

## **REPORTS OF THE GENERAL OFFICERS**

### **STANDING COMMITTEE**

As with most aspects of life in 2021, conducting Standing Committee business required flexibility in schedules, formats, and agendas.

#### **April**

In ongoing precautions to avoid COVID-19, the Standing Committee held its first session on April 23-24 in a Zoom format. Nonetheless, following opening prayer the members participated in a spirited get-acquainted activity while sharing highlights of their life journeys. As part of the icebreaker, the group elected June Linke to serve as president. Cris Turnage was elected secretary.

In explaining the canonical roles and responsibilities of the 15-member group, Bishop Kendrick presented the purpose and identity of Standing Committee within the framework of being an advisory body as well as a diocesan planning committee. He also outlined the expectations placed upon committee members for conducting diocesan business and workshops. These expectations were discussed within six headings: consensus, commitment, confidentiality, creativity, compassion, and community.

During the third segment of the April session, the committee received a comprehensive overview of funds and finances including the diocesan endowment and the annual budget. The group also learned about demographic trends among Episcopalians at the national and diocesan levels, healthcare plans available to churches, diocesan properties, and progress on hurricane recovery. To conclude the April meeting, the consensus was to hold strategic planning conversations in a face-to-face work session beginning in June.

#### **June**

In furtherance of the Go Forward theme, on June 12, the Standing Committee participated in a face-to-face planning retreat. Group members generated an extensive list of responses to the question, "what are the functions of the Episcopacy?" Then, in identifying issues impacting all of us as Episcopalians, the group initiated a "why and how" conversation whereby challenges can evolve into workable actions at the church and diocese levels. Examples of these challenges include, but are not limited to, empowering parents to foster spirituality in their children, providing online communications technology to smaller congregations, and sustaining ministries relevant to communities with diverse needs. As we move into 2022, the Standing Committee will continue to play an integral and ongoing role in diocesan strategic planning process.

#### **August**

Due to the late-summer spike in COVID-19 cases, a hybrid format was used for the August 10 meeting. Thus, the diocesan strategic planning discussions were tabled for this session. Bishop Kendrick outlined the phases of the Capital Campaign. He also announced plans to conduct a meeting of new rectors.

In moving through the August agenda the committee unanimously approved a sabbatical policy for clergy serving throughout the diocese. Unanimous approval was also given to the financial report as presented.

On August 21, in fulfillment of canonical requirements, the 15-member Standing Committee interviewed one applicant to the priesthood and three applicants to candidacy. On behalf of the Standing Committee, I want to convey that interviewing applicants sent forward by the Diocesan Commission on Ministry is a powerful spiritual experience. In looking forward to these interviews, the Standing Committee approaches each interview prayerfully and professionally.

#### **October**

On October 12, again in keeping with COVID-19 precautions, the meeting was conducted in a hybrid environment. Following the opening prayer, Bishop Kendrick commented on how well the keynote addresses of Dr. Bertice Berry and Captain Timothy Kinsella, Jr. were received at the 2021 Clergy Conference held at Camp Beckwith. Bishop Kendrick presented a Capital Campaign progress report including information about the newly launched webpage. He also announced that Reverend John George was named by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to the Episcopal Church Commission on Climate Change.

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In her report on the Diocesan Commission on Affirmative Aging, Cris Turnage indicated plans for conducting "Adventurous Aging: How To Stay Young At Heart," for parishioners and others in Monroeville, AL. As shown in the December minutes, Cris presented the workshop in November. She stated since the workshop was so well received, the Commission on Affirmative Aging is exploring options for replicating the session throughout the diocese.

In covering administrative items, diocese administrator, Dwight Babcock, pointed out two upcoming enrollment dates for healthcare plans available to clergy and staff. He noted while healthcare rates for individuals did not increase, family rates are higher. The committee received unexpected news that Santa Rosa County had imposed taxes on three church properties. However, as noted in the December minutes, after clergy and diocese staff met with the Santa Rosa County tax evaluation board the previously issued denial of tax exempt status was rescinded.

During the October meeting, the Standing Committee received a detailed report related to the absence of congregants at St. Marks. Two years have passed since the conduct of any type of activities at the church which has service to non-hearing people as its primary mission. An update of the situation was scheduled for the December meeting.

Also in October, with legal basis established, the Standing Committee unanimously passed a motion to accept appointment as trustees to the Christ Church Cathedral Foundation. Being so appointed and duly sworn, the group unanimously approved the 1st Amendment of Christ Church Cathedral Foundation. Immediately following this action, a motion passed unanimously whereby the 15-member Standing Committee collectively and simultaneously resigned as Christ Church Cathedral Foundation Trustees. These unanimously accepted actions enable the Christ Church Cathedral Foundation Trustees to access foundation funds as put forth in the Foundation's 1st Amendment.

Final actions during the October 12 meeting included unanimous approval of the financial report as presented and the setting of December 7 as the next meeting date.

### **December**

The December 7 meeting convened in a hybrid format. Before addressing business items, the committee president called upon Bishop Kendrick for news and comments. He reported that Happening was re-emerging as the number of COVID-19 cases declines. A small group of young people gathered for Happening in November. Another session will occur in February 2022.

The Bishop reported that the School for Ministry continues to thrive as the curriculum expands to also train part-time clergy and lay leaders. He was happy to convey that lay leaders enrolled in the School for Ministry are practicing their newly learned skills during visitations to congregations beyond their home churches. He looks forward to the continuation of this "cross-pollination" throughout the diocese. Bishop Kendrick pointed out that training part-time clergy and lay leaders at the diocese level appears to be the emerging model in Province IV to provide more consistent services to smaller congregations. Regarding the 2022 Annual Convention, Bishop Kendrick provided an overview of the convention schedule reporting that convention plans were progressing well.

