develop creation inclusive worship options and season specific formation materials for Advent and Epiphany. Four churches agreed to pilot this program. There were varying results and we determined that formation materials need to be more specific to each congregation's needs. There are various interests and focus areas for each congregation and we concluded a diocesan wide approach to a specific formation program may not be the best way to provide materials. We will look at providing a variety of programming and materials as we proceed forward with the efforts of formation and worship materials.

Advocacy: Commission member Ariel Miller included frequent updates on environmental policy as part of her weekly public policy post for the diocesan e-News. The top challenges include gerrymandering (which contributes to policies favoring fossil fuels and undermining renewable energy) and corruption, which continues despite the conviction of former House Speaker Larry Householder this spring in the massive federal bribery and racketeering case over HB 6. We publicized opportunities to testify on bills that would repeal the coal plant subsidies in HB 6 and at least partially restore energy efficiency programs killed by HB 6. We have also alerted Episcopalians to a bipartisan community solar bill which would prioritize brownfield areas in Appalachian Ohio. None of our advocacy efforts have succeeded so far in achieving fair districts or stopping corruption. In addition, we have reported on SB 83, which has passed the Senate, and which specifically listed climate change as a divisive issue on which it would inhibit faculty in public universities from taking a point of view in class.

We also reported how to submit comments on fracking applications. State law now fast-tracks applications for fracking on public lands, and the growth of rural opposition to utility-scale solar generation projects, facilitated by a state law that now allows county commissions to block projects on privately-held lands even if they have been approved by the Ohio siting board. Other forms of electric generation do not face this hurdle. People working on a solar lease of Procter Farm land are watching this with concern.

Energy Efficiency Grant Program: In June 2023 the Creation Care and Environmental Justice Commission completed the Diocesan Energy Efficiency Grant program funded by the Trustees of the Diocese of Southern Ohio. We awarded grants up to \$10,000 to 57 congregations for projects to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings. The grant funds, a total of \$500,000, were made available by the Trustees of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, which announced the program in 2021. An additional \$125,000 in no-or low-interest loans was also awarded. The projects undertaken ranged from higher efficiency furnaces and air conditioners and controls to storm windows, retrofitted LED lighting, insulation, and higher efficiency dishwashers. In aggregate, the parishes are predicted to have a 3.9 percent reduction in energy costs, providing \$25,222 per year of funds for ministry of the churches and 662 metric tons per year of greenhouse gas emission reduction, equaling taking 147 cars off the road.

During the grant application period, the CCEJ leadership team contacted every congregation in the diocese to urge them to apply and worked with congregations that needed assistance in identifying energy-efficient improvements to make, conducting site visits as needed. The commission will stay in touch with congregations that have received grants, helping them sign up for Energy Stewards, a web-based platform that tracks energy use and energy reduction over time, and assisting with fulfilling other requirements of the grant.

In August 2023, the Commission made a proposal to the Trustees of the Diocese to fund a second, slightly different grant program. This request was for grants of varying sizes to fund small-scale ministries up to funding solar panels for qualifying churches. The Trustees' initial response was positive, and we await final approval of this program.

Divestment: During the 2022 diocesan convention, the Commission proposed a resolution (R2022-08) to strongly urge all institutions and congregations of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, "to engage the topic of divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in clean energy in a fiscally responsible manner by using resources from the Commission on Creation Care and Environmental Justice". This resolution encouraged diocesan organizations to determine the current percent of investment in companies holding fossil fuel reserves and work with financial advisors to develop a three to five year plan to divest from these investments, focusing on reinvestment in clean energy industries while maintaining expected returns on investment. In 2023, commission members met with a number of congregational leaders, vestry members, and clergy to answer questions, share suggestions, and provide general support of their movement toward environmentally-responsible investing. On October 27, 2023, the commission held an informational webinar to support these efforts as well.

Indigenous Peoples Day: Indigenous and Native American cultures continue to add to the spiritual foundation of environmental awareness with an emphasis that all of creation has a spiritual life – not only the pieces that we would consider obvious - but the earth, sky, rocks, water, plants as well as the "living" beings all have dynamic spiritual lives and actively contribute to the combined energy of the universe. The focus of the Cathedral's Indigenous Persons' Workshop in 2023 was environmental justice and care of creation with an emphasis on personal involvement.

Throughout the year members of the commission were fortunate to visit the Episcopal Church in Navajoland multiple times and witness and experience first-hand with involvement in this active Spirituality.

