

The Episcopal Diocese
of
Western North Carolina
Convention Reports 2020



Formation & Spirituality



Report from Iona WNC School for Ministry

The Iona Collaborative is a coalition of almost 30 dioceses whose training and formation of vocational deacons and bi-vocational priests is facilitated through the Iona School at the Seminary of the Southwest in coordination with diocesan bishops, Commissions on Ministry, and local diocesan faculty. Each diocese buys the right to use the three-year Iona curriculum, a (mostly) video curriculum of lectures by experts in the various fields of theological education. Iona students spend an average of 12-20 hours per month in preparation for the monthly intensive weekend, where they go deeper into the assigned topics under the supervision of diocesan faculty. The deans of the various Iona schools meet monthly via Zoom, and annually for a Dean's Retreat – held virtually for the first time this year. Iona deans and faculty are actively encouraged to participate in ongoing offerings on topics chosen to enhance their ability to share in the formation of women and men for ordained ministry. The Iona School at the Seminary of the Southwest has partnered with a diverse coalition to develop innovative and timely programs for ministerial formation. The preaching curriculum has recently been revised in conversation with the Episcopal Preaching Foundation and Iona students are eligible to participate in Episcopal Preaching Foundation workshops with seminarians from traditional theological seminaries. Iona has partnered with Episcopal Relief and Development to create an Asset Based Community Development curriculum for Iona students. Our Dean for Spiritual Formation, the Rev. Deacon Pam Bright, is actively involved in this initiative. Both of our deans are participating in a year-long working group using the Episcopal Church's Sacred Ground anti-racism training, which will become a part of the Iona curriculum.

We began our first year of Iona WNC last January with a celebratory matriculation service at Lake Logan, the location for our in-person intensive weekends. A typical retreat weekend consists of Friday evening devoted to reconnecting and some immersion in spiritual practices of worship, meditation, contemplation, etc. Saturday morning classes are devoted to the study of Hebrew Scripture, led by our Old Testament Instructor, the Rev. Richard Biega. Saturday afternoons, are devoted to New Testament study, led by our New Testament Instructor, Ed Bleynat. We spend Saturday evenings studying topics related to leadership development. In addition to the Daily Office, prayed throughout the weekend, Sunday mornings include Holy Eucharist combined with a liturgics practicum. Second year students focus on Church History and Anglican Studies. Third year students study Systematic Theology and Christian Ethics. Pastoral theology, homiletics, contemporary theology, social justice topics, liturgics, world religions, parish administration and other topics round out the curriculum and are spread out over the three year course of study.

Iona WNC met in person at Lake Logan from January through March, when the coronavirus forced quick adaptation of our plans and procedures. We have continued to meet monthly, via Zoom weekends. We pray together, study and learn together, and have formed strong bonds of friendship and collegiality. We have had to compromise on our liturgics practicum and some of our plans for a variety spiritual formation experiences, but, as our only student is an experienced vocational deacon on the track toward bi-vocational priesthood, we are confident that this content will fit into years two and three of the program.

All of our Iona WNC participants and associates have shown great resilience, faithfulness and fortitude during this unpredictable season. The Seminary of the

Southwest has done a remarkable job in helping us to adapt to the challenges posed by remote learning. Bishop Jose, Canon Augusta, our Iona WNC Steering Committee, and the diocesan staff have been a constant source of wisdom and encouragement. We look forward to beginning Year Two of the program with two new Instructors, the Rev. David Henson (Homiletics), and The Rev. Judith Anne Davis, Ph.D. (Church History/Anglican Studies) and a new cohort of learners. We ask that you consider adding us to your parish Prayers of the People as we seek and serve Christ among you.

Faithfully submitted,

The Rev. Deacon Pam Bright
Dean for Spiritual Formation

The Rev. Margaret Ann Faeth, Ph.D.
Academic Dean

Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Convention 2020

Youth Ministry

In Person Events Held in 2020:

Dismantling Racism Retreat for High School Youth, January 10-12, 2020: Youth Dismantling Racism curriculum, created by the Diocese of Atlanta and the Absalom Jones Center, was used as the curriculum for this youth conference which took place at Lake Logan. Toni Belhu, Archdeacon Brenda Gilbert, Eden Lewis and Rev. J. Clarkson led the weekend for 12 youth.

Skate Party Event, February 9, 2020: Attendance was around 40 and took place the skating rink in Waynesville. This was also a fellowship event that included attendance from youth in the Western and Asheville deaneries.

Spring Conference, February 28-March 1, 2020: Great gathering of youth in grades 9-12. Our theme for the weekend was Love is the Way, which was a continuation from our fall conference. Bishop José celebrated Eucharist and lead the Blessing of the Seniors, which also included the seniors from our campus ministry at UNCA.

Virtual Offerings 2020:

Faith in an Anxious World: Offered online youth group, this spring, for middle and high school youth using the curriculum Faith in an Anxious World. Middle and high school youth across the Diocese participated.

Lunch Bunch: A spring offering that provided opportunity for middle and high school youth to connect during their lunch time, once a week, for a short devotional and conversation.

Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle for Youth Ministers: Oct to January: Youth leaders have had the opportunity to participate in the Sacred Ground curriculum, which is a 10 session filmed based dialogue series on race and faith offered by the Episcopal Church Office of Creation Care and Justice. We are meeting twice a month on Wednesday afternoons.

Dismantling Racism Series for Young Adults, Nov - Feb: Dismantling Racism curriculum, created by the Diocese of Atlanta and the Absalom Jones Center, will be used as the curriculum for this 6 session workshop series for young adults (college to mid- 20's). Toni Belhu, Archdeacon Brenda Gilbert and Eden Lewis will lead the series over six Thursday evenings from Nov. to Feb.

Health and Wellness Small Group: Will be offering a 26-week health and wellness small group for the youth council using the Living Compass curriculum for teens. We will meet once a week and delve into the five main points of living compass which are Heart, Soul, Strength, and Spirituality.

Live Compline: The youth council is leading compline live on Instagram on select Sunday evenings for the youth of the Diocese.

Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Convention 2020

Youth Council:

In 2020 we had a dedicated group of high school youth leaders who volunteered their time to plan events for the youth of the Diocese.

2020/2021 Diocesan Youth Council

Anna Anderson, Trinity, Asheville, Asheville Deanery
Harrison Best, Trinity, Asheville, Asheville Deanery
Jessie King, St. Luke's, Boone, Mountain Deanery
Hayden Marshall, All Saints, Franklin, Western Deanery
Owen McDaniel, St. Francis, Rutherfordton, Foothills Deanery
Carmen McKee, St. Luke's, Boone, Mountain Deanery
Bea Perez, All Souls Cathedral, Asheville, Asheville Deanery
Quentin Stalker, St. James, Hendersonville, Hendersonville Deanery
Maggie Stephenson, St. James, Black Mountain, Asheville Deanery
Lewis Stepp, All Saints, Franklin, Western Deanery
Sophia Varriale, St. Mark's, Gastonia, Piedmont Deanery – College Leader

Campus Ministry

PECM: Presbyterian Episcopal Campus Ministry

Over the past year, the Presbyterian Episcopal Campus Ministry (PECM) has continued to serve the students at Appalachian State University. Due to the departure of the Episcopal Campus Minister in September of 2019, Rev. Stephanie Hankins acted as the Interim Campus Minister until July when the Rev. Anna Shine was hired as the Missioner for College, 3rd Place, Creation Care, and Social Justice at Appalachian State University and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Boone.

With the onset of the pandemic, the normal patterns of the ministry transitioned onto Zoom meetings for the spring semester. The ministry has focused this year on testing out different kinds of spiritual practices, learning how to ground ourselves in our relationship with God to help us through the chaotic experiences of this pandemic. We meet outside, around 25-30 people, physically distanced and masked, providing an opportunity for in-person interaction in a safe way. So far, we have delved into practices such as:

- Gratitude
- Compline from the Book of Common Prayer
- Centering Prayer
- Soul Collaging
- Lectio Divina
- Prayer pals
- Creation care themed Eucharist with a celebration of Hildegard von Bingen
- Evening Prayer from the BCP for Ordinary Radicals
- Prayer Beads
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Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Convention 2020

We interspersed these practices with other activities such as scavenger hunts, trivia night, TED talks, and an intentional conversation about PECM and the LGBTQia+ community. On Mondays, we have offered a Bible study exploring the Gospel of Luke for this academic year.

Episcopal Campus Ministry at UNCA

UNCA Episcopal Campus Ministry is led by our Missioner for Campus Ministry, Kelsey Davis. This is her 1st year working with students on campus and caring for the campus community. Here are some of the elements of campus ministry at UNCA:

1. UNCA Faculty, Student Organization Leaders, and other students are aware of who we are and what our group hosts on campus as an Episcopal Campus Ministry. We attend the student organization fair held at the start of each school year, this year was a virtual student organization fair where we were able to share about ECM and connect with other student organizations on campus.
2. ECM has grown in student membership this fall. Relationships between students has deepened and we continue to expand our community through outreach, both in supporting other student organization events, and inviting others to join our gatherings.
3. Pastoral care is extended by Kelsey to all students in ECM and on campus. She seeks to provide a listening ear of loving support as students journey through their spiritual lives and social realities, with special attention to their wellbeing during the pandemic.
4. We seek to engage gatherings that weave spiritual formation, deepen social bonds, and address social justice concerns. Some of our gatherings this year have included:
 - a. Tuesday night Zoom meetings. Each week we gather on Zoom to pray, check-in, and learn together. Our learning topics have included: a series on vocation and a series on the parables. We will continue to explore different spiritual practices and forms of prayer as we move throughout the year via Zoom so that our whole community can be together.
 - b. Hiking. For those on campus, we have hiked together to build and deepen our relationship with one another. We plan to schedule more hikes!
 - c. Coffee & Muffins. We have continued the tradition of coffee and muffins by showing up on campus weekly (Friday mornings) to offer free coffee, donuts, and muffins. During COVID, we have reduced our offering to donuts and muffins. This is a sweet time of getting to know other students, faculty, and staff across campus and offer a no strings attached form of hospitality and love.
 - d. Supporting Student Orgs. We are always looking for ways to support other student organizations across campus. We were able to show up to support the painting of the Black Lives Matter mural on campus that was dreamed and implemented through UNCA SGA.