The Standing Committee continued the meeting with a discussion about the availability of and the level of participation in anti-racism training within our diocese. Several committee members provided positive feedback about the workshop developed by and offered through the Central Gulf Coast Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation. It was noted that prior to the February 1 meeting committee members would receive for review and comment a draft Diocesan Anti-Racism Training Policy.

Upon logging into the December meeting via Zoom, Ken Cumby, Chairman of the Board of Murray House, was invited to discuss information relevant to the operation of the assisted living facility. Due to the confidentiality of the data and information presented, contents of the discussion cannot be shared at this time.

In response to the October report about the status of St. Marks, the committee recommended that the diocese proceed in adherence to Canons related to the closing of a church.

Following a review of the financial reports including the preliminary 2022 budget for the diocese, a motion was passed unanimously to accept the report as presented.

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In another action the committee voted unanimously to approve a congregational loan for roof replacement at St. John's, Mobile.

**February**

During the first portion of the February 1, 2022, Standing Committee meeting more detailed information about the upcoming diocesan annual convention was presented. Bishop Kendrick noted that Capital Campaign plans were on track.

In reminding the committee that General Convention to be held in Baltimore is quickly approaching, he pointed out that Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will hold his post until 2024.

In discussing the proposed Diocesan Anti-Racism Training Policy committee members relayed full support of the policy. The motion to adopt the Diocesan Anti-Racism Training Policy as presented passed unanimously.

In anticipation of implementing the Diocesan 2022 Budget, the committee was provided, for informational purposes, a newly-drafted job description for a Diocesan Missioner for Discernment. Funding for this full-time position is included in the 2022 budget. Upon reviewing and discussing the entire proposed 2022 budget for the diocese the Standing Committee voted unanimously to accept the 2022 budget as presented.

To follow up on the December suggestion to close St. Mark's, Mobile, the committee unanimously approved a motion for the diocese to take formal steps as outlined in Canons to have the church considered extinct (Canonical language). The decision to officially close St. Mark's was made prayerfully over a period of several months. The process for deciding the future of the property will extend across a lengthy timeframe.

**Connections with other dioceses**

In adherence with Canons, the Standing Committee is responsible for responding to requests to consent to the appointment of Bishops as selected by other dioceses. After reviewing biographical information provided by a diocese, each member of the Standing Committee has the flexibility to respond positively or negatively to each request for consent. Since February 2021, Standing Committee members have responded positively to requests from seven dioceses as follows: Nevada, Upper South Carolina, Iowa, Pittsburg, West Virginia, Ecuador Central and Springfield (Illinois).

**Many thanks**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and my true admiration for the other members of the Standing Committee. On behalf of the Standing Committee, I extend sincerest gratitude to all of the diocesan staff members. Without their hard work and dedication to this diocese the Standing Committee could not perform productively. And finally, also on behalf of the Standing Committee, I say thank you to Bishop Russell. Thank you for listening. Thank you for your compassion. Thank you for energizing the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. It's great to be an Episcopalian!

Respectfully submitted,  
June Linke, Standing Committee President

**REGISTRAR – HISTORIOGRAPHER**

As stated in Canon 8, the Registrar-Historiographer "shall gather, receive, and safeguard all materials of historical significance in the Diocese and the several Parishes and Missions and shall present to each Convention a report of all such events as may be deemed to be of permanent interest and importance."

Caution during the on-going Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 slowed my work with the archive collection in the Duvall Center. However, progress was made in moving our irreplaceable collection of Journals of our Diocese and of our parent dioceses of Alabama and Florida into water-safe/fire-safe cabinets along with other irreplaceable materials. Several volumes were added to the archive library reserved to use in the Duvall Center. The catalogue of our Record Collection in the Duvall Center archives room is current and posted on the website of the Diocese.

In December, I met with a resident of Wewahitchka and assisted her in her search into the history of the first building to house St. John-the-Baptist Episcopal Church there.

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Using my personal collection of Journals of our Diocese, I was able to assist our Bishop and others with inquiries on several topics.

After the death of noted singer, Fran McKendree, in August of 2021, Bishop Kendrick, Elizabeth Kennington, and other friends of his joined me in writing a memorial tribute to him which was published in the *Coast Line*.

I hope that 2022 affords more opportunities to continue this work.

Respectfully submitted,  
S. Albert Kennington, Registrar-Historiographer

**COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

The Commission on Ministry has two primary responsibilities. The first is to assist individuals in their response to God's call to ministry. In particular, the Commission seeks to support those who are discerning a call to ordained ministry. The second responsibility is to advise the Bishop, when requested, in matters concerning discernment and formation.

**COM Mission Statement**

The COM seeks to prayerfully ascertain, discriminate, and discern a sense of God's call in a person's life and in the life of the church for his/her *lay or ordained vocation and ministry*.

*The Commission on Ministry will*

- *be a resource for aspirants for ordination*
- *be an advisor to the bishop concerning aspirants, postulants, and candidates*
- *be a shepherd and advocate for those being prepared for ordination, providing pastoral care and guidance on an individual basis*
- *assist the bishop in developing and furthering continuing education for the clergy of the Diocese.*

In this diocese, individuals called to ordained ministry may follow one of two separate paths. One path is for those called to the Priesthood and the other for those called to the vocational Diaconate.

**Seminary**

We had one individual accepted as a Postulant in the Priesthood track (Ryan Lee); two (2) Postulants approved as Candidates for ordination in the Priesthood track (Amanda Doshier and Kenneth White-Spunner); and one (1) Candidate approved and ordained as a Transitional Deacon and subsequently a Priest (Ansley Walker). At present, seminarians from this diocese enrolled at Virginia Theological Seminary (Craig Doshier, Amanda Doshier, Jen Leahey, and Stephen Pecot); at Seabury (Pam Christian); and at Seminary of the Southwest (John Fountain, Ryan Lee, and Kenneth White-Spunner).