Green Team Cadre/Catechism of Place: In 2022, The CCEJ proposed a successful diocesan resolution encouraging all churches to engage in Creation Care ministry. Earlier in 2023, Commission members hoped to develop a cohort model to bring churches together who wished to start or continue Creation Care ministries in their contexts. The program was slow to start because of scheduling difficulties. As the CCEJ came to that realization, we also were asked to serve as a supporting structure for Megan Suttman and Jacob Taylor, two committed and skilled creation care leaders in the Cincinnati area, for a CoCL Grant to fund a program called Catechism of Place. The year-long program aims to work directly with parishes to assess their call to Creation Care ministry and how that call can come to life with their existing assets. They aim to engage parishes more directly with their land and encourage relationships between congregations and the creation around their parishes. Megan and Jacob have joined the CCEJ and, working directly with co-Chair Catherine Duffy, will reach out directly to

churches who were in the initial Green Team Cadre. Eventually, we wish to engage all congregations in this deep analysis and engagement with Creation Care ministry.

Procter Center: This year, Procter Center formalized their creation care mission through the First Gardener Program to increase peoples' abilities to connect more to nature. Procter Center Farm carries on the church-wide mission of Good News Gardens and uses numerous learning labs around the farm and woods to educate, inspire, and further connect youth and families to their faith.

Communication and Connection: The CCEJ continues to work on bringing together all those across the diocese who work in the area of Creation Care ministry. We host quarterly gatherings of non-Commission people engaged in this work, including those from Transfiguration Spirituality Center, Procter, Christ Church Glendale, Church of the Advent, and other locations. We are in discernment about how to make our activities known across the diocese and how to leverage social media and/or our web page to draw others into our work.

### **Membership**

Catherine Duffy, Co-Chair

The Rev. Craig Foster, Co-Chair

Ariel Miller

Dana Carlson

The Rev. Warren Huestis

Megan Suttman

Jacob Taylor

David Thomson

Bill Ubbes

Kyle Vath

Ken Wright

Danielle Vogel: Staff Liaison

# **Episcopal Community Ministries**

Submitted by Spencer Izor, chair

## **Mission of the commission**

Episcopal Community Ministries (ECM) is a major source of grants for the Diocese of Southern Ohio (DSO) congregational outreach ministries. Churches in our diocese are encouraged to apply for ministries that meet human need in their local communities. The purpose of these grants is to empower congregations to put their faith into action by expressing their Baptismal Covenant through hands-on volunteer commitments to serving their neighbors in need. The ministries awarded ECM grants are adhering to our theological mandate to *“do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.”* (Micah 6:8).

To qualify for an ECM grant, the outreach ministry must demonstrate congregational engagement through direct financial support and significant active participation by parishioners. Often the congregation collaborates with other churches, community groups, government programs, or 501(c)3 non-profit agencies. (Note: Endorsement of a third-party organization is not enough to qualify for ECM funds – church members must work cooperatively in the shared ministry and the church must also contribute financially.)

Projects that address a vital need and systemic issues in their community are prioritized, as are projects that best empower neighbors to get the resources and services necessary to overcome their situation. Fellowship is an essential component for any program. When awarding grants, the ECM Committee looks to see how the ministry incorporates *“love of neighbor as we are loved”* through compassion, grace, mercy, and justice, *“respecting the dignity of every person.”*

## **Meetings in 2023**

The committee met 4 times this year via Zoom.

## **Accomplishments in 2023**

- Increased outreach: ECM grants are funded by donations and by an annual draw from the Blanchard Memorial Endowment Fund established by the trustees of the diocese. Because the diocese provides staff support and covers office costs, there are very few overhead expenses. Every dollar donated to ECM goes to local church outreach ministries. In the past several years, ECM disbursed between \$70,000 and \$75,000 each year.

In early 2023 we discovered previously unspent funds allocated to ECM and used that money to better fund our ministries this year, adding a second grant cycle in Summer 2023. Traditionally, ECM had one annual grant cycle in the Winter. The \$108,500 grants awarded to 35 local outreach ministries in February and July are detailed below.

- Responded to escalating food insecurity throughout Southern Ohio with an ECM Special Food Insecurity Grant in the Fall: We heard from our food ministries that their communities were experiencing a growing sense of desperation as rising inflation, government cutbacks, and shrinking donations were pushing them to the breaking point. Our local congregations continued to serve with food pantries, blessing boxes,

community meals, collaborative gardens, and other feeding programs, but they were running out of funds by late Summer. Thanks to an anonymous \$10,000 gift, \$10,000 from the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, the September convention offering (\$2,820), and individual gifts designated for the food insecurity fund (\$2,756), we were able to award \$25,550 to 20 food ministries in the diocese the first week in October. We had originally aspired to award \$2,000 per ministry, but awards were determined by the funds raised divided by the funds requested (\$44,900).