As we move through this school year amid our global pandemic, it is the hope and intention of ECM at UNCA to be a place of belonging and nourishment for our students. We are committed to finding creative ways to gather safely so that our students who are distance learning and our students on campus can stay connected with one another. Our students are engaging, open to new ideas, leaders,

Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Convention 2020

and eager to engage spiritual and faith life. They are deeply committed to various social justice issues and are passionate about exploring the intersection of faith & action.

Episcopal Campus Ministry at Western Carolina University

ECM at WCU is in process of being reignited through the collaborative efforts of Campus Missioner, Kelsey Davis, Rev. Gaelyn Evangrene, and St. David's parishioners. We are in the process of listening, learning, and discerning what shape ECM will take at WCU. Some highlights and goals for this school year are not limited to but include:

1. Connection to two students on campus. Two students have reached out to connect with ECM, have attended St. David's Blessing of the Animals Service, and are in weekly contact with Kelsey. They are currently attending ECM @ UNCA's Tuesday Zoom meetings to connect with students and participate in formation. In addition, Kelsey periodically, safely and distanced, shares time with our students over lunch and outdoor activities.
2. Connection to Rev. Gaelyn and parishioner, Kelley Dinkelmeyer. Rev. Gaelyn has been tremendously supportive this fall, and Kelley has stepped forward to be our faculty representative on campus at WCU. To become a fully registered student organization on campus, we need a roster of 10 students and a faculty rep. So, we are very grateful for Kelley's leadership!
3. Connection to other campus ministers/ministries. Kelsey has met with a cohort of other campus ministers from various denominations to connect in, learn from their wisdom, and discern how to engage in ecumenical collaboration.
4. Wednesday Walks. Kelsey is on campus (when available) on Wednesdays and has set up a simple way for folks on campus and from St. David's to sign up for a short, distanced walk around campus with her. These are 1:1 or very small group walks. This is an effort to build relationships across St. David's and with the wider campus community.
5. Goals for this year include but are not limited to: 100 points of contact (throughout school year) listening, learning, and introducing ECM; Joining the campus community (events, being present, ecumenical collaboration, virtual gatherings) to build solidarity and relationships across campus; Formation with St. David's (to continue discussing young adult realities through book studies, dialogue, speakers, research, and Safe Zone Training).

We are excited about the points of connection and growth that has occurred in just a few short months amid the pandemic. We look forward to continuing to co-create ECM at WCU with the collaborative love and support shared between Kelsey, WCU students, and the St. David's community.

Brevard College Campus Ministry

St. Philip's Canterbury@Brevard serves Brevard College students. During 2020, we have moved forward in a way to support our students and recent graduates in unique ways during the pandemic. We have offered food drop off and other support services to the students. Currently, we meet virtually each week. Thus, we are not limited by geography and are reaching some of our recent graduates. We have

Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Convention 2020

five active young adults who have transitioned from college to the professional world. We are hoping to officially begin a young adult group in January. This represents direct growth from the Canterbury group.

Historically, the college students have served in the nursery, served at the 9 o'clock service as acolytes, and have interned in the parish office. We hope to resume these activities when it is safe to do so.

Young Adult Ministries

Tapestry: Young Adult Ministry

Tapestry is a new ministry offered to students and professionals at Appalachian State in their mid-20s and 30s. They meet bi-monthly, traditionally at 3rd Place, but currently completely on Zoom due to the pandemic. This ministry is lay led by a graduate student at Appalachian State University with the support of the Rev. Anna Shine.

3rd Place

3rd Place is a collaboration between the Episcopal and Presbyterian (U.S.A) Churches in Boone that provides opportunities for people to experience a sense of connection, community, and belonging. We partner with a variety of faith communities, non-profits, student groups, and artists to create spaces where people can be known by their community, pursue justice, explore spirituality, and express themselves creatively. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the confinement of the building, and lack of proper ventilation, 3rd Place closed to community group in March of 2020 and has not been able to reopen this fall. We hope to reopen in the spring of 2021.

Blue Ridge Service Corps

In August 2020, Blue Ridge Service Corps welcomed its inaugural corps members. Anayancy, Bonnie, and Mayden are currently living together for our first official year of programming as an intentional community. During their service year, our corps members will live out the pillars of the Episcopal Service Corps: serving others in solidarity, promoting justice in community, deepening spiritual awareness, and discerning vocation.

For 2020-2021, Blue Ridge Service Corps has partnered with the following organizations: Bounty & Soul, Calvary Food Pantry/Calvary Episcopal Church, Creative Peacemakers, and the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina. Each of our corps members serves up to 32 hours a week at their internship placement, while practicing living in intentional community, and engaging in individual and communal formation.

The community of Blue Ridge Service Corps is multilayered and includes but is not limited to: corps members, BRSC Director Kelsey Davis, Missioner for Youth and Young Adults Eden Lewis, BRSC Advisory Board, community partner organizations, site supervisors, spiritual mentors, Diocesan staff, people of our diocese, and the Bishop. Our community is supported and upheld by *you*, the wonderful people of our diocese who love and care for us by supporting us with prayer and practical necessities. We are grateful for all the ways that you support BRSC to make our program possible.

Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Convention 2020

Some highlights of our inaugural programmatic year (so far) include:

- The arrival of our first 3 corps members.
- House Blessing and Dinner with the Bishop. Our liturgy was composed of curated prayers from our BRSC Advisory Board.
- Orientation Retreat. This included a deep dive into the ESC pillars, community hike, and beginnings of exploring the enneagram.
- Monday Formation. Each week the corps members, director, missioner, and other facilitators engage in intentional prayer, learning, and conversation around themes/topics pertaining to the service corps and emerging adulthood.
- Evening Prayer/Compline. The corps members engage in evening prayer at various times through the week.
- Spiritual Mentorship. Each corps member is paired with a spiritual mentor during their time with BRSC.
- Service in Solidarity. All of our corps members are actively engaged at their placement sites: learning from and listening to their neighbors as they seek to serve the community in solidarity.
- Monthly “Open” Dinners. The corps members have discerned and chosen a date each month to extend hospitality through opening their table to our wider community. The pandemic has put this on hold for now, and the corps is hopeful to open their table when it is safe to do so.
- Retreats. We are looking forward to our winter retreat in December at Lake Logan.
- BRSC Advisory Board Meetings. Our Advisory Board is active and supportive in a myriad of ways. We are so grateful for the many gifts and talents that each member of the Board brings to our program!

BRSC corps members live in intentional community at Folwell House, which is located on the property of La Capilla de Santa Maria. We are grateful to share the grounds with the La Capilla de Santa Maria community!

Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook for updates. Please visit our website to find out more information, how you can get involved, and ways to donate to Blue Ridge Service Corps. We would love to get to know you and connect with you!

Submitted by:

Kelsey Davis, Missioner for College Ministry at UNCA & WCU and Director of Blue Ridge Service Corps

Tina Holland, Brevard Campus Minister

Eden Lewis, Missioner for Youth & Young Adults

Rev. Anna Shine, Missioner for College, 3rd Place, Creation Care, and Social Justice at Appalachian State University and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Boone

Justice & Outreach



Report to the 99th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western North Carolina

Church of the Advocate, also known as The Red Door, has been a Worshipping Community in the Diocese of WNC since 1998, serving the marginalized and outside people in downtown Asheville. Overseen by the Bishop and funded through the diocesan budget, we are housed in Trinity Church's undercroft and also receive financial support from Trinity and other faithful parishes. These parishes, volunteers, part-time staff, and a Board of Advisors all work together to assure that the ministry is stable and that all who come to the Red Door will encounter the love and mercy of God.

The generosity of Trinity Church and the support of the Rev. Dr. Scott White and staff are essential to our existence. Many hands and hearts are needed each and every week for the worshipping community and its resources to continue and thrive.

The Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 1:30 pm is the hub and heartbeat of our community. Even though worship was postponed in March we have continued each Sunday to provide hot meals for the hungry. If you drive by, or stop and visit, you'll see a handwashing station, to-go meals and water, personal supplies, prayer and conversation going on. We've substituted recorded music for the live music, coordinated by Gerald Ashby and offered by several musicians from various churches. From Taize to old time gospel to Lauren Daigle, you'll hear sounds of worship and praise in the courtyard as we welcome all who come to us.

The meals we have served during the COVID crisis have been coordinated by the Rev. Deacon Tim Ervolina. They are a combination of donations from local restaurants through Food Connection, meals prepared and served by teams from Episcopal church partners, and items prepared in our kitchen.

Our Tuesday Lectio Divina has continued through Zoom meetings and is led by Br. John Heubner. While we miss the participation and wisdom of our homeless neighbors, we have had a circle of "advocates" in regular attendance. Lectio Divina is followed by a check-in of the ministry taking place among us during the week.

During this altered time in the life of COA, we have taken the opportunity to evaluate the services we offer:

- The Well is our renewed commitment to health and wellness. Brad Wilson, Nurse Practitioner and member of Trinity has completely updated the nursing room, medical supplies and equipment, and recordkeeping. He has trained several registered nurses and a social worker to be present and responsive to people with medical concerns on Sundays.
- Sole Mates, our shoe closet has been reorganized. Grants related to the COVID crisis have enabled us to purchase sturdy shoes in all sizes. People continue to donate generously both shoes and socks. We distribute an average of 25 to 30 pairs of shoes each month.
- The Basics, our supply of basic items for daily living, has also benefitted from current grants. Along with the meals we provide, we can see relief and hope on the faces of individuals when they are able to get something as basic as a toothbrush or deodorant.
- Counseling by licensed professionals is offered to our Good Works! Crew members free of charge.
- The Good Works! Crew program offers dignity through work and supportive counseling which leads to new skills and a solid work history and hope for a better life. We employ an average of six crew members who are paid an hourly wage through grant funds.