**Diocesan School for Ministry**

At present, we have two (2) individuals enrolled in the Priesthood track (Ted Kirzharr and Leanne Whalen) and three (3) individuals enrolled in the Diaconate track (Brad Clark, Kay Dennis, and Deborah Knight-Epps). We also had our Six (6) Transitional Deacons approved and ordained to the Priesthood (Mike Ballard, David Chatel, David Clothier, Bob Donnell, Lydia Johnson, and John Talbert).

Discernment for those called to the Priesthood and for those called to the Diaconate requires participation by many from the community, as the individuals prayerfully seek God's direction for their lives. The Commission is grateful for the willingness of so many within this diocese to support and assist those who are examining their call to ordained ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eugene Johnston, Chair/mrp

**BECKWITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Things are alive and well on the shores of Weeks Bay!! The Beckwith staff is ready to serve you in 2022 so I encourage you to pick up the phone and give Rhona a call.

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Mark your calendars for **Beckwith Sunday, April 24, 2022**. This is a wonderful time to celebrate with camp liturgies, to pray for Beckwith, our Executive director and staff.

**Save the date for Bay Lights 2022: September 30 – October 2** BayLights is the last weekend in September each year. This is the perfect opportunity for a fun filled weekend with your family and friends in God's front yard. I encourage you to participate in some part of the weekend – there are activities for the entire family.

Summer Camp 2021 was a success in spite of Covid 19. The camp staff and campers continued with a positive attitude adjusting to the safety precautions that were implemented throughout the summer. Beckwith served over 500 campers, awarded \$10,000 in scholarships and discounts, received \$14,000 in grants and donations, and completed the summer with enthusiasm and excitement.

This summer marks the 50th year of Beckwith summer camp and we will celebrate throughout the year. This year the Beckwith Board approved a change to the deposit policy which had not been adjusted in over 15 years. The improvement in this deposit policy will help Beckwith as we move into the future, and brings the Beckwith policy in line with other retreat center policies across the region.

I am happy to report that Beckwith continues to manage through COVID-19. As we prepare for 2022 our team is stronger than ever. We are planning and preparing for a fabulous season of retreats and summer camp. We are truly blessed and looking forward to the opportunities to serve you in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jubal Hamil, Board Chair

**MURRAY HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Murray House is an agency of the Diocese located in Mobile, Alabama. For over 25 years Murray House has provided assisted living for older adults who need a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment.

The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2021 has been devastating to our financial sustainability. Like thousands of small businesses throughout the United States, Murray House has struggled to meet staffing requirements and recruit new residents. Thankfully, we received an infusion of cash through the Payroll Protection Plan in 2021. *Our income is based entirely on the monthly rent paid by the residents.* Currently there are 19 residents living in Murray House. We are well below the healthy threshold of 35 residents.

Murray House is “home” to these 19 precious older adults. We will continue to support and love each one.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Ken Cumbie, President

**WILMER HALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Wilmer Hall, an agency of the Diocese located in Mobile, Alabama, has been serving young people in need since 1864. It was founded by Bishop Richard Hooker Wilmer, the second Bishop of Alabama. We currently have six programs: Residential, Transitional Living (TLP), Transitional Family (TFP), Education4Life, the Philippa Stirling Hamilton Education Center, and the Max Miller Education Program.

In 2021, we were challenged by the Covid-19 Pandemic, but we persevered, just as we have for these last 157 years. In 2021, we had a total of 55 residents in our three residential programs (Residential, TLP, TFP). We served 54 students in our on-site Education Program and 75 students in our two community-based education programs (the Hamilton Education Center and the Max Miller Education Program). **Our total number of children and young adults served in 2021 was 184.**

We currently serve 50 students in our on-campus education program, called Education4Life. In the 12 years since its inception, the students in the program have a 100% graduation/promotion rate. We expanded our successful education model into other areas of our community in 2018 and 2019. The Hamilton Education Center serves students in the Maysville

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Community at Williamson Prep Middle School and the Max Miller Education Program serves students at Pillans Middle School and Mobile County Training School. All of our tutors are local college students, supported by our education staff.

We launched a delivery-based food pantry in 2019. In 2021, we delivered groceries to roughly 400 individuals and families.

Our staff and board continue to be good stewards of our resources as we recently passed a balanced budget as we care for our historic campus. We charge no fees for our services, of course, and receive funding from the Diocese, the United Way, and from many donations and grants. We greatly appreciate the support from the Diocese, its churches, and their congregants.

We welcome visitors from around the diocese for a visit to campus, and we are also happy to come talk to your parish or group about our mission and ministry. Please contact Pratt Paterson ([ppaterson@wilmerhall.org](mailto:ppaterson@wilmerhall.org)).

Respectfully submitted,

D. Pratt Paterson, Executive Director

George P. Shedd, Jr., Ph.D., Board President

*The mission of Wilmer Hall Children's Home is to provide a safe home and educational resources for children and young adults in need due to poverty, abuse, neglect, and homelessness. We serve all children and young adults without regard to race, ethnicity, or religion.*

*Wilmer Hall extends warm and nurturing care to every child and young adult in its care, ensuring they are surrounded by people who love and support them. Our goal is to help children succeed in four areas: physical health, emotional stability, academic achievement, and spiritual maturity.*

*Wilmer Hall serves children and young adults through five programs: the Residential Living Program, the Transitional Living Program, the Transitional Family Program, the on-campus Education Program, and the Community-Based Education Programs.*

## **CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

### **Christ Church Cathedral Prayer**

*Gracious God, today we give thanks for the ministry you have entrusted to us as the cathedral church of our diocese. Help us to be faithful in answering the sacred calling to be ministers of hospitality for your people and leaders of worship to your honor and glory. May this place be a beacon of your light and love for the world. All this we ask through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

We entered 2021 hoping to see an end to the global pandemic, but instead we have had another twelve months of learning about being a hybrid church. We continue to rely on faith and not make any unchangeable plans.

