

Report of the Canon for Evangelism & Discipleship Development To the 2020 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

The Rev. Canon Whitney Rice was brought on board Diocesan Staff by Bishop Deon Johnson and began work on July 1, 2020. She inherited some of the duties of Canon Loren Lasch, but not all, and took on an additional set of duties for this new role. Progress in her work so far is summarized below.

Evangelism

- Taught workshop on Evangelism With Integrity for the clergy cohort
- Met and networked with other Evangelism Canons across the national church
- Served on Evangelism Matters (national church evangelism conference) Planning Team
- Met one-on-one with over twenty priests across the diocese to discuss evangelism opportunities and challenges in their contexts
- Participated in multiple social justice direct actions (protests, marches, vigils) throughout St. Louis

Discipleship Development

- Hosted 4 workshops for the diocesan household:
 1. Diocesan Brainstorm: Christian Formation in Pandemic Times Part 1
 2. Diocesan Brainstorm: Stewardship Campaigns in Pandemic Times
 3. Adaptive Leadership in Challenging Times
 4. Diocesan Brainstorm: Christian Formation in Pandemic Times Part 2
 5. Community Listening
- Surveyed clergy cohort on value of Affinity Groups and redistributed some members who needed a new group
- Assisted The Rev. Michaelene Miller in building curriculum for Deaconess Anne House residents
- Taught Adaptive Leadership workshop to Deaconess Anne residents
- Supported Canon Doris in clergy retreat design

Children & Youth

- Recruited and empowered Camp Phoenix volunteers to create Convention video celebrating youth work

Experimental Ministries/Missional Communities

- Recruited clergy cohort and took Cultivate Missional Communities training from Diocese of Texas
- Formed Cultivate cohort into Bishop's Advisory Committee on Missional Communities
- Networked with Missional leaders across the national church
- Consulted with and supported Diocesan leaders beginning missional community work
- Supported Faith Church of India in beginning New Episcopal Ministries Grant writing process

Fresh Start

- Organized and convened new class of Fresh Start
- Recruited speakers for meetings
- Facilitated monthly meetings in collaboration with The Rev. Earl Mahan

Ordination Process

- Met and worked with ordinands throughout the process to drive and facilitate their progress toward ordination: forms, interviews, meetings, processes such as GOEs and seminary financial aid, field placements, mentoring, and pastoral support
- Oriented and brought on board Ms. Jillian Smith as bureaucratic support specialist to ordination process
- Work as Bishop's Staff Liaison to Diocesan Board of Examining Chaplains, Commission on Ministry, and Standing Committee
- Convened and drove monthly meetings of core ordination facilitators: Ms. Smith, Ms. Lyn Ballard (Diocesan Board of Examining Chaplains Chair), and The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner (Commission on Ministry Chair)

Ordination Redesign

- Collaborated with Bishop Deon and The Rev. Mari Chollet to redesign and customize CPM process for Covid times
- Convened Ordination Redesign Core Team (The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner, Sister Donna-Ruth Reinhard, The Rev. Marshall Crossnoe, Ms. Lyn Ballard)
- Began meetings to evaluate current process and set goals for reforming it
- 2 phases of progress identified: immediate bureaucratic streamlining phase, and second, more comprehensive reform focused on stakeholders and end-stage receivers of the ministry of the ordained
- Collaborated with Bishop and team once Episcopal School for Ministry Redesign was identified as a further necessary project

Re-Imagining the Church Task Force

- Took over facilitation of Task Force from Bishop Deon and drove it through gathering ideas, discerning principles and priorities, and consolidating final output
- Drove creating video report to Convention
- Summarized work, wrote report, and turned over all support materials to Strategic Planning Committee

Other Duties as Assigned

- Participated in multiple Celebrations of New Ministry and ordinations across the diocese
- Accompanied Bishop Deon on parish visitations across the diocese approximately twice a month
- Preached and led worship at multiple congregations (mostly on Zoom)
- Wrote and recorded sermons for Summer Sermon Series
- Diocesan convention preparation, including organizational meetings, preparing Evangelism workshop, and helping drive recording Convention Eucharist
- Collaborated with Canon Desiree Brattin on 2021 budgeting process for ministry areas

Respectfully submitted by
 The Rev. Canon Whitney Rice
 Canon for Evangelism & Discipleship Development
 November 2020