In lieu of planning the annual Fall Celebration Fundraiser dinner, our energies are going toward creating a comprehensive understanding of our past and engaging in strategic visioning for the future. A narrative is being compiled through interviews with past clergy and laity who have been leaders in this ministry. Minutes are also being reviewed to create a comprehensive understanding of our past. COA began as a ministry on the streets of Asheville. From its early sacramental presence, it developed into a worshipping community that has welcomed and embraced people from all walks of life. In developing authentic relationships grounded in mercy and dignity, by the grace of God we walk steadfastly with individuals as they strive for a life of purpose and meaning.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena Whalen (The Rev. Dr.)
Vicar, Church of the Advocate.

Global Mission Grants

Convention Report 2020

The Global Mission Committee is pleased with the Diocese of Western North Carolina's support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to end domestic and global poverty. Through your generosity, we support parish projects that make a tremendous difference in the lives of grant recipients. These populations represent the poorest of the poor. As we seek to address the root causes of poverty, we are serving as the hands and feet of Christ in our work together

St. Mathias-Asheville Consider Haiti- Children's Health Care and Nutrition

Consider Haiti provides pregnant goats and water filters to families of children who have completed the six-month malnutrition care and education program as well as parental training on water filter maintenance. This ministry offers new services to 120 Haitian families each year in Montrouis, Fond Baptiste and Ivoire. For the past 19 years, 2,000 families have received ongoing support. Amount: \$10,000.

Incarnation-Highlands Bon Saveur Childrens home Cange, Haiti

This project supports 25 abandoned children and babies housed in an orphanage and in the hospital complex in one of the poorest regions of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The children receive food, clothing, some toys and additional staffing through the generosity of our diocese. Ultimately, this ministry plans to build a new facility which will provide the children with modern bathrooms, bedrooms and outdoor space so that even children with disabilities can be outside. Amount: \$6000.

St, James- Hendersonville American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem- Ahlil Arab Hospital, Gaza City

This ministry provides psychosocial therapy to children affected by trauma in Gaza. 68% of school children who live near the perimeter fence have clear indications of psychosocial distress. Children witnessed violence first hand, knowing people who were killed or lost in their homes. 54% of these children have no hope for a brighter future. 81% of the children struggle academically due

to stress. The US eliminated funding to UNWRA the United Nations agency which supports these refugees. The diocese's support makes a tremendous difference in the daily lives of these traumatized children. The full cost of therapy and follow-up care for one traumatized child and their caregiver is \$500. A \$4,000 grant enables 8 children and their caregivers to receive treatment, care and support. Amount: 4,702.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Clare Barry Deacon
Committee Chair

Episcopal Foundation of Western North Carolina
2020 Report to the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western North Carolina

Established in 1962 by Bishop Henry as a non-profit corporation, the Foundation's funds are used to foster, develop and contribute to the support of the religious, educational and charitable work of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of WNC, or elsewhere, by making gifts, grants, loans and advances solely and exclusively for religious, educational and charitable purposes to any individual, organization, institution, agency or other body within the Church or associated or affiliated in any way with the Church.

Under current policy, the Foundation restricts fund distribution solely to grants up to \$20,000 per application. Also by policy, the annual distribution is no greater than 4% of the total fund.

Total Assets as of December 31, 2019: \$2,889,890

Total Assets as of September 30, 2020: \$3,093,033

2020 Board Members: Bishop Jose McLoughlin – Chair; Sherree Brady – President & Treasurer (St. Peter by-the-Lake, Denver), Steve Nesbitt – Vice President (Calvary, Fletcher), Dillon Manly – Secretary (Trinity, Asheville), Larry Burda (Holy Spirit, Mars Hill), Jo Ann Hasskamp (St James, Black Mountain), Kathy Ledbetter–(Trinity- Spruce Pine), Paul Ormond (St. James, Black Mountain), and Judy Teele (Grace, Morganton),

Grant distributions since 2019 Annual Report (October):

- All Saints, Gastonia: \$20,000 (12/2019)
- St. David's, Cullowhee: \$20,000 (12/2019)
- All Saints, Franklin: \$20,000
- St. Mary's/St. Stephens: \$20,000
- Lake Logan Conference Center: \$20,000
- Camp Henry: \$20,000
- Christ Church, Sparta: \$11,000
- Center for Spiritual Wisdom: \$10,000 grant approved for program subsidies to be used as needed by requesting parishes. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person programs were not possible. Use of the remaining funds will be available through December 2021.
- No grant applications were declined.

Other 2020 Business:

- Fiscal Ministries and the Foundation continue to meet in joint session four times per year to eliminate double grant presentations and improve coordination of various funds available to support the needs of WNC parishes.
- A new process was put into place to allow for review & approval of emergency grant requests that cannot wait until the next scheduled meeting. This is especially helpful for the two periods when there are 4 months between meetings.
- David Kelly of Bowen Hanes presented the year-to-date status of the portfolio at the February and August meetings.

- All documentation for grant requests and meeting materials is now stored electronically using the Basecamp tool provided by the diocesan office. Documentation is no longer emailed, and only authorized users have access to the materials.
- Per the By-Laws, the board appointed Jo Ann Hasskamp to an unfilled (vacated) board seat in August. The remaining term of this seat ends in 2021.
- The Foundation nominated two directors for their second, three year term: Kathy Ledbetter and Sherree Brady. Additionally, the Foundation nominated Dillon Manly, currently filling a vacated seat, to fill a first three-year term. These positions are elected by delegates to the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of WNC. Their terms will run from 2021 through 2023.
- Foundation vacancies: There are 2 open seats for the upcoming 2021-2023 term, and 1 unfilled seat for the 2020-2022 term.

Respectfully submitted – Sherree Brady – President, Episcopal Foundation of Western North Carolina

Human Hurt and Hope Fund Report

October 15, 2020

The Human Hurt and Hope fund was established over 20 years ago as part of the Centennial Witness Program. To date, the program has issued grants totaling 1.75 million dollars. The purpose of the program is to fund new ministries by encouraging parishes to address local needs by initiating new programs through their own volunteering and financial investment. Grants are issued to bolster the efforts of the local church and are available for up to three years to allow time to attain sustainability. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available with additional funding of up to \$25,000 available if the ministry collaborates with neighboring parishes, other churches and/or other community organizations. Grant applications for 2021 must be received by April 15, 2021. More information and application forms are available on the diocesan website.

Covid 19 has affected us all in so many ways. That includes HHH. The process was delayed to give applicants more time to get their paperwork into the diocesan office. This forced us to adjust our normal timeline. For safety reasons, we were not able to make our normal on-site visits. Instead, application follow-up was made by e-mail and telephone. I commend the HHH committee for their willingness to adapt to the new conditions and still take seriously their responsibility to be good stewards of the HHH funds while supporting the efforts of so many who are trying to meet the needs of those hurting during this difficult time.

This year, we received 10 grant applications requesting a total of **\$91,500**. After careful review, the committee recommended the approval of 10 grants for a total of **\$84,500**. Fiscal ministries and the Executive Council reviewed the recommendations and approved the grants. Checks were dispersed in mid-August.

One Time Requests - \$27,500

Church of the Advocate	Personal Care Ministry	\$10,000
Holy Spirit – Mars Hill	Esperanza Ministry (Latinx)	\$ 5,000
St. James – Black Mountain	Bounty and Souls (food program)	\$12,500

First Year Requests – \$15,000

Transfiguration – Saluda	Pop Up Pantry	\$10,000
Holy Cross – Valley Crucis	Bread for Life	\$ 5,000

Second Year Requests \$30,000

St. James – Hendersonville	Left Behind Project	\$12,000
Holy Communion – Ashe Cty	Back Pack Food Program	\$ 3,000
St. James – Black Mountain	Food Connection	\$15,000

Third Year Requests - \$12,000

St. James - Black Mountain	Hope For Tomorrow (housing)	\$7,500
St. Paul's – Edneyville	Food Pantry	\$4,500

It has been a joy to work with so many outstanding individuals on the HHH committee. Most have served as a favor to the bishop and to the diocese as their terms were expired. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact the diocesan office. The commitment is intense for about 6 weeks from mid April through the end of May, but the work is very rewarding as you get to see so many loving people trying to address the hurts of their community. We get to help by providing funds to make their impact stronger and their reach wider. Please prayerfully consider this ministry as a way of serving the diocese and more importantly helping God's people who are suffering.

I would like to thank the members of the 2020 HHH committee. They know I love them and have been honored to serve with them for so these many years. It is time for new blood to carry on the work. David Gribble will be continuing on and will need several people to help him fulfill the mission of the Human Hurt and Hope Fund.

St. Paul's Wilkeboro

Paul Dismukes

Trinity – Asheville

Claudette Forbes

All Saints – Gastonia

Ann Ives

St. Phillips – Brevard

Tim Rhodes

St. John's – Asheville

David Gribble

Good Shepherd – Hayesville

Respectfully submitted, Ron Rios – retiring Chair

Conference Centers & Institutions





Lake Logan Conference Center Report for Diocesan Convention November 2020

Lake Logan looked very different this year because of COVID-19. In mid-March, we shut down almost completely for about two months. Bit by bit, every scheduled group, almost without exception, cancelled their bookings through the end of the year. We laid off several full-time staff members and temporarily required furlough for the rest and laid off all our part-time staff. We cancelled the Cold Mountain Music Festival. It was heart-breaking.

As the state of North Carolina entered Phase 1 of re-opening in May, we began to re-imagine how we could live out our mission of welcoming all generations to experience restoration and reconciliation with God, one another, and all creation. We are fortunate to be stewards of this incredible property that provides so many outdoor opportunities. The re-imagining took the form of adding outdoor camping as an option for groups, focusing on family and small group gatherings, increasing day guest options, and experimenting with drive-in movies. Our average group size went from between 20 and 30 to between 2 and 4. We invited churches to hold drive-in church services in the field and baptisms in the river. We hosted small weddings for people whose big plans had to be cancelled. Take-out meals became the norm.