The Cathedral Foundation was founded in 2006 as an endowed fund and was drawn upon for funding for the first time in 2021. The diocesan budget does not include reimbursement for diocesan events such as ordinations, diocesan meetings, and choir and acolyte festivals held at Christ Church Cathedral. The Foundation was created to provide those financial resources for the Cathedral mission and ministry and to promote investment of gifts by members and friends of the Cathedral for its ministry to the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. The Cathedral Chapter, along with the Standing Committee, amended the Foundation bylaws in 2021 to allow for distribution of funds from the Foundation investment yields after a prolonged period of inactivity. The balance in the Cathedral Foundation on December 31, 2021 was \$465,800.

The Cathedral Family participates, as one of three churches in our diocese, in the Baptized for Life initiative sponsored by the Lilly Foundation and administered through Virginia Theological Seminary. We continue to discern the direction for our BFL project. We have continued to support the MOB Pacers, an organized walk with a purpose. The MOB Pacers have continued to prove that walking with others can keep you motivated, make you accountable, and meet new people with similar goals. We have plans for the Pacers to join us for worship in February 2022.

In August we were happy to welcome The Reverend Eric J. Zubler as Priest Associate to the Dean. Our Organist and Music Director, Christopher Powell left in the summer and we were joined by Elizabeth Bemis as our new organist and choir master. Mollie Adams continues as our cantor, and Andy Palileo is our streaming technician.

Bishop Russell Kendrick joined us for the Cathedral Celebration Eucharist on Sunday, April 18, celebrating our 16th as the Cathedral of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. Bishop Kendrick took up residence in his new apartment in our

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renovated spaces at the end of August. The Reverend Marshall Craver meets with local clergy at the Cathedral most Mondays in his role as Diocesan Clergy Spiritual Director.

Cathedral leaders continue to serve in a number of capacities within the diocese. Ron Snider serves as Treasurer of the Diocese, and as Chair of the Commission on Finance. Clayton Ryan serves on the board for Murray House. Will Gamble, Stephen McNair, and Douglas Kearley, Sr. serve on the Wilmer Hall board. Jubal Hamil and Carl Cunningham, Jr. serve on the Beckwith board. Jill Chow serves on the Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation. We are grateful for the members who serve on the Cathedral Chapter, David Quittmeyer, Trinity, Mobile, Hayden Tirey, St. John's, Monroeville, The Rev. Dee Freeman, St. James, Fairhope.

As we continue to grow into our ministry as Cathedral, it remains a joy for us as we serve the diocese.

### **Cathedral Mission Statement**

*Christ Church Cathedral lovingly welcomes all people to traditional Episcopal worship, to deepen our relationships, serve our community, and grow closer to God.*

### **Institution Statement for the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast**

*The Cathedral is the spiritual center of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. The Cathedral is a dynamic and evolving church that serves as a liturgical, educational, and pastoral center for Diocesan life. It serves as a visible symbol of unity and promotes growth, hope, and a deepening trust in the Lord. The Cathedral is a place where the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be faithfully preached and responded to, and it will model new concepts and ideas for education, evangelism, and outreach to which the Gospel calls us.*

Respectfully submitted,  
The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Dean  
Carolyn S. Jeffers, Provost

## **MISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Despite the ever-changing challenges of doing ministry of any kind in a global pandemic, it has been an absolute joy and honor to spend the past year walking alongside our churches in their work of evangelism and development.

Some of the new projects and programs we engaged in this year include Resurrected Church discussion groups, supporting New Episcopal Communities, Compassion Cycle of Prayer, 1730 Cohorts, and coordinating the work of the grant from Episcopal Evangelism Society.

### **Resurrected Church**

In March Bishop Russell shared an article by The Rev. Tim Schenk that invited us to reflect on what we have learned from the covid-19 pandemic. (You can read the article here: [https://www.ecfvp.org/uploads/tools/files/Hybrid\\_Church\\_-\\_A\\_Way\\_Forward.pdf](https://www.ecfvp.org/uploads/tools/files/Hybrid_Church_-_A_Way_Forward.pdf)) Since the onset of the pandemic, we learned a great deal about connection, technology, and our own capacity to pivot and imagine new ways to live as the people of God. Lay leaders and clergy were invited to join in discussions led by The Rev. Ben Rockwell, The Rev. David Chatel, and The Rev. Lydia Johnson. We explored practical application of learnings to our church programs with the goal to live as a *resurrected* church, not simply a resuscitated church in the aftermath of a pandemic. We met for a weekly "lunch and learn" held via Zoom for six weeks. Much gratitude is given for the work of The Rev. David Chatel and The Rev. Ben Rockwell for their invaluable contributions to this offering.

### **1730 and Small Churches Thriving in Ministry Cohorts**

1730 and Small Churches Thriving in Ministry Cohorts are a peer learning experiment with Dio CGC and TryTank. [TryTank](#) is a ministry of Virginia Theological Seminary and General Seminary that experiments with new and creative ministry ideas to help churches live out the Gospel and invite people to more. There are roughly 1,730 worshipping communities in the Episcopal Church that host 29 or fewer people on a Sunday morning. There is a tendency to look around and see smallness, yet we know that God often does some mighty work in the places the world calls small. TryTank's Central Gulf Coast 1730 Thriving in Ministry Small Church Cohorts consists of two groups: one for churches with an ASA of 29 or less, and a second cohort for churches with an ASA of 30-45 people. Both cohorts convene to offer one another encouragement, mutual guidance, synergy and fellowship. Beginning in early 2022, cohorts twice a month for two years.