- Welcomed new outreach ministries to ECM: The perception is that the same ministries are funded year after year. The reality is that the same ministries apply every year, so they are the ones funded. ALL ministries that meet ECM's application criteria (clearly stated on application) are funded. DSO congregations are encouraged to apply with announcements in e-Connections, on the website and in clergy newsletters. Missioners are asked to suggest ECM as a resource to their congregations. The Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee, and the Trustees of the Diocese are copied on ECM mailings. After three years trying to get ECM on church radars, we are finally seeing some results. More than half of the 2023 applicants were new to ECM – 31 out of 50. (Note – a few of the ministries new to ECM had previously applied to ECSF in the past).
- Increased diversity on the Committee

## 2023 Grant awards

<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Oct</b>
Advent - Cincinnati	Good News Garden	\$3,000		\$250
Advent - Cincinnati	Free Fridge	\$2,000		
Advent - Cincinnati	Open Door Pantry & Café			\$1,500
All Saints - New Albany	Garden for All	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$1,200
All Saints - Pleasant Ridge, Cincinnati	Summer Saints		\$2,500	
All Saints - Pleasant Ridge, Cincinnati	Pleasant Ridge Community Dinner			\$500
Christ Church, Dayton	City Heart		\$3,500	
Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati	5000 Club	\$5,000		
Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati	Queen City Street Choir		\$2,500	
Christ Church, Springfield	Christ Church Food Pantry			\$1,000
Community of the Transfiguration, Glendale	Food for the Soul			\$1,000
Epiphany, Nelsonville	Feeding Ministry			
Good Samaritan, Amelia	Food Pantry	\$2,500		\$1,200
Good Shepherd, Athens	The Sharing Cabinet		\$2,000	\$1,500
Grace Church - College Hill, Cincinnati	Community Dinner & Pantry	\$3,500	\$2,500	\$1,500
Grace Church - College Hill, Cincinnati	Summer Camp Reading	\$2,000		
Grace Church, Pomeroy	Steve Story Memorial Shoe Vouchers		\$3,000	
Holy Trinity, Oxford	Community Dinner & Blessing Bags			\$1,500
Our Saviour, Cincinnati	Food Ministry (3 weekly)	\$3,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Our Saviour, Cincinnati	Transformations CDC	\$3,500	\$1,500	\$1,000
Our Saviour, Mechanicsburg	Mechanicsburg Free Community Meal & Garden			\$1,000
Redeemer, Cincinnati	CoR After School	\$4,000		
St. Andrew's - Evanston, Cincinnati	St. Andrew's Food Pantry			\$1,100
St. Andrew's - Evanston, Cincinnati	Summer Camp Reading	\$3,000		
St. James, Piqua	Little Pantry			\$1,200

St. James - Westwood, Cincinnati	My Neighbor's Place Community Resource Navigator	\$3,500		
St. John's - Franklinton, Columbus	Nourishing Earth, Body & Soul	\$3,000	\$2,000	
St. John's, Lancaster	Blessing Boxes (4 church cluster)		\$1,000	
St. John's, Worthington	Friendship Dinner & Worthington Food Pantry			\$1,000
St. Luke's, Granville	Market Street Pantry		\$4,000	\$1,500
St. Margaret's - Trotwood, Dayton	Art Camp		\$3,000	
St. Margaret's - Trotwood, Dayton	STEM Camp		\$2,000	
St. Mark's, Columbus	Diapers & Spices for NNEMAP Food Pantry	\$3,500		
St. Patrick's, Dublin	CATCH Freedom	\$3,500		
St. Patrick's, Lebanon	Lebanon Food Pantry			\$1,000
St. Paul's Chillicothe	Blessing Boxes (4 church cluster)		\$1,000	
St. Paul's, Logan	Blessing Boxes (4 church cluster)		\$1,000	
St. Peter's, Gallipolis	Loaves & Fishes			\$1,000
St. Philip's Circleville	Blessing Boxes (4 church cluster)		\$1,000	
St. Philip's, Columbus	Community Youth Outreach	\$3,000		
St. Simon of Cyrene, Cincinnati	Pop-up mobile Valley Pantry			\$1,000
St. Simon of Cyrene, Cincinnati	Summer Camp Reading	\$3,000		
St. Stephen's, Columbus	Neighborhood Services		\$3,500	
St. Stephen's, Columbus	Street Church	\$1,000		
St. Timothy's, Cincinnati	Sandwich making for Our Daily Bread			\$600
Trinity, Columbus	In the Garden	\$3,000		
Trinity, Columbus	State ID Voucher Program	\$1,000		
Trinity, London	Madison County Food Pantry		\$3,500	\$1,500
Trinity, Newark	Market Street Pantry & Community Meal			\$1,500
Trinity, Troy	Torrence Medical Fund	\$2,500		
		\$64,500	\$44,000	\$25,550