Despite the pandemic, by the end of December, Lake Logan will have served over 3300 individuals overnight and close to 2000 day-guests. Praise God - we were able to have Camp Henry on a much smaller scale. We have seen an increase in our volunteer involvement and have a faithful and growing crew that come out once a week to work outdoors and inside to keep Lake Logan going. People are still finding God and community in this holy place.

Thanks to the Match Campaign donors, we paid off almost \$400,000 of debt. Our current debt totals \$20,000 on a line of credit. We have not taken on any more debt this year, despite the challenges due to the pandemic. This is amazing news! We owe thanks to many friends who have donated above and beyond during the past eight months.

The beginning of March 2020 saw us poised to have our largest number of guests and healthiest finances ever. Because of the loss of revenue due to the pandemic we anticipate a deficit at the end of 2020 and a very challenging first quarter, but thanks be to God, this Diocese, and our many donors and supporters we are in a lot better position than we could be.

Board of Directors

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop, ex officio

Marcia Millar (2022)

Paul F. Dismukes, Chair (2022)

Carlyn Pheil (2020)

Randi Neff, Secretary (2021)

The Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer (2021)

Courtney Blossman (2020)

Jane Schronce (2021)

The Rev. Bill Breedlove (2022)

Lauri SoJourner, LLCC Executive Director, ex officio

Rob Elliot (2021)

Carol Tannenbaum, Diocesan CFO, ex officio

The Rev. Deacon Turner Guidry (2020)

Jessica LeFiles, Camp Henry Director, ex officio



SEWANEE

DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY

Located on the Cumberland Plateau in southern Tennessee, Sewanee is the Episcopal University. Coming to the Mountain can be like coming home. And we touch the lives of Episcopalians through a superb College of Arts and Sciences, a School of Theology with rigorous and innovative new programs and a commitment to supporting Episcopalians preparing for lay and ordained ministry, and a full slate of summer programs that enrich the lives (and faith journeys) of youth. To learn more, to recommend a student, or to become a partner with us in this important work, visit

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Report For DIOCESE OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA OCTOBER 2020

FINANCES (fiscal year ending June 30, 2020)

Diocesan donations to Sewanee: \$1,000

Donations from parishes in the Diocese: \$2,000

Percentage of parishes making donations: 6.06%

Financial aid to college students from the area: \$464,936

Financial Aid Awarded to Episcopal students (college and seminary): \$163,612

On average, dioceses received \$38 for each dollar donated to Sewanee.

DIOCESAN ENGAGEMENT MEASURES

College students from the area: 21

Episcopal college students: 8

Residential seminarians: 2

Advanced Degree Students: 1

DIOCESAN TRUSTEES

The Rt. Rev. Jose A. McLoughlin

The Rev. Dr. Gary Butterworth

Christina Butterworth

Bill Stiefel, Jr.

University Of The South ALMANAC 2020 - 2021

COLLEGE

Enrollment in the College: 1733

Class of 2024: 494

Number of applicants for Fall 2020: 4992

Percent of students who identify as Episcopalian: 22%

Percentage of first-year college students receiving a scholarship or need-based aid: 98%

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Residential Enrollment in the Seminary: 74

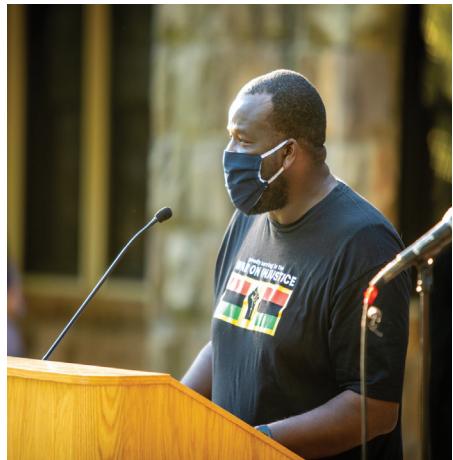
Summer advanced degree and non-degree enrollment: 74

Percentage of full-time, residential seminarians

receiving a scholarship or need-based aid: 95%

Average number of Education for Ministry (EfM) groups per Diocese: 8

Key Programs



Sewanee touches the lives of many people throughout the country and beyond through superb educational programs for college students, seminarians, lay leaders, and lifelong learners.

(Top left) Each summer high school youth ascend to the Mountain to participate in the **SUMMA Student Theological Debate Society**, learning formal debate and wrestling with important theological questions. (Lower left) The flagship program of the **Beecken Center, Education for Ministry (EfM)** has enriched the lives of thousands of Episcopalians, conferring a greater sense of ministry. (Top right) The **Invite Welcome Connect** ministry energizes congregations and leads them to greater thriving. (Middle right) Seminarians such as Malcolm McLaurin, T'21, find Sewanee a welcoming place to prepare for a call to ministry. (Bottom right) Seminarians such as Hannah Pommersheim, T'19, and college students collaborate on such investigations as the Roberson Project, which is looking critically and carefully at the history of the University and the church through the lens of race relations. To learn more, visit episcopal.sewanee.edu.

SEWANEE
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

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Deaneries



The Episcopal Diocese of Western N.C. Asheville Deanery 2020 Diocesan Convention Report

The Cathedral of All Souls, Asheville

In January of 2020, All Souls engaged “Ministry Architects” as part of exploring the best way forward to support the growth of Family Ministry; small groups focussed on racial and economic equity met throughout the spring to discuss The Cross and the Lynching Tree and the “Seeing White” podcast; March brought necessary adaptations to COVID-19, which meant a transition to virtual worship and formation options: pre-recorded services began March 22 accompanied by daily virtual reflections, musical offerings, and meditations sent to all congregants. A Discernment Committee for a new Dean was commissioned in May (the Rev. John Ohmer arrived as Interim Dean in November 2019, following the retirement of Dean Todd Donatelli in August of 2019). Mid-2020 brought many staff changes: the hiring of Interim Youth Minister, Miranda Norlin, two clergy departures, with The Rev. Milly Morrow now Rector of Grace, Asheville, and The Rev. Naomi Tutu now Associate Rector of All Saints, Beverly Hills, California; the hiring of Kim Miller as Interim Lay Pastoral Care Coordinator, and the promotion of Abigail Suarez to Parish Administrator.

Bible Study and Healing Prayer service have continued via Zoom; Neighborhood Groups are forming; a “Garth Guest” ministry formed which works in conjunction with Homeward Bound to minister to unhoused individuals finding their way to the Cathedral grounds; All Souls is undertaking a BeLoved Village Tiny Home Initiative, with the vestry approving a \$90k+ leadership pledge for this initiative; we held a virtual choir recognition and blessing of the backpacks; we conduct a virtual “mom’s happy hour” fellowship time weekly; we conducted a Blessing of the Animals Car-A-Van; Home Communion Pick-up Sundays and livestream services began in September; and in preparation for this year’s election, Episcopal Peace Fellowship prayer vigil began three weeks ago and will continue each Sunday until Election Day, and we conducted a voter registration drive in cooperation with the League of Women Voters.

Church of the Advocate, Asheville

Church of the Advocate, also known as The Red Door, has been a Worshipping Community in this diocese since 1998, serving the marginalized and outside people in downtown Asheville. Located in Trinity Church’s undercroft, COA is a ministry of the Diocese and depends on congregational support in many forms. A faithful core of partner parishes, volunteers, part-time staff, and a Board

of Advisors all work together to assure that the ministry is stable and that all who come to the Red Door will encounter the love and mercy of God.

The generosity of Trinity Church and the support of the Rev. Dr. Scott White and staff are essential to our existence. Many hands and hearts are needed each and every week for the worshipping community and its resources to continue and thrive.

The Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 1:30 pm is the hub and heartbeat of our community. Even though worship was postponed in March we have continued each Sunday to provide hot meals for the hungry. The meals we have served during the COVID crisis have been coordinated by the Rev. Deacon Tim Ervolina. They are a combination of donations from local restaurants through Food Connection, meals prepared and served by teams from Episcopal parish partners, and items prepared in our kitchen.

Our Tuesday Lectio Divina has continued through Zoom meetings and is led by Br. John Heubner. While we miss the participation and wisdom of our homeless neighbors, we have had a circle of “advocates” in regular attendance. Lectio Divina is followed by a check-in regarding the ministry taking place among us during the week.

During this altered time in the life of COA, we have taken the opportunity to evaluate the services we offer. The Well provides a registered nurse each week. The Basics provides daily basic necessities. Sole Mates stocks sturdy shoes and socks. Good Works! Crew is a program that provides grant-funded counseling and part-time employment to an average of six individuals.

In lieu of planning the annual Fall Celebration Fundraiser dinner, our energies are going toward creating a comprehensive understanding of our past and engaging in strategic visioning for the future. A narrative is being compiled through interviews with past clergy and laity who have been leaders in this ministry. Minutes are also being reviewed to create a comprehensive understanding of our past. COA began as a ministry on the streets of Asheville. From its early sacramental presence, it developed into a worshipping community that has welcomed and embraced people from all walks of life. In developing authentic relationships grounded in mercy and dignity, by the grace of God we walk steadfastly with individuals as they strive for a life of purpose and meaning.

Grace Episcopal, Asheville

The Rev. Milly Morrow began serving as rector of Grace Episcopal Church on Asheville in August 2020. Grace has an active YouTube services weekly, compline nightly, Bible study weekly and weekly Women Walking the Way Group spiritual direction.

Grace has had one outdoor service and we will have had 4 baptisms by November 1, with two more planned! Grace is in the midst of Stewardship season and on October 17th, had a day long Vestry Retreat where we reflected on how we can use our sacramental imaginations to become what we have received; which is the Love of God.