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**Beloved Community of Mobile**

Beloved Community Outreach Center (BCOC) is a New Episcopal Community lead by The Rev. Mary Alice Mathison that has engaged in the experimental mission work of evangelism. BCOC has impacted or engaged with at least 1,200 people in its first year, as it seeks to cultivate pathways to belonging and celebrating the belovedness found in our neighbors in Mobile. Our ministry started with offerings like Free Listening, Easter in the Wild, and Beloved Mobile Week that partnered with Raise the Roof and had support, volunteers, and participants from at least 9 of Episcopal churches in the Diocese. Since June of 2021 our primary ministry offering has taken the form of Prayers in the Park, a Sunday afternoon weekly Eucharist and shared meal with our neighbors in Public Safety Memorial Park. As we continue to discern God's call for this ministry, our long-term hope is to develop a cafe ministry that is an entry point for different pathways to belonging.

**Outreach, Compassion and Justice Cycle of Prayer**

There is so much good work going on in our diocese that lives out the call in our Baptismal Covenant to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself..." and "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being..." This is a cycle of prayer gives us the opportunity to pray for the ministries, programs and partnerships of our churches, commissions, agencies, and task forces that engage in the work of justice, compassion, and outreach. Working on this project has been an absolute delight because people have absolutely come alive with joy as they describe the work and passion of their community, The cycle begins Lent I. If you would like to add to this cycle, please contact The Rev. Lydia Knizley Johnson at [lydia@diocgc.org](mailto:lydia@diocgc.org).

**Episcopal Evangelism Society Grant Work**

We received a grant to support our lay school graduates in continued education and formation. I serve as a coordinator and mentor for this program. Further details are submitted in the Missioner for Discipleship report.

**Exploration and Education**

A less visible part of development and evangelism work is intentional learning, networking, listening, and sharing ideas with the larger church. This year I completed an Evangelism course through Bexley Seminary with Jerusalem Greer, the Presiding Bishop's Staff Officer for Evangelism, training courses for instructing lay preachers, small group facilitating, digital ministry, and more. I regularly meet with and invite others join in reflection and exploration sessions with groups from the national church such as Genesis Church Planters and Genesis II Re-Development. I also meet regularly with diocesan development officers from all over Province IV, the Living Waters Cooperative, and the Sewanee Ministry Collaborative and attend pertinent gatherings and conferences.

**Support work**

Serving on diocesan staff is an honor and privilege taken seriously. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our bishop, the people and churches of our diocese, and that I get to see the myriad of amazing things God is doing in our midst right here along the central gulf coast. As part of the diocesan staff I have had the opportunity to help create formation content for the diocese, consult with the bishop and other missioners on various projects across a variety of subjects. Please know I am here as a resource for you as you explore and engage in all things evangelism and going beyond the status quo. I welcome opportunities to share with you what I am learning, and to hear what you are learning or has come to interest you regarding evangelism, development, ideas and missional experiments.

While we were not able to do all of the things we had hoped to do this year, I look forward to what this new year holds and how the seeds of inspiration planted may grow and bloom going forward.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Lydia Knizley Johnson, Missioner for Evangelism and Development

**MISSIONER FOR DISCIPLESHIP**

The ongoing challenge in the realm of discipleship has been the changing nature of formation, worship, and engagement during two years of pandemic concerns and Covid outbreaks.

The following agencies, grants, and initiatives remain at the heart of my role as Missioner: The School for Ministry, The Lay School for Ministry, St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, The Baptized for Life Initiative, JUST Pensacola, The Freedom School, Episcopal Evangelism Society (grant for lay mentoring network) and the judicatory support for areas pertaining to formation and resources.

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**The School(s) for Ministry**

Please see the separate report produced in my role as Dean.

**St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church**

I continue to serve as part-time Vicar at St. Cyprians. The last two years have brought us significant challenges in our response to the pandemic which gave birth to a small church online worship gathering for much of 2020-2021. We were able to return to in-person worship in May of 2021. Due to the age and vulnerability of many of our members, we have kept strict protocols of masking, social distancing, and no fellowship up and until this time. We have also experienced the loss of many beloved members and pillars in our faith community. As one of the two historically Black congregations in this Diocese, we continue to stretch ourselves with services on Zoom and a ministry outreach through JUST Pensacola and The Freedom School (see below).

**Baptized for Life Initiative**

In my role as a diocesan support person, I have worked with our congregations to determine the best steps forward during a time in which outreach and the maintenance of the initiative goals was difficult. We conducted a survey of our BFL congregations nationwide and the team participants and leaders. Those results were collated and then given back to the congregations for further discernment.

A central tenant of the Baptized for Life Initiative is that congregations, with God's help, can form lives of meaning and purpose; identifying, embracing, and sustaining each person's Christian vocation. Each congregation has received funding to develop programs or initiatives that fulfill this goal of bringing greater awareness to the ministry of lay persons and equipping leaders to be visionary in their assessment of themselves and their wider community. The congregations are now moving into a second phase where they will further deepen their development of community engagement in seeking to live out their calls in new and different ways.

**JUST Pensacola**

Because discipleship leads us to apostleship, I participate as an affiliate in JUST Pensacola. JUST Pensacola is a diverse and growing coalition of 20 congregations working for justice in Pensacola. It is a newly formed organization entering a second cycle of listening to surface community problems, researching systemic solutions, and taking direct action to hold decision makers accountable for change. Justice Ministry Teams have been formed and research is underway to determine actionable items for change in our community.

**The CDF Freedom Schools**

Having gotten its start in 2020 with great support from many churches our Diocese, The Freedom School continues planning for another robust session this year with 50 scholars. I continue to serve on the Board of Directors and we have successfully raised close to \$100k to fund this summer's program and staffing needs. This is an exciting and rewarding offering that helps to bridge the gaps that many children face in meeting reading goals in their schools.

**Episcopal Evangelism Society Grant**

In late 2021, I applied for an EES grant that would help to support our growing network of lay ministers with continuing education and fellowship opportunities. We were awarded the grant based on the following proposal:

The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast is home to 62 congregations spanning from the eastern end of southern Alabama through the Florida panhandle. The Bishop has expressed a vision that imagines a fresh expression of relationship between clergy, lay leadership and the communities in which our parishes reside. Currently we offer lay leaders ongoing opportunities to deepen faith, explore callings and hone gifts through our School for Ministry.