## Goals for 2024

- Continue to encourage additional outreach ministries in the Diocese to apply for grants.
- Continue to enlist diocesan staff and DSO leadership (other commission committees) in support of ECM.
- Continue to address diocesan confusion about ECM identity and purpose and enhance interest in ECM's mission to fund DSO outreach ministries. Consider changing the name back to ECSF.
- Address limitations on fundraising opportunities inside DSO. Our dilemma is that donations are steadily decreasing as our donors are aging out, while our requests for funding have doubled.
- Pursue foundation funding, although it is challenging as ECM is not an independent 501(c)3 non-profit.
- Work with ECM committee on ways to better articulate mission and future direction.
- Continue to work with Canticle to publicize our mission

**Membership**

Lillian Balukjian-Thompson

Judy Battle

Rae Fellows

Spencer Izor

The Rev. Joanna Chin Leiserson

Jane Paraskevopoulos

The Rev. Michael Ralph

The Rev. Canon David Getreu, staff liaison

Andrea Owens, administrator

## **Faith-in-Life**

Submitted by the Rev. Canon Jason Oden, chair

### **Mission of the commission**

The Faith in Life Committee updated their mission statement in 2023: To foster diocesan lay formation and ministry that which is committed to the principles, values, and objectives found in the Episcopal Church's Charter for Lifelong Formation, Baptismal Covenant, Catechism on the Mission of the Church, Becoming Beloved Community Four-Fold Path, and the Presiding Bishop's vision of a "church that looks and acts like Jesus.

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

- Increased committee membership to 9 members to widen the breadth of wisdom about the diocese as well as parish and community life.
- Hosted Bridging Bitter Divides at St. Anne's in West Chester (80+ in attendance)
- Hosted Juneteenth celebration at All Saints in New Albany (100+ in attendance)
- Revamped grant offerings.
  - Small grants for individuals and small groups to cover costs of formation programming, continuing formation classes, workshops, and conferences; spiritual direction training, and pilgrimages (local and international)
  - Larger group grants to support lay formation and lay ministry in the local parish and community, especially conversations and workshops around Episcopal identity, mission, and Beloved Community.
- Funded the continuation and development of the "Alive" program by Fr. Jason Prati from All Saints in New Albany to be used by any congregation in the diocese.
- Funded the following Becoming Beloved Community activities and offerings:
  - StorySharing circles and leadership development
  - Social justice advocacy and activism
  - Care of Creation initiatives
  - Absalom Jones Symposium
  - Scholarships for Civil Rights Pilgrimage participants
- Granted over \$20,000 in grants to the following congregations and chapels for formation and missional programming:
  - St. Margaret's Dayton
  - Procter Camp and Conference Center
  - All Saints Washington Court House
  - St. Stephen's Columbus

## **Minority Empowerment Initiative Trust**

Submitted by the Rev. Benjamin Speare-Hardy, president

### **Mission of the commission**

The Minority Empowerment Initiative Trust (MEIT) awards grants to minority students. Black high school graduates living in the Diocese of Southern Ohio, who have been admitted to an accredited school or program of advanced learning are eligible to apply for a grant. Priority is given to those students with the most significant economic need, as judged by the MEIT board.

### **Meetings in 2023**

MEIT meets on the third Thursday of the Month at 6 p.m. at St. Margaret's Trotwood or via Zoom.

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

With the increase in the cost of education today. MEIT is impacting the lives of Black students across Southern Ohio. We are bridging the financial gap of struggling students to keep them in school.

MEIT has awarded grants to 11 students for \$ 34,140.

### **Goals for 2024**

The goal of MEIT is to continue financial assistance to as many needed Blacks in Southern Ohio as possible.

### **Membership**

MEIT Board is comprised of two representatives from the four African-American parishes in the Diocese of Southern Ohio and five bishop appointees from across the diocese.