Grace is a sacred space where all are invited to experience the empowering presence of the living God and walk the way of Jesus.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Mars Hill

In this extraordinary time in our nation and in the world, with God's help, the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit has been faithful to our mission "*to be a welcoming, loving Christian community committed to serving God, one another and our neighbors.*" We began the church year (Advent 2019) with a four-week Advent season of "Holy Listening." The intent of this season was to listen and discern God's word to us regarding how the Holy Spirit is calling us anew to be God's people in and through our life and mission in Western NC. During the days following the Epiphany, we then engaged in a four-week season of "Holy Conversations" which consisted of two congregational sessions facilitated by "The Discernment Group," a team of four ministers and professionals trained at group discernment and conflict resolution. These seasons of Holy Listening and Holy Conversation were borne out of conflicted congregational meetings in 2019 regarding the possibility of our church becoming a Sanctuary Host Church for undocumented immigrants. In the end, our Vestry decided that we would not pursue becoming a Sanctuary Host Church because it was deemed that we were not of one heart and mind in our sense of calling to this particular ministry. Our congregation continues to engage in advocacy work with immigrants including active involvement in the Sanctuary Movement of Western NC and our ongoing support of La Esperanza Women's ministry in Madison County.

The sessions of Holy Listening were very attended and the level of engagement was strong. The experience of Holy Listening and Holy Conversations proved to be a time of deep reflection, careful listening, and honest sharing which lead to a deeper recognition and respect for one another and our many differences and yet our profound unity in Christ. Together we experienced God's healing and renewal in our call to embody God's grace and love in our lives, and in church, and in our common mission.

After the COVID pandemic restrictions were issued by our state government and Bishop Jose in March, our congregation pivoted to offering live, virtual (Zoom) morning prayer services on Sunday mornings. We also initiated Evening Prayer services on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and our many committees and ministries began working together virtually and in ways that abided by the safety

protocols needed to keep one another our ourselves safe. We have continued to meet virtually throughout this year at the recommendation of our Holy Spirit Regathering Team (consisting of church members who are medical doctors and public health professionals).

Though the pandemic has drastically affected us all, the needs in our community have intensified. In response, our Outreach Team has lead our congregation adapting while continuing to faithfully respond to the many needs in our community and beyond. The ministries which Church of the Holy Spirit has continued to serve include the following:

Neighbors in Need providing food, heating and utility assistance low income persons in Madison Co.

Madison County Friendship Fund- assisting in past-due electrical bills, rent, and mortgage assistance for anyone financially impacted by COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Housing Coalition-Facilitating home repair and rehab projects focusing on promoting healthy, safe and affordable housing in Madison Co. La Esperanza Immigrant ministry with immigrant Latina families offering weekly sewing group, fundraising activities to support community, ESL classes, childcare, transportation, assisting with communication with schools.

Ninos Creadores de Hisortia - an educational and nutritional support opportunity for at risk elementary school children in Guatemala. Providing the support through tutoring and nutritional program to first and second grade students in San Andres Iztapa, Guatemala.

Beacon Of Hope - provides food, emergency assistance, low-cost thrift store and advocacy to those in need. Outreach funds will be invested in our food program.

Church of the Advocate - providing worship and food for the homeless population in WNC.

Homeward Bound-supporting a motel shelter out of Red Roof Inn, Asheville including meals, access to mail, first aid, and referral to permanent housing.

Pisgah Legal – providing free legal services and advocacy for low-income people in WNC. Programs including children's law, homelessness prevention, domestic and sexual violence prevention, veteran's law, income security, and several more one-on-one services.

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Asheville

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer did not have services from mid March until mid August when we resumed services using Morning Prayer for our only service on Sundays. During our down time we continued to do some projects for the parish which were badly needed. We had three dead trees removed, one of which was in danger of falling on the church. We continue a beautification project of plantings in and around the courtyard; this has been ongoing for the past couple

of years. Our ECW has been collecting supplies for the school children of Woodfin Elementary as a community outreach program here in our neighborhood. We continue to meet for Morning Prayer on Sundays with a general attendance of 20-25 as that is the limit for indoor gatherings. We are in the process of replacing our carpeting in the church (the present carpet is over 40 years old) and we are preparing to have the parish house painted this fall. This is how we have been using the down time and looking forward to when we won't have to deal with the covid-19 any longer.

St. George's Episcopal Church, Asheville

St. George's in West Asheville has had an eventful year. The Rev. Deacon Michael Ashmore has joined us and we absolutely thrilled! Deacon Michael brings with him a wealth of experience in pastoral care, outreach, ministry, communications, and music. Rev. Erin continues to represent the Diocese as a board member for the North Carolina Council of Churches, where she serves on the Peace Committee and the Racial Equity Committee. She is also part of the Diocesan Steering Committee for the Commission to Dismantle Racism/Beloved Community. Rev. Erin has also been working with Rev. Oscar Rozo and Virginia Taylor to provide Spanish-language liturgical resources for the Diocese.

At the beginning of the year we welcomed Kairos West to St. George's! Their events and hospitality will share use of the space alongside Center for Art and Spirit events. As both Kairos West and Center for Art and Spirit events have been cancelled and/or moved online, we have been able to offer our space in two new capacities. As of this Spring and Summer we have become a polling location for West Asheville. We've also transformed our fellowship hall into a food pantry/distribution point for folks in the transgender/non-binary community through the work of Tranzmission. Working with the non-partisan Blueprint NC and our election officials, St. George's will be a Safe Site Polling Location for the General Election, meaning that we will have a strong, trained volunteer presence to help keep voters safe, supported, and entertained. In March, as COVID hit this part of the country, we moved to online services. We have had as many as 8,000 people view some of our services, and we have several new members who have connected with us since the beginning of the pandemic. In all of this, and in so much more, we feel the powerful movement of the Holy Spirit among us and within us, and we are deeply grateful.

St. Giles Chapel at Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community

Coronavirus has changed almost everything. It certainly has at St. Giles. And yet the core of our ministry remains the same. As most know, St Giles has been at the heart of Deerfield's mission from the very beginning, and nothing has

changed that. Our primary calling is pastoral visitation, and in this time of pandemic when we can't safely offer in-person chapel or memorial services, we are spending even more time with all our residents at Deerfield. As chaplains, we feel quite fortunate to be included as critical members of Deerfield's Health and Wellness team, having been given access to move throughout the community wherever we are most needed.

Specifically, it has been one of the very greatest privileges of my nearly 25 years of ministry that for the first six months of the pandemic we could visit residents in skilled nursing and assisted living, even and especially when their spouses and loved ones weren't allowed to and weren't able to connect with them through modern technology in the way most of the rest of us were. And then we could take reassurances and messages of love back-and-forth between those loved ones, particularly to and from those suffering under severe isolation and with dementia-related issues. This perhaps is just one way we can continue to be "ambassadors for Christ," as St. Paul put it, during our time, emissaries of the king of shalom, liaisons of God's never-failing love.

And the other great privilege during this time has been to work with employees and their families who have been struck with sudden and severe medical bills because of the pandemic and their work at Deerfield on our behalf. Their appreciation of our assistance, which is only made possible through Deerfield resident and staff contributions, makes every effort worthwhile. So we know, just how fortunate we are, particularly in comparison to other places of worship, communities and chaplaincy programs. It is our privilege to serve this outstanding Episcopal community, in these extraordinary times of illness, and we are truly thankful.

St. James Episcopal Church, Black Mountain, NC

The community at St. James lived into the pandemic crisis as it has historically lived—with deep commitment to one another, to the vulnerable, and to remaining present to the sacred mysteries embedded in the human experience. Connection to one another is grounded in Holy Eucharist on Sundays via zoom and utilizing reserve sacrament distributed quarterly to each household. Families with children meet on Sundays outside for Godly Play and a wild rumpus at Bloom Flower Farm. An illimitable music director creatively finds ways to grace the Zoom experience with sacred music. Mid-week the community gathers via for contemplative prayer and a ritual of anointing. The community engages in vibrant classes that include Sunday Adult Forum grounded in the traditions of mysticism, a mid-week study on *A New New Testament*, EFM, and Conversations that Matter in which community members examine systemic racism and white supremacy. Most

of all, the community at St. James looks out for one another and loves each other well.

In partnership with Bounty & Soul, 2500 people are fed each week from boxes prepared in the parish hall. The St. James Foundation has made grants this year in support of the COVID-19 crisis to Bounty & Soul, Black Mountain Counseling Center, Food Connection, and the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry.

A special way clergy connect with the St. James community is through daily *Meditations in the Time of a Pandemic*. These meditations are meant to encourage nurturance of our soul work through this unprecedented time. In this way the community at St. James is walking together into the moment we are living.

St. John's Episcopal, Asheville

St. John's is blessed with skilled lay leaders who have implemented the technology needed for live-streaming and recording our services in this strangest of times. The first three months of COVID were harried, stressful, much extra work for our team, and just plain difficult with intense focus on the medical news, videography, logistics, weekly changes, updates and tweaking to improve the audio and video worship experience.

We all missed each other and Eucharist. A Buddy Team plan was devised and implemented.

None of our members have developed the virus, though some friends and family members have. Our members have been quite generous with time, talent and treasure as they are able. We have hosted weekly Bible Study, Lectio Divina, coffee hour, compline and Sacred Ground (monthly), all by Zoom.

We began outdoor Sunday worship under the maple tree out front in late June, and have not missed a Sunday since; we believe it has been divine intervention in the weather! It has been great to see one another, those who feel comfortable attending. We began Eucharist in one kind in September. Our small Saturday evening group have all returned to worship in person outside, and we enjoy the sense of "wholeness" there.

We resumed our monthly breakfast for the Haw Creek community - carry-out only - in August, and have engaged in a few outreach efforts. We are involved in a congregational discernment process about whether to add solar panels to the parish hall, which is rather exciting in this time.

We give thanks for God's love, care and blessing in this time, and we look forward to the day all of us can gather together around the altar once again.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Asheville

St. Luke's continues to reach out to parishioners and the community as best it can. We have hosted Zoom services on Sunday mornings and throughout the week, as well as holding and outdoor services this summer. Although we were not able to volunteer with Room in the Inn in person, we raised a St. Luke's record-amount of donations for Homeward Bound this year. St. Luke's is a neighborhood polling site for the first time since the 1980s. The congregation also is taking this opportunity to do need repairs on the church building and care for the grounds. We are grateful for God's presence in and through this time.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Asheville

In January St. Mary's celebrated Genelda Woggon's 60 plus years of ministry on the occasion of her retirement as a Catechist. Genelda was made Queen of the Boar's Head at our Twelfth Night celebration which included a medieval banquet, madrigal singers, a video tribute, and a jester.