This grant will allow for our graduate lay leaders to be connected and supported through programming cohorts. With guidance of mentors, program cohorts of licensed lay leaders would work in teams to live out their callings of leading worship, preaching and providing pastoral care in their parishes as well as collaborating on evangelism projects. Mentors will guide continued formation by convening regular meetings that include: reflection, education, and seasonal planning. Mentors remove barriers to collaboration by supporting communication and coordination between parishes, convocations, and the diocese. Additionally, mentors will assist graduates as they listen deeply to their communities and strive to work alongside those already living out God's love.

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**Judicatory Support**

Working on the Bishop's staff is both a privilege and responsibility. As lead in the Discipleship area, I regularly consult with the Bishop and the Missioner for Development about the challenges and opportunities that are most germane to this Diocese in this time. In this role, I continue to educate myself regarding emergent ways of engaging worship and formation during a pandemic, as well as attending to questions and ideas regarding lay-lead worship and ministry/resources in smaller congregations. I enjoy making trips to various parishes when invited to further explain questions about our School(s) for Ministry or to help walk in discernment in a particular time.

I also schedule special offerings such as a workshop at our convention and then our upcoming Mourner's Path Training to be held at Beckwith on March 17-19.

Respectfully submitted by,  
The Rev. Joy H. Blaylock, PhD, Missioner for Discipleship

**THE SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY AND THE LAY SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY**

**Local Vision 2021-2022**

**In raising up clergy and lay persons in a local context, these are the qualities we seek to nurture and grow:**

**1) Compelling spiritual life and a passion for the Gospel:** There exists a spiritual hunger in the culture at large and in our congregations. The Diocese seeks ministers who love God with heart, mind, and soul, and who know Christ and seek to make Christ known. Our ministers will have a vision for the Episcopal Church's ministry and how to guide our people to greater faithfulness and spiritual depth. They will have both a deep reverence for the sacraments at the heart of our liturgical life and a sacramental worldview in which outward and visible things reveal inward and invisible truths.

**2) Ability to communicate the Gospel in ways that people and communities find engaging and relevant to their lives:** Communication is multi-faceted. Today's ministers need to speak several "languages," both human and technological, from the pulpit, in personal conversation and in social media. They are called to minister in a wide variety of contexts, among all sorts of people. There is a particular, urgent need to reach younger generations—families raising children, teenagers and young adults—as well as the ability to be an effective spiritual presence among our fastest growing demographic, those over the age of 60.

**3) Spiritual maturity, self-awareness, and authenticity:** The work of ministry is challenging. It requires a strong spiritual center, physical and mental stamina, healthy personal boundaries, and a willingness to grow and learn alongside others. Effective ministers must be able to persevere in challenging circumstances, recognize their personal growth edges, and be willing to learn new skills and ask for help.

**4) Ability to lead, organize, and equip others in ministry:** Many people are drawn to both the priesthood and diaconate for the love of ministry—pastoral care, teaching, service, and speaking out for justice. The predominant model of ministry in most Episcopal churches is that of one minister (the priest/deacon) ministering to all the people, firmly planted at the center of the Church's ministry. We seek a new paradigm, of clergy able to equip others for meaningful Christian lives and vocations, inviting lay leaders into the life of our shared baptismal ministry. This expansion in leadership requires specialized skills and the ability to identify and mentor new leaders.

**5) Entrepreneurial leadership:** We seek individuals who are able to take risks and try new things in ministry. Twenty-first century ministers need creativity, the capacity to discern new paths, and the willingness to make mistakes and learn from them. Entrepreneurial leaders see opportunities where others see decline, possibilities where others see insurmountable challenges.

**6) The ability to lead congregations through change:** The majority of our congregations face significant adaptive challenges, especially as we continue to navigate a pandemic and increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters. The generations of ministers we raise up will lead our congregations through the wilderness of life, through times of exile to the Promised Land. As with our spiritual ancestors, there is a process of transformation required of us on the journey, as well as

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the ability to adapt to new ways of being the Church. Our ministers will lead this way, in faithfulness to God's call, and in the challenging work of change.

**7) A willingness and ability to be vocationally flexible:** Our churches are in a variety of contexts in a variety of locations with a variety of needs. A growing number of congregations in our Diocese require clergy leaders that do not depend on them for their entire livelihood (bi-vocational). Thus, we need clergy who can offer their presence and their gifts in a part-time or non-stipendiary capacity. Our clergy and lay leaders will demonstrate flexibility in their vision of professional ministry in order to respond to God's call to them and the church in our world.

### **Current Student Assessment in the Ordained Tracks—The School for Ministry**

**2020:** We began this year with the formation of one vocational deacon and one postulant who was undecided. During this year, these two candidates focused on the major area of the History of the Christian Church, Spirituality, and Pastoral Care. Both candidates completed CPE requirements.

**2021:** This year we admitted an additional four students to join the two from the previous year. Among these four, at this time, two are seeking the vocational diaconate and two are seeking priesthood. This year's curriculum is focused on: The Holy Scriptures, The Practice of Ministry (leadership, diakonia), and Anglican Identity.

**2022:** This year, following a three year cycle, will be focused on Christian Theology, Christian Ethics and Moral Theology. Students will also engage in The Practice of Ministry: homiletics, evangelism, ecumenism, stewardship, interfaith and cultural/racial awareness.

### **Retreats that will be offered to meet Canonical Competencies:**

- (1) Christian Worship: the use of the Book of Common Prayer, the Hymnal and other authorized supplemental texts, the practice of ministry.
- (2) Contextual Ministry: the creation of a practical application of ministry in a context determined by the Bishop. This time will be one of discernment, planning, resource assessment, and implementation goals. [This retreat may be limited to those completing the three year cycle according to the Bishop's discretion].
- (3) Homiletics: the application of theories and ideas learned in the classroom in sermon development and delivery/feedback to/from classmates.