The Rev. Benjamin Speare-Hardy, president

Ellie Johnson

Deborah Allsop

Judy Battle

Tyrone Yates

Michael Hughes

Dionne Clifton

Cynthia Turner

Lynnee Roberts

## **Procter Board of Directors**

Submitted by Elizabeth Barker, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

### **Mission of the commission**

The Center's Mission is to provide a safe, inviting, and spacious rural setting that cultivates spiritual formation, models sustainable living, and celebrates God's love and reconciliation through hospitality, prayer, study, work and play.

### **Meetings in 2023**

4 times at Procter Camp and Conference Center and via Zoom for those who were unable to travel to London.

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

- Very Successful summer programs including Day Camp, Youth Camp, Teen Camp and Silver Camp.
- After school and Respite camp programs
- Successful hospitality for several non-diocesan groups
- Hospitality for diocesan groups including clergy, bishop candidate meet and greet session
- Meetings of the Becoming Beloved Community group for two retreats and ongoing monthly meetings
- Hiring of a new part time Executive Director, Ms. Jerusalem Greer, who came on board the first part of October
- Hiring of a nationally recognized consultant to guide us in the Friends of Procter initiative, Mr. Joseph Merlino
- this is an ongoing and active group that has accomplished the first two phases of the plan
- Many physical improvements to the campus
- Completed detailed Facility Condition Assessment

### **Goals for 2024**

- Establish and activate a Friends of Procter core committee
- Establish Procter Center as a mission of the diocese for formation and Becoming Beloved Community
- Improve Procter Center's financial stability
- Excite members of the diocese about the opportunities and potential for parish fellowship programs
- Provide outreach opportunities for groups in the community and outside the diocese to experience Procter Center's environment of hospitality and sustainable living

### **Membership**

The Rt. Rev. Wayne Smith, President	
Elizabeth Barker, 1st Vice President	2024
The Rev. George Glazier	2023
Karen Ingraham	2023
The Rev. Warren Huestis	2025
Beth Benson*	2023

Annika Russo	2024
Jodie Emerson	2025
The Rev. Derrick Fetz*	2023

*\*bishop appointee*

Jon Boss, Trustees representative  
The Rev. Bruce Smith, Diocesan Council representative  
The Rev, Sallie Schisler, Church Foundation representative

## **Reparations Task Force**

Submitted by Diane Ebbs, co-chair

### **Mission of the commission**

Bishop Breidenthal called for the creation of a Reparations Task Force as part of his address to diocesan convention in 2019, the purpose of which would be to engage the diocese initially in a broad exploration of what reparations might look like in Southern Ohio. The task force was subsequently created. We have heard the call to be healers and repairers of the breach. We are committed to discern together how reparations can acknowledge harm and how we might listen deeply to our neighbors and churches. We are recommending and engaging in a variety of initiatives, including rebuilding, making amends, community engagement and advocacy.

### **Meetings in 2023**

We met monthly by Zoom.

### **Accomplishments in 2023**

One of our original assignments as a task force was to help create the position of an urban missionary. We have developed a job description based on a gap analysis by Black parish representatives. Funding for the position has been allocated and the position will be filled in the next few months. An Office of Black Missioner is being created.

Another assignment was the Parish History Project. This is meant to be part of reparations because it involves an effort to document harms done to marginalized people and help with repairing the breach this caused. In 2023, the effort was turned over to the Sesquicentennial Steering Committee and, through the work of our co-chair, a consultant was hired to help collect the parish histories.

Much of the work of reparations, including the truth telling and healing the breach, is now part of the work of the Office of Formation. A team of staff members and consultants that help implement the diocese's commitment to Becoming Beloved Community through such programs as Dismantling Racism, Sacred Ground and Social Justice Advocacy.

We are working with Canon Oden and Miriam McKenney to bring in a national speaker on reparations to help orient our new Design Team.

We continue to collect data on how reparations are implemented in other communities and dioceses.

We continue to be a voice for stopping the harms we still do to each other and fulfilling our Baptismal Covenant through building beloved community.

### **Goals for 2024**

1. Serve as a resource to the diocese on the subject of reparations and the needs of historically Black congregations.
2. Advise the new Black Missioner on contacts and resources.
3. Advise DSO 150 (Sesquicentennial Steering Committee ) on history and celebratory events.

