

2021 REPORT OF THE BISHOP'S DEPUTY FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Following last year's Diocese of Missouri publication of *Each Other's Keeper: The Church's Response to Violence*, interest in this innovative electronic curriculum has increased significantly and created a platform for broad conversations nationally. As a result of discussions with the Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF), Bishop Deon and I were keynote speakers at the February 2021 Clergy Day in the Diocese of Long Island. In addition, I have been invited to present at the Province V Convention in Indianapolis in 2022. Especially gratifying was the opportunity to lead a 6-week Lenten discussion based on this curriculum with 40 leaders from throughout the Midwest. Although the Covid-19 pandemic severely limited the number of in-person presentations, several were delivered at congregations in metropolitan St. Louis during the past year.

In addition to opening opportunities for conversation, *Each Other's Keeper: The Church's Response to Violence* attracted the attention of one of the Episcopal Church's publishing arms, Forward Movement, and will be published on its ChurchNext platform in December 2021, making it available internationally. Currently a curriculum with six modules, we anticipate updating each of them and adding at least one new module annually. Importantly, this curriculum will be offered free-of-charge to individual and group users, with no royalties accruing to the author or the diocese.

Like so many of the other ministries of the diocese, the pandemic has limited our interaction with community partners. Nevertheless, we were able to raise \$500 for Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice's *Lock It for Love* initiative.

In November, my wife, Debbie, and I will be relocating to Longmont, Colorado. As we make this transition, we'll continue to work with the diocese to advance the care of violence victims and their abusers. We welcome your prayers and support.

Peace,

The Rev. Marc D. Smith, Ph.D.

cotterboatworks@aol.com

(314) 452-3378