### **Current Student Assessment in the Lay School for Certification—The Lay School for Ministry**

We currently offer licensure as Worship Leader, Preacher, and Pastoral Care Leader. 22 leaders graduated last year; 21 leaders are engaged in study this year.

Licensure as an Evangelist was offered but with no interest at this time.

Requests for expansion to offering Licensure for Lay Catechists have been received.

Support Network: grant applied for with EES to help launch a sustainable lay ministry network that will provide liturgical, seasonal, and specific planning help and encouragement to those who have been graduated from our Lay School. For more information, see the report of the Missioner for Discipleship.

### **Areas of Expansion:**

- 2022-2024: The Dean was selected and is engaging in a two year in depth process of raising up lay preachers using the guidelines provided by the Episcopal Preaching Foundation's Lily Grant initiative.
- Request for Lay Catechist training listed.
- Lay Minister Support Network listed.
- Request for training intentional part-time interim ministers. Rev. Massey Gentry has been consulted to see if he has identified specific competencies that he finds germane to our particular area and/or the needs of transitions in this time.

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**Future Needs being assessed:**

- Identification or creation of a space where postulants for ordination can better fulfill the canonical requirement of emotional development, spiritual formation, and the formation arising in the bonds of community.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Joy H. Blaylock, PhD, Dean

**REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONS**

**AFFIRMATIVE AGING**

The Commission met twice in person during 2021, and frequently over email. We discussed the upcoming C on AA workshop, “Adventurous Aging: How to Stay Young At Heart.” Part of the Mission Statement for this Commission states that our goal is “...an ideal aging experience for all...” Thus, we decided to host this workshop for a nominal fee and as a service to the community for information on what people can do to age well.

The workshop was held on Saturday, November 13, 2021, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Mobile and included talks by Mendy Henderson, PhD, Gerry Phillips, MD, Timothy Hecker, MD, and Michael Ledet, MD. Topics included “Concepts and Theories of Aging” maintaining good cardiovascular health, good cognitive health, and good sleep/wake cycles. Interspersed among the talks were a low-impact Zumba lesson led by Barbie Francez of Orange Beach, and Chair Yoga led by Jan Craver of this diocese. A healthy and delicious lunch was served, and we believe a good time was had by all.

The Commission plans to meet in person in January. Plans for another “Adventurous Aging” workshop will be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Sara D. Phillips, Chair

**CURSILLO**

The Cursillo movement like many other programs around the dioceses has faced many challenges. The main challenge is to actually have a Cursillo weekend. The commission has met several times once in person and several zoom meetings.

Because of monthly contributions and those generous and dedicated individuals who have maintained their pledges the financial situation is in good shape. We sincerely appreciate those committed to the ministry and thank those forefathers who established this giving program.

For the second year in a row Cursillo sponsored the Saturday night diner at Bay Lights. We had a great crowd, and we were happy to be together as a community.

That Saturday we did have a well-attended Ultreya and felt as if we were coming back. We had a very moving tribute to those who fell sick and passed away over the last few years.

We had a Cursillo weekend planned for January of 2022 with full staff and pilgrim participation, and we had to postpone it at the last. The Omicron variant was too prevalent, and we felt for the welfare of all we needed to reschedule the weekend. As a result of that happening the commission is in discussion of how to move forward safely. The weekend is currently scheduled starting March 10<sup>th</sup> with basically the same staff being led by Kelly Fuller as Lay Rector.

There will be a staff training March 13<sup>th</sup> as well. Currently Cursillo #167 is scheduled for September 15-18 with Diane Voors as Lay Rector.

I am not sure if you have had a chance to see the new Cursillo logo but go to website and check it out! Also, we have a new App available that keeps you up to date on Pilgrim registration. It is exciting to open your phone and see the Cursillo logo!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lori Bates, Chair (Holy Nativity, Panama City, FL)

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**GLOBAL MISSION ENGAGEMENT**

The ministry of the Diocesan Commission on Global Mission Engagement has continued to be hindered due to the concerns and confusion COVID has caused throughout the world. Nevertheless, due in large part to the dedicated ministry of The Rev. Deacon Clelia Garrity, we have been successful in moving forward with some activity that we are happy to report.

**Baluba, Zambia, Africa**

With our assistance the Baluba, Africa Healthcare program is now well underway. Thanks to the “boots-on-the-ground” help of Baluba’s minister, Victor Chimfwembe, and his ability to get local government programs involved Baluba is now having monthly clinics that care for approximately 150 men, women and children. Part of our commitment has been to help them establish a building for clinics and a local pharmacy. Before, medicines were not locally available and the locals had to travel many miles, often on foot, to receive medical care.

The Zambian Ministry of Health (MOH) has provided Covid19 vaccinations, along with all other relevant vaccinations to the majority of the clinic's patients. The MOH has also provided monthly health education lectures and medications for some of the more prevalent diseases, such as malaria.

Partnering with others we have helped provide a monthly stipend of \$1000 sent in combination by the Commission and St. Simon's church. As part of our commitment to assist locals to become self-supporting this monthly stipend will be reduced to \$500 in March 2022 and discontinued in July 2022.

**Baluba “chicken” Project:** To compensate for this decrease in financial support, Victor Chimfwembe, the community's pastor and clinic organizer, began a project of raising chickens last summer with a goal of selling roasters. He also planted a significantly large crop of soy. Both of these projects are going along well and Victor estimates that by the summer of 2022 they will provide sufficient funds to independently continue the clinic.

**Helping Educate a Local Nurse:** Rachael, Victor's wife, is now completing her third year of nursing school. Her tuition of \$1500/year was funded by the commission. Once she graduates, she will be providing nursing and mid-wife services to the Baluba community.