In February St. Mary's welcomed the Rev. Dr. Anthony Sgro as our new parish deacon. Outside of his service at St. Mary's Deacon Anthony is the Head of School at the Asheville School. He and his family (wife, Faulkner and children Houston, Bagley and Gigi) come to us from the Diocese of Atlanta.

More recently a deacon from the Diocese of New York who has retired to the area has begun a conversation about becoming part of St. Mary's. St. Mary's afterschool program, Charlotte Street Kids, became a casualty of the pandemic and closed at the same time as the public schools. It is unclear at this time if it will restart.

We began in person outside worship in September. We have a covered "outdoor parish hall" that we can leave set up for worship. This keeps us from having to set up and take down each week. We have two services (9:00 and 11:00) with a limit of 25 at each. We have yet to reach maximum capacity.

St. Mary's continues to do what good we can when we can. We recently provided dinner for 65 people housed at Red Roof Inn during the pandemic through Homeward Bound.

This will be the first year since 2013 that St. Mary's did not make a visit to our companion parish of San Felipe in Limonar, Cuba. We keep up with our friends through email and Facebook but that is not the same as seeing them in person. The inability to travel and recent regulations put in place by the Federal government have made it impossible to deliver our annual financial support which is especially needed at this time as the economic impact of the worldwide pandemic has been particularly brutal. Still, our Cuban brothers and sisters are resilient and are facing the difficulties with the same determination they have always had.

St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Asheville

Trinity Episcopal Church, Asheville

In midst of the changes and uncertainty of the past year, Trinity has both innovated and deepened its ministries in downtown Asheville in ways our parish never quite expected. Yet we have adapted to this new reality and continued our commitment to witness to the work of God's Spirit and to the ongoing need for God's mercy and justice in our world. Like others, our worship moved primarily to online formats for much of 2020. We immediately began livestreaming our services and as restrictions eased began regathering in limited numbers.

Throughout 2020, our parish adult, youth, and children's formation programs have continued uninterrupted, though adapted as appropriate and we have actually increased our offerings through weekly video meditations, a parishwide Bible study, and weekly children's story and song time and seen participation increase correspondingly.

Trinity, though, has expanded the ways in which we remain connected in worship, discipleship, and fellowship not just with our own parish but with our sibling churches on Church Street as well, through the recently established Church Street Collaborative. This partnership has borne deep fruit through a shared online worship service in September and through shared public witness in a public prayer vigil in June in the wake of the shooting death of George Floyd. Hosted on Church Street, the service was led by leaders of local Black churches and Asheville city officials. In terms of mission, Trinity continues to deepen its intimate partnership with the Church of the Advocate, which has its home on Trinity's campus. None of us knows what the next year will bring, but with faithfulness, we know that God will continue to be at work in and among us and for that, in spite of the difficulties of the past year, we give thanks.

Foothills Deanery Report to the 98th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western North Carolina

The Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement continues to thrive in the Foothills Deanery which is comprised of eight parishes: Grace Episcopal Church, (Morganton); St. Alban's Episcopal Church, (Hickory); St. James' Episcopal Church, (Lenoir); St. John's Episcopal Church, (Marion); St. Mary's and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, (Morganton); St. Paul's Episcopal Church, (Lake James/Morganton); St. Paul's Episcopal Church, (Wilkesboro); and the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, (Hickory).

Clergy transitions: The following clergy transitions have taken place since last year's convention: In February, the Rev. Kris Kramer was called as the interim rector at St. Mary's and St. Stephen's; in August, the Rev. Erin Kirby was called as the rector at St. John's, and the Rev. Stephanie Parker was called as the interim rector at St. Paul's, Wilkesboro. Also in August, the newly ordained the Rev. Jared Grant became curate at the Church of the Ascension as part of the curacy program in the Diocese. We are excited and welcome these clergy to help lead God's work in our deanery. In October, we also said goodby and bid farewell to the Rev. Margaret Ashby who retired from her ministry as rector at St. Paul's, Lake James. We are grateful for her ministry, and rejoice with her on her retirement.

Parish reports

Grace Episcopal Church - Morganton: Grace Episcopal Church celebrated 175 years of mission and ministry in 2020! Although the COVID-19 pandemic dampened our ability to gather and celebrate the way we had intended, the spirit is certainly at work! Plans for a parish-wide retreat at Lake Logan have been pushed to 2021, but other mission initiatives, including partnering with the Community Foundation of Burke County to establish an emergency relief fund for nonprofits who need funding due to COVID-19 costs or revenue losses, feeding ministries, and support for frontline workers, continued. We also bade farewell to The Rev. Deacon Mike Jenkins, who retired after more than 20 years of ministry as a Deacon, and more than 10 years at Grace. Looking ahead to 2021, Grace is entering a season of renewed ministry and engagement with the community. God is surely in the midst of us!

St. Alban's Episcopal Church - Hickory: Since March of this year, when our worship, ministries, and daily church operations needed to be adjusted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our common response has always been: *the church facilities may be closed, but our worship and work as the Living Body of Christ has not.* We began to implement new ways of being church; ways that few of us, if any, could ever imagine. We have utilized the social-media platforms of Facebook and YouTube, and the video communication service of Zoom to stay connected with prayer and worship, ministries, and meetings. Pre-recorded services of Morning Prayer have been offered throughout as the principal service for Sundays, and the

service of Compline has been an ongoing offering throughout the week on Zoom. Video recordings continue to be offered, highlighting our children's ministry, choir ministries, and *the Work of the Holy Spirit amongst us* - video clips of different ministries at work. This summer and with *Phase II* guidelines to the pandemic, small ministry groups began to meet in our new pavilion that was completed in the beginning of the year. A welcoming addition to our facilities the pavilion has served us well as small groups were able to meet under cover from the sun. In September and October we began *in-person* Sunday service of Holy Eucharist in the pavilion. At present, and with cooling weather, small groups are now allowed to meet inside, and beginning November 1 - Feast of All Saints, *in-person* service of Holy Eucharist will be moved inside. It goes without saying that all gatherings on church grounds, worship, small groups, and ministry gatherings follow strictly the health guidelines as directed by the Diocese, and we are thankful for the cooperation and response from our parishioners to help keep everyone safe as best we can. We are also grateful for the generous hearts and commitment of our parishioners to the work that God continues to call us to do in the name of our Lord, Christ Jesus!

St. James Episcopal Church - Lenoir: The pandemic has totally restructured our parish life, but not our ministry. We continue to gather - but online - for worship, learning, and fellowship. With creative use of "Communion Under Special Circumstances" and strict sanitary procedures, the vestry has been able to deliver communion to parishioners' homes once every month beginning in May (averaging 75-80 homes and 140 people monthly) and will continue that until this is over. In September we began hosting the Sacred Ground conversations (curriculum from the Episcopal Church) and have 50 people from across Lenoir taking part (every other week on Zoom). We gathered for outdoor worship a number of times during the summer, and are beginning small indoor worship gatherings in mid-October, but will also continue our weekly online worship for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately we had one parishioner die from COVID-19. We are grateful that the others in our parish who contracted the disease have managed to get through it.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Lake James / Morganton: We began the year worshipping in the Parish Hall during repairs to the foundation of the Narthex of the Church building. The repairs were finished in early March and we expected to resume worship in the Church building. However, that was not to be as the following week all services were suspended by the Covid-19 pandemic. During this time the business of the church has continued, including a full audit by the Diocese Audit team, general pastoral care, continuing financial support by the congregation and publication of the newsletter. There have been no in-person worship services at St Paul's from March 15th until we had our first our door in-person worship service of Morning Prayer on October 4th. During the suspension of services a Home Bulletin for Morning Prayer, the Weekly Bulletin Insert (with the readings and announcements), and a Sermon (both text and audio) were provided to all regular attendees. Everyone was encouraged to worship at home, as was the historical practice of the early church and on the frontier in the early history of the US. Some did, some didn't. When North Carolina

entered Phase III, the rector called each household and by a vote of 2:1 the congregation is in favor of in-person services. A Re-Opening Committee has made careful safety plans for outdoor worship. 27 people attended the first service; our previous average attendance is about 38. It is assumed that as the weather gets cooler services will move inside. At the October Vestry meeting, Rev Margaret Ashby announced her retirement effective the 31st of October. At this point in the pandemic, the congregation of St Paul's is faithful and resilient, making plans to continue and go forward into the future.

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension - Hickory: Like everyone else we keep adapting to Covid. In March we began recording Morning Prayer for our principal Sunday service, and we moved all of our daily morning prayer and compline services to zoom. In July we began in person gatherings to celebrate Holy Communion in our memorial garden. We continued with all of the zoom and recorded morning prayer and compline services as well. We are blessed with a beautiful garden surrounded on three sides by the church, and one side by a stone archway. It feels like we've entered the middle ages as we gather with masks and socially distanced chairs in our cloistered garden to pray and listen to cantors, distanced far apart from one another, chant hymns to us through the open stain glass church windows. We've also enjoyed listening to the organ concerts through the open windows. We've read our way through an abundance of beloved children's stories and posted them online to calm our frayed nerves. We have some sort of study class once or twice a week, mostly via zoom. We've learned more about technology than would have thought possible a year ago. We were blessed in July to celebrate the ordination of The Rev Jared Grant to the sacred order of priests. We are excited to be part of the curacy program in the Diocese and very thankful for all the great ministry Jared is doing as a curate here at Ascension. In addition to helping out in all parts of parish ministry Jared provides leadership to our mission and innovation task force.. This group is beginning a process of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), a tool recommended by Episcopal Relief and Development, as a way of identifying where God is calling the church in the midst of all that is going on around us. In August The Rev. Karla Woggon began her 14th year at Ascension as Rector and will celebrate her 25th year of priestly ministry in December. The Rev. Anita Ware continues to serve as a Deacon at Ascension while preparing for bi-vocational priestly ministry through her study with the Iona School or the Diocese of WNC. We are also blessed to have The Rev. Becky Rowell from the Diocese of Georgia as a volunteer summer associate.

