

Report of the Canon for Evangelism & Discipleship Development To the 2021 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

The Rev. Canon Whitney Rice serves as the Canon for Evangelism & Discipleship Development in the Diocese of Missouri. Progress in her work in 2021 is summarized below.

Evangelism

- Led Evangelism With Integrity workshop at many congregations across the diocese
- Met and collaborated with other Evangelism Canons across the national church
- Served on Evangelism Matters (national church evangelism conference) Planning Team
- Coordinated with national church for the Diocese of Missouri to serve as a host site for Bishop Curry's Pentecost Revival
- Was invited to join the national church Evangelism Council of Advice

Discipleship Development

- Hosted multiple workshops for the diocesan household and on-site at parishes and at Deaconess Anne House, including:
 - Evangelism With Integrity
 - Church Conflict Fire Insurance: Adaptive Leadership in Challenging Times
 - Community Listening
 - Jesus, Money, and Pandemic: What You Need to Know About Changing Stewardship
 - Post-Pandemic Evangelism: The Acts Generation and the Reformation Generation
- Led the Episcopal Church Women Annual Gathering with a retreat called Questions of Jesus
- Co-led Stewardship module at Vestry University

Experimental Ministries/Missional Communities

- Consulted with and supported Diocesan leaders beginning missional community work
- Supported Faith Church of India and African Diaspora church planting team in winning New Episcopal Ministries Grants of \$30,000 each
- Participated in the Church Redevelopment Discernment Cohort with the national church
- Trained the African Diaspora church planting team in Community Listening

Rural Ministries Colloquium

- Gathered rural congregations of Diocese of Missouri during June, July, and August for conversation, collaboration, and resourcing for the unique gifts and challenges of rural ministry
- Plans to reconvene in 2022

Requiem or Renaissance

- In collaboration with Bishop Deon, created framework for Requiem or Renaissance 18-month discernment and skills-building program
- Wrote charter documents and presented program to Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, and the clergy cohort
- Recruited 15 Shepherds from around the diocese to lead and facilitate program
- Recruited 4 host parishes for meeting places across the diocese
- Invited and began orienting participating congregations

Fresh Start

- Organized and convened 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
- Hosted pre-ordination retreats for ordinands and co-hosted Ordination Townhalls
- Served 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. Jillian Smith, Ms. Lyn Ballard (Diocesan Board of Examining Chaplains Chair), and The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner (Commission on Ministry Chair)
- Helped organize and participated in multiple ordinations across the diocese

Ordination Redesign

- Convened Ordination Redesign Core Team (The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner, Sister Donna-Ruth Reinhard, The Rev. Marshall Crossnoe, Ms. Lyn Ballard, The Rev. Deb Goldfeder, The Rev. Harry Leip)
- Began diocesan affiliation with Bishop Kemper School of Ministry
- Released redone priestly ordination checklist

Wider Church Involvement and/or Continuing Education

- Walker Fellows
- Glean Network
- Duke Divinity School Seek the Welfare Program
- Presenter at Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program conference

Other Duties as Assigned

- Accompanied Bishop Deon on parish visitations across the diocese approximately twice a month
- Canon visitations twice monthly: Preached and led worship and adult fora across the diocese on alternate weeks from Bishop Visitations
- Wrote and recorded sermons for diocesan Sermon Series
- Participated in Strategic Planning work
- Served as a consultant and partner for clergy and lay leaders seeking support in their work

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