**Rio Grande Borderland Ministries**

In September 2021, the Diocese formalized a partnership agreement with the Rio Grande Borderland Ministries (RGBM), a program of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. This partnership commits the Commission to a three-year contract in which we will offer a stipend of \$2000/year to support the RGBM activities at a shelter in Juarez, MX. Additionally, it commits the commission to developing pilgrimages of youth and adults to travel to the border to hear stories and to experience first-hand the lives lived by immigrants attempting to enter the US for safety and well-being. It is hoped that these pilgrimages will result in the transfer of stories from returning pilgrims to others in the diocese with the intent to further educate congregations about the lived experiences of those who have been forced to flee their homes as a result of violence, discrimination, etc. A first pilgrimage is tentatively scheduled for May 2022.

**Dominican Republic Church Furniture Mission**

Due to the world-wide COVID situation and the uncertainty of air travel the mission trip planed for March 2020 is still on hold. At that time Dominican Bishop Moises had asked us to build the furniture necessary to convert a room in the diocesan office into a chapel. At this writing the US Department of State has issued a travel advisory for US citizens to not travel to the Dominican Republic.

**Education Mission to the Dominican Republic**

For the same reasons mentioned above this ministry has also been placed on hold. Before COVID we had partnered with the Diocese of Nebraska to purchase lap-top computers for a pilot program in the DR and had planned two trips per year to help sponsor professional educators to hold workshops for teachers and administrators in the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic’s school system.

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**Scholarships to the University of South Alabama**

This project by which we were working to obtain a South Alabama scholarship for a promising high school senior graduating from the Episcopal school system in the Dominican Republic has also been placed on hold due to COVID and travel uncertainty.

We prayerfully hope that the COVID and travel difficulties will be resolved soon and that we will be able to resume our ministries as they were before COVID.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geary Gaston, Chair

**PRISON MINISTRY**

Throughout 2021, the Commission on Prison Ministry continued its efforts to reach out to those who are incarcerated, support their families, increase awareness of reentry programs, and address the challenges in the prison systems of Alabama and Florida. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted these activities, and Commission members were limited in their ability to interact with inmates or family members.

As with many other diocesan endeavors, the Prison Commission utilized Zoom for virtual meetings. While we miss the personal camaraderie, this has proven to be an effective method to conduct our meetings.

Our Prison Commission webpage is now available through a link on the Commission's site on the diocesan website, [www.diocgc.org/prison-ministry](http://www.diocgc.org/prison-ministry).

The Commission continued to recognize the importance of reentry efforts, because inmates receive very little guidance, training, or resources to prepare them for life on the outside. We acknowledged that there is a major need to educate and assist our church families – and the general public – to understand and address this challenging aspect of our judicial system.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne E. Verry, Chair

**RACIAL JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION**

“Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.” Isaiah 58:12 NRSV

Thank you for reviewing our report. We believe we are a reflection of every Episcopalian in our Diocese. We are also open to your suggestions and we welcome you to help us on this journey.

At the bottom of our report we list many wonderful opportunities we know you will find worth your time. Check them out!

And “...you shall be called repairer of the breach”:  
We take these prophetic words to heart.

In 2021, your Commission engaged in the following, despite another languishing year of pandemic related ups and downs:

- A. Strengthening Our Capacity
- B. Extending Our Footprint
- C. Deepening Relationships
- D. Raising Up Christian Leaders
- E. Providing Alternatives to Invite and Engage Folks in Conversation
- F. Planning for the Future

“And you shall be restorers of streets to live in.”

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- A. Strengthening Our Capacity- in a continuing pandemic it would have been easy to sit in our backyards around fire pits and talk about how bad things have become. Instead, Your Commission has been intentional about the education of its members and the wider community through books, articles, online offerings and a few in-person subject matter seminars. Against the condemnation of “Critical Race Theory”, we have continued to study our long-standing Episcopal Church Curriculum called Seeing the Face of God in Each Other. Members frequently report learning additional resources that help us become better at inviting people into conversation and better about facilitating these conversations.
- B. Extending Our Footprint— we already have relationships born from common experiences with Missionary Baptists and some Lutheran friends. We are also working with United Methodists. These relationships help us leverage our few resources and bring more diversity into our gatherings, whether on-line or in-person. Many of the Protestant faith traditions have histories similar to our own. Other dioceses inquire of our activities and we are frequently called upon to offer advice about pilgrimages.
- C. Deepening Relationships—despite restrictions on meeting in person, your Commission members have visited parish leadership when possible to talk about the content and conduct of our workshops, our goals, our dreams and how we can partner better with each such parish. We look forward to getting together with you if we haven’t already!
- D. Raising Up Christian Leaders— much like what you’ll hear as the mission of Cursillo, we also promote our members as researchers, organizers, conveners, chaplains, chairpersons of civic groups who are engaged in community peace projects. While doing this, the groups served are aware that Episcopalians are leading the way which reflects greatly on us as a faith tradition.
- E. Providing Alternatives to Invite and Engage Folks in Racial Justice and Healing Conversation— we know that not everyone who enjoys a workshop will enjoy a book read, so we creatively explore finding ways for engaging folks in discussions. We’ve highlighted music, poetry, prose, movies, documentaries, theater, etc at which stories are shared and then we invite with a call for responses.
- F. Our Planning for the Future efforts are detailed below.

We have hosted on-line and in-person workshops in 2021 though not as many as prior to 2020.

Our Speaker Series has brought insight to our Diocesan Community from a diverse, deep well of talent and experience. We hosted Dr Joy Banner, head of Communications of Whitney Plantation in Edgar, LA where the story of Plantation life is told from the perspective of the enslaved persons. We also enjoyed hearing from Billy Fields, a long-time movie and music producer who encourages people to share their authentic stories and to challenge what our ancestors wrote about our history. In the continuing time of pandemic, we were blessed as a Diocesan Community to hear from