With clergy leadership transitions at St. John's, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's, and St. Paul's - Wilkesboro, reports were not available at the time this report was submitted.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Tryggyvi G. Árnason
Rector: St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Dean, Foothills Deanery.

The Hendersonville Deanery began 2020 with a new dean and a resolve to re-invigorate our connections to one another and the ministries we share. Following an organizational meeting in February, however, we were stymied by the same pandemic which has challenged the diocese as a whole. Nevertheless, we sought new ways of being together and embraced the technology which we were using in each parish as a means to gather as a deanery. Slowly but surely, we have found the gift in being present to one another is essential to our work of building up the saints in this deanery.

At this time, all of our parishes are offering worship online, either via live stream or recorded video. Most have also offered in-person worship outdoors, with several moving to worship indoors with continued online presence. Each parish has made its own choices about how and when to celebrate the Eucharist and distribute the elements of communion, reflecting a diversity within the unity of our church. This diversity has also been reflected in the pace and urgency with which each parish moves to regathering in person.

In the coming year, this deanery will continue to work on a pattern for our common life. While the ongoing pandemic will certainly present challenges to gathering, we know that Christ is present in this work. Through our efforts to connect, collaborate, and communicate, we hope to be better prepared for equipping parishioners to do the work of the Church in the world. We are grateful for the strength of this deanery as it is reflected in the myriad expressions of God's love in the life of Episcopalians here.

Piedmont Deanery Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace and grace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This Covid virus has changed the way we live our lives and even the way we plan for tomorrow. Family trips have been canceled, Children are in school, no they are not, yes, they are. College football are on again, off again, and Church worship for some are everywhere from only live stream to fully back to no restrictions, (God will protect us.) What we have learned is that church is more than brick and mortar.

St. Mark's Gastonia

St. Mark's in Gastonia is doing more mission work outside our parish and more ministries within. We have improved and updated our communications by publishing a wonderful quarterly magazine. We are extending our parish communication and combining it with Evangelism through our Live Streaming, and we are seeing between 300 – 400 families watching our Sunday services.

We have broadened our program for our families with young children by adding our family service with the puppet shows and praise team. We are now offering Morning Prayer and Compline four days of the week which is reaching 20 – 50 people a day. Our EfM program continues with a great class of new students, our new book studies and morning Bible study are still strong. In the past 7 years we have had 8 people enter discernment seeking God's purpose for their gifts of ministry.

Shawn Griffith

All Saints Gastonia

All Saints Gastonia is immensely proud of how we have adapted in the Covid-19 pandemic and have maintained worship and vital ministries. We have not missed a church service this year as we immediately started Zoom services when in-person worship was not possible. In the Zoom services, we have shared an interactive experience with many different readers and music. We also enjoy fellowship in a virtual coffee hour. We continue readiness planning for a return to in-person services. This has kick started the development of future capabilities to offer more variety in services going forward, including live streaming.

All Saints Gastonia has also continued to serve our parishioners and the community through outreach programs, in some cases adapting to deliver them in new ways. We continue to provide meals through Salvation Army and the Weekend BackPack Food Program. We have also found new ways to provide financial and other support for ministries such as Crisis Assistance Ministries, providing school supplies to a local elementary school and our local Angel Tree program. In fact, we have had our most successful financial support for these programs from our parishioners in years, in part because of their generosity but also because we tried new things.

While our facilities have not been open for worship and meetings, we have been very active in using this time to maintain and improve our buildings and grounds. We have successfully

replaced four HVAC units in our Sanctuary and Education Building, replaced a hot water heater and done extensive improvements and maintenance on landscaping and facilities.

We appreciate the leadership of The Rev. Dr. Alicia Alexis, our Interim Rector and the work of our Vestry, staff and volunteers through these difficult times. Throughout it all, our Discernment Committee has continued the process towards calling our permanent rector and we believe that the experiences of the last year have prepared us for that transition. We are deeply grateful to God for His gifts and graces which has given us strength for the journey. We are grateful to Bishop José, Canon Augusta, Fr. Shawn, Piedmont Dean of the Deanery, Diocesan staff, and all of our brothers and sisters for your faithful support and service. More importantly, we are grateful that despite the challenges we face, we are able to continue to proclaim God's word with our hands and feet to make a difference in our world.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Alicia Alexis, Interim Rector

Saint Francis

All things considered Saint Francis is in a good place as we move forward with discernment for a new rector. No doubt, these present times have had some negative effects, but I am encouraged by the resiliency of the parish. Saint Francis enjoys faithful and dedicated leadership. It has been a pleasure to work with them in these trying circumstances and I am encouraged about the future of the parish.

For much of the year, we have been live streaming Sunday morning worship. There has been a small but faithful on-line check- in each Wednesday which has morphed into an outstanding study on prayerbook and hymnal lead by our new staff member, Thomas Alexander. The men's group has renewed in-person meeting and our DOK remains active mostly on-line with some in-person contact, all adhering to appropriate protocols.

During the year, we were able to complete an upgrade to our handicap entrance to the rear of the property, a project three years in development. I offer special gratitude to all those past and present who worked diligently to make this much needed improvement happen. We also made significant improvements to our audio-visual capabilities due to a grant from the diocese and the volunteer labor of knowledgeable parishioners. I offer appreciation to all.

Another highlight was a special weekend celebration of Saint Francis, built around a spiritual retreat led by Mattie Decker and a liturgy for the blessing of the animals. Our parishioners have been encouraged to walk with Francis in the days ahead in the hopes that this will allow a more faithful transition to a new reality post our present one.

The search for a new rector is now taking wings as a profile is complete and we are prepared to move into the next phase of asking for candidates to make their wishes known. Of special interest is a growing relationship with Saint Gabriel's Church. While we are not seeking a merger, there is genuine interest in deeper involvement with each other including the sharing of a rector. The possibilities this deeper togetherness brings is an exciting challenge, one that could make us all a better and more faithful remnant of the people of God in Rutherfordton.

All in all, we are encouraged by the strong ties that bind, the leadership in place to make it happen, and the possibilities for a more faithful response to our Lord as we seek to serve and love one another!

Faithfully,

Fr. Bruce Walker+

St. Peter by-the-Lake

St. Peter by-the-Lake has continued ministry during the COVID pandemic which began here in March of 2020. We have continued our many ministries in the safest possible manner, using best practices from both the diocese and the North Carolina Department of Health. Below are some examples of how our parish has continued in mission and ministry:

1. We have continued our weekly support of our local nursing home in Denver, the Lakewood Care Center. They have been on ‘lockdown’ for the past eight months, with no visitors from the outside allowed. Despite that, our parish has continued to collect and deliver fresh fruits and vegetables, along with personal hygiene items. Deacon Judy and our pastoral care team have been instrumental in finding ways to continue this ministry to help see to the physical and spiritual needs of the residents there, many of whom are forgotten by the wider community.
2. Many of our parishioners are now able to continue their work with the East Lincoln Christian Ministry. ELCM is the local food and clothing pantry. It’s also a clearing house for other kinds of assistance such as help with rent and power bills. St. Peter’s helped to found this ministry back in the 1980’s, and we have a long history of deep ecumenical involvement here.
3. Our weekly mission has also continued with the ‘backpack for kids’ ministry in our local schools. Our backpack team, with social distance and face coverings, continue to collect, pack, and deliver these backpacks so that students in need and at risk can have access to the foods that they need to enable them to be successful in school.
4. In terms of liturgy and formation, St. Peter by-the-Lake has done the following:
 - a. We film a ‘virtual service’ of Morning Prayer with sermon each Friday morning, and it is sent to the congregation on Sunday mornings at 9am via the Vimeo format. We also film a shorter virtual service of Evening Prayer or compline for release on Wednesday nights.
 - b. During the summer and fall, we offered two outdoor services of Holy Eucharist in our front yard. We have several acres of property, which makes it very easy for a group of 50 to gather in shade, with social distance and face coverings. These services were very well received by the membership.
 - c. Now that shorter days and colder and more unpredictable weather has settled in, we have moved worship indoors, with the limit of 25 persons. We are currently holding 3 services on Sunday morning, and one on Wednesday evenings. The virtual services continue for those who prefer to have worship at home.
 - d. Our formation director has offered several classes for children and adults through the ZOOM format. She is also leading the ‘Kerygma’ study program, also via ZOOM.
 - e. As rector, I’ve also offered several classes via ZOOM, including three Men’s group studies, and a small group study my wife and I have done for years called ‘Supper & the Word.’ EFM

(Education for Ministry), has started up again in September, and we are able to meet inside, since our numbers are less than a dozen.

f. EYC (Episcopal Youth Community), began meeting outside in August with about 25 youth, and those twice-monthly gatherings have continued up through the time change on November 1st.

*Our congregation has been incredibly patient and faithful, especially in their giving, as the pandemic has continued on these many months. Financially, we are actually in very good shape for the year as we begin the stewardship campaign for 2021.

Faithfully Submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor
Rector

Governance



Executive Council

Report for 2020

Over the past 3 years, I have had the honor and privilege of serving on the Executive Council. This year has been a challenge and exceedingly difficult one with the pandemic. All the parishes have had to change and adopt new ways to conduct services and also new ways to communicate with the congregations. We are grateful for Bishop Jose's leadership.

I have been asked what does the Executive Council do for the Diocese, in a nutshell, we are the Vestry for the Bishop.

I am enclosing what the Constitution and Canons that describes the Executive Council and its function.