## **Membership**

Dianne Ebbs, co-chair

The Rev. Karl Stevens, co-chair

John Harris, Advisor

Judy Battle

Frank Carr

Dionne Clifton

Venessa Gentry

Larry James

Lei San Liggins

Miriam McKenney

Laverne Mitchell

The Rev. Karen Montagno

Pamela Mack

The Rev. Christopher Slane

Tyrone Yates

The Rev. Canon John Johanssen, staff liaison

The Rev. Canon Jason Oden, staff liaison

## Other reports

### **Province V Executive Board**

Submitted by Edward, Lasseigne, diocesan representative

**Province V** is a network of 14 dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The Diocese of Southern Ohio is one of those 14.

*The Theme of Province V: CONNECT. NETWORK. SUPPORT.*

Connect people to people and people to resources.

Network to build communities across diocesan lines.

Support each other in a variety of ministries.

There are several resources available at the provincial level. Please review this report and share information with others in your worshipping community!

### **Leadership**

The Province V Executive Board is responsible for the operations of the province. There are 20 members of this board, which includes the 14 diocesan representatives, 2 members (one lay and one clergy) who serve on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and 4 elected officers. Each diocesan bishop appoints a representative, and I have been appointed to this task. You can see the full list of members here:

<https://www.provincev.org/exboard.html>

Board members meet monthly via Zoom to share resources from our dioceses and hear about and help develop provincial events and programming. Most board members also serve as a liaison with one of the Province networks; I currently serve as a board liaison to the Creation Care network. The board gathers in-person once per year to make deeper connections and get to know each other and the province better.

The Rev. Heather Barta serves as coordinator of Province V. Her role is to provide support to leaders of existing networks and create new opportunities for people across the province to connect with each other to build networks of support.

### **Campus Ministry Consultant**

Province V is currently discerning if they should hire a person to be a "Campus Ministry Consultant." This person would work with parish leaders to help them build relationships with the faculty, staff, and/or students of nearby post-high school educational institutions. We received a development grant from The Episcopal Church to help us during this time of discernment. We are partnering with Ministry Architects and they will be hosting listening sessions for leaders across the province to share their thoughts and ideas.

If you would like to participate in these listening sessions, please contact Heather at 989-413-3229 or [provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com).

More details about this discernment will be coming soon in the Province V Newsletter!

### **Creation Care Event – May 2023**

In May 2023, the Province V and Province IV Creation Care Networks gathered in Louisville, KY. The weekend was designed to help leaders of creation care ministries to have some time of learning and retreat. We learned more about our Biblical foundation of creation care, which can be helpful in teaching people that caring for creation is part of our Biblical mandate, not a political soapbox. We also connected with people about the ministries that they are doing locally and how we might be able to support each other. We had such a lovely and informative time that we are planning for another event in September 2024. See details about this event, and mark your calendars:

<https://www.provincev.org/creation2024event.html>

### **Big Provincial Gathering – April 26-27, 2024**

Please mark your calendars for the next Big Provincial Gathering!

April 25-26 – pre-event trainings

April 26, afternoon – Province V Synod (Synod Deputies need to attend and all are welcome)

April 26, evening – April 27 – Big Provincial Gathering (worship and workshops)

#### *Preparation Calendar:*

Dec 1 – Workshop descriptions due

Jan 5 – Registration opens with a discounted rate

Mar 1 – Registration cost increases

See all of the details as they post here:

<https://www.provincev.org/bpg24.html>

### **Networks**

<https://www.provincev.org/networks.html>

The networks continue to expand to serve leaders across the province. Networks are open to any person who would like to be connected to others working on similar ministries. If there is a network that you might find helpful, contact the coordinator, Heather Barta at [provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com).

### **Leadership Coaching Project**

<https://www.provincev.org/lcp.html>

Trained lay and ordained coaches are available to work with individuals, teams or groups on your goals and challenges. These coaches are available to any person interested in working on ministerial or personal goals. All coaches will provide a complimentary “introductory” meeting so that you can ask questions about coaching with them and get to know each other. Rural Area Ministry Specialists are available at a reduced rate to leaders in rural areas. (“Rural Area” is defined as a town with a population of 20,000 or fewer.)

### **Upcoming events**

**April 26-27, 2024** – Big Provincial Gathering and Synod, South Bend, Indiana

**Sept 12-15, 2024** – Creation Care Network Event, Louisville, Kentucky

### **Connecting to the Province**

Sign up for the monthly newsletter at the bottom of the website:

<https://www.provincev.org>

General Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ProvinceFive/>

Creation Care Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082984106362>

Dismantling Racism Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078969506674>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/provincefive/>