"The Ecclesiastical Authority and the Executive Council shall be responsible to the Convention for conducting all those affairs of the Diocese not otherwise delegated when Convention is not in session. The Executive Council of the Diocese shall consist of the Bishop, who shall serve as President thereof; , any Assisting Bishop of the Diocese, twelve lay members and six clerical members, who shall all have a voice and a vote in its deliberations; , and the Chancellor and Treasurer of the Diocese, and the Dean of the Cathedral each of whom shall have a seat and voice but no vote. During a vacancy in the See, the President of the Standing Committee shall serve as a member of the Executive Council with seat and voice but without vote. The Executive Council shall annually elect from its lay members a Vice President. A Recorder, not necessarily a member of the Executive Council, shall be appointed by the President of the Executive Council. The lay membership shall be divided into twelve seats, two attributable to each deanery. Lay members for each such seat shall be elected by Convention from one or more lay members nominated by Convention, such members to be members of a Parish, Chapel, or Worshiping Community within the represented Deanery. The Annual Convention shall elect four lay members who are communicants in the represented Deaneries to replace the lay members whose terms on the Executive Council expire at Convention to serve three-year terms. The clerical membership shall be divided into six seats, one attributable to each Deanery. Clergy members for each such seat shall be elected by Convention from one or more clergy members nominated by Convention, such members to be canonically resident in the represented Deanery. The Clergy

member elected to the Executive Council shall not also serve as Dean. The Annual Convention shall elect two 4 clergy to serve three-year terms. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Executive Council, whether clergy or lay, shall be filled by election of a clergy member who is canonically resident in the represented Deanery or a lay member who is a member of a Parish, Chapel, or Worshiping Community in the represented Deanery, for the unexpired term, by a majority of the remaining members of the Executive Council. Elected members having served a full term shall be ineligible for reelection for a period of two years. Each member of the Executive Council, not otherwise made a member of the Convention by Constitutional or Canonical provision, shall have seat, voice and vote at all Annual or Special Conventions of the Diocese."

Over the past year, the Executive Council has reviewed land transactions that needed approval and/or notifications from the Standing Committee, loan approvals as recommended by the Fiscal Ministries, and without saying dealing with the Pandemic. Executive Council approved monies for the Human Hurt and Hope Grants.

Bishop Jose has been an outstanding leader in this time of crisis. The Diocesan office has addressed numerous problems to overcome. Executive Council has been meeting via Zoom because of the restrictions of Covid-19. Even the Diocesan Convention will be held virtual this year. Canon Augusta has been instrumental in figuring out how all this will work so we meet the guidelines in the Constitution and Canons.

I believe that the Lord is helping us to get through this pandemic and guiding us in new ways not seen before. I ask your prayers for this Diocese, the Episcopal Church and the world.

Respectfully Submitted



James H Bowden
Vice President Executive Council

FISCAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION – 2020

Members: Larry Byerly (Holy Cross-Valle Crucis & Diocesan Treasurer); Pat Fox (Good Shepherd-Hayesville); Chad Hardy (Trinity-Asheville); Bruce Hunt (Transfiguration-Saluda); The Rev. Toby Summerour (Good Shepherd-Cashiers); The Rev. Sam Tallman (St. Mary's-Blowing Rock & Chair); Karen Walker (Trinity-Spruce Pine)

Commission Responsibilities:

- ❖ Review the financial position and operating results of the Diocese on a monthly basis with reporting from CFO Carol Tannenbaum on any significant financial changes and variances from budget.
- ❖ Review and recommend to Executive Council the investment policy of the diocesan endowment and semi-annually review investment performance and compliance with policy.
- ❖ Recommend engagement of the auditor and review the audit process and the audit report.
- ❖ Review overall financial policy of the diocese and ongoing financial management.
- ❖ Review parishes' and diocesan organizations' applications for grants and loans from the Diocese for completeness and financial soundness. Grants are reviewed with recommendation for action to the Diocesan Foundation, and Loans with a maximum of \$25,000 are recommended for action to the Executive Council.
- ❖ Assist the Bishop, the Canon to the Ordinary, and the Chief Financial Officer with issues having financial implications for the diocese.
- ❖ Assist the Chief Financial Officer with accounting & related support provided parishes and diocesan organizations

Commission Actions:

December 2019

- ❖ Referred All Saints-Gastonia \$20,000 grant to Foundation
- ❖ Reviewed the work of the Small Parish Audit Committee providing audit assistance
- ❖ Reviewed parish accounting support for transition to financial management software and diocesan payroll processing support

February 2020

- ❖ Recommended St. Mary's & St. Stephen's-Morganton \$20,000 grant and All Saints-Franklin \$20,000 grant to Foundation
- ❖ Recommended for approval St. Mary's & St. Stephen's-Morganton loan \$25,000 loan to Executive Council
- ❖ Joint review with Trustees of diocesan investment performance and portfolio review

April 2020

- ❖ Reviewed immediate financial implications of COVID-19
- ❖ Reviewed work of COVID-19 Financial Team in assisting the Diocese, parishes, and diocesan organizations with provisions of the CARES Act

June 2020

- ❖ Reviewed current status of all loan balances from parishes and diocesan organizations
- ❖ Investment performance update in light of COVID-19 & current annual distributions from the endowment
- ❖ Reviewed progress on the COVID-delayed audit for 2019

August 2020

- ❖ Recommended Camp Henry \$20,000 grant to Foundation
- ❖ Recommended 2020 Human Hurt & Hope grants to Executive Council
- ❖ Review and recommendation of 2021 Budget to Executive Council
- ❖ Joint meeting with Trustees for review of investment performance and the portfolio

September 2020 – Called Meeting by Email Exchange

- ❖ Recommended Christ Church-Sparta \$11,000 emergency grant for earthquake damage to Foundation

October 2020

- ❖ Reviewed 2019 audit with the auditors and recommended acceptance to Executive Council
- ❖ Recommended to Executive Council for approval of Diocesan resolutions for Parish Giving and for Clergy Compensation
- ❖ Reviewed the financial status of Camp Henry, Lake Logan Conference Center, & Valle Crucis Conference center for future financial requirements in light of ongoing effect of COVID-19 on operations

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Samuel V. Tallman, Chair

October 29, 2020

Diocesan Ecumenical Officer Report 2020

The work of the Ecumenical Officer is primarily one of making and maintaining contacts with other religious traditions, and engaging in conversations and activities that build relationships of mutual understanding and respect. The larger part of the work is simply to show up and be present. In a time of necessary physical separation the opportunities to engage in this important work all but disappeared. There have been no conferences or seminars and the ecumenical community has been slow to move to virtual online activities. I did participate in some conference calls which gathered faith based groups for conversation about sharing resources and information.

In the early days of the pandemic many of us, including myself, simply thought that it would pass and we would go back to life as we knew it. We are seeing now that will not be the case and that waiting for things to return to “normal” will be an exercise in disappointment. Those involved in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue will find new ways of knowing each other and exchanging ideas. I look forward to being part of the process of discovering what that will look like.

Respectfully submitted

The Rev. Dr. Brent Norris

Report from the Standing Committee 2020

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western North Carolina serves as a council of advice for the Bishop and is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in the absence of a Bishop.

The Standing Committee gives consent for persons at various stages in the ordination process and consent to the elections of bishops in other dioceses. The Standing Committee also provides consent to the sale or encumbrance of property of the Diocese of Western North Carolina. Elected by diocesan Convention, the Standing Committee is comprised of four clergy and four lay members, each serving a four-year term. The Standing Committee meets every month for its regular business and for called meetings, as necessary.

Since the COVID-19 crisis in March 2020 the Standing Committee has met via Zoom and has been available for updates from the Bishop every week. In addition to their regular duties members of the Standing Committee and other diocesan leaders participated with the Bishop in a diocesan Mutual Ministry Review facilitated by Kay Collier McLaughlin, Ph.D. of Transformative Leadership Consulting.

Here is a summary of Standing Committee actions since Convention 2019 (through October 23, 2020):

Approved property transactions and encumbrances from:

All Souls Cathedral, Asheville
St. John's, Sylva
Incarnation, Highlands
St. John's, Cartoogechaye.

Approved the appointment of Julia Madden, St. Mark's, Gastonia to fill the unexpired term of Caryn Stover, All Souls, Asheville.

Consented to the elections of:

The Rev. Mark Allan Van Koevering as Bishop of Lexington
The Rev. Deon Kevin Johnson as Bishop of Missouri
The Rev. Frank S. Logue as Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Poulson C. Reed as Bishop of Oklahoma
The Rev. Craig W. Loya as Bishop of Minnesota
The Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry as Bishop Coadjutor of Alabama
The Rev. Dr. Diana Akiyama as Bishop of Oregon.

Interviewed candidates and approved applications regarding ordination:

Kevin Todd as a Candidate for Ordination to the Priesthood and
for Ordination to Transitional Diaconate
Jared Grant for Ordination to the Priesthood
Toni Belhu as a Candidate for Ordination to the Priesthood
Will Bryant as a Candidate for Ordination to the Priesthood.

Participated in a diocesan Mutual Ministry Review facilitated by Dr. Kay Collier McLaughlin.

Members of the 2020 Standing Committee are:

Ms. Julia Madden, St. Mark's, Gastonia (2020)
The Rev. Allan McCaslin, Holy Cross, Valle Crucis (2020)

The Rev. Patty Mouer, St. Luke's, Asheville (2021)
Mr. George Sweet, Transfiguration, Saluda (2021)

Ms. Lynn Getz, St. Luke's, Boone (2022)
The Rev. Jocelyn Schaeffer, Grace, Waynesville (2022)

The Rev. Marshall Jolly, Grace, Morganton (2023)
Ms. Christine Longoria, St. Mary's, Asheville (2023)

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Patty Mouer
President

Stewardship report – Project Resource update

In the summer of 2019 Greg Townsend and the Revs. Marshall Jolly and Patty Mouer attended a workshop presented by Project Resource. The Rev. Gary Butterworth attended one of the workshops several years ago.

Marshall and Gary presented a brief overview at a clergy conference in February. The presenters from Project Resource reminded us: *Giving of oneself financially unlocks a part of our hearts where God can do incredible work, both in us and through us. As part of our baptismal covenant, we believe we are called to reconcile ourselves to one another and to God. Fundraising is not a means to an end. Rather, fundraising as ministry is a radical act of reconciliation; a process that can both draw the giver closer to God and repair an unjust world.*

The group planned on leading a day-long introduction to the materials, but the event was cancelled due to COVID.

For more information visit <https://project-resource.org/>

The Canon to the Ordinary also made available materials from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), of which the Diocese of WNC is a member.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Patty Mouer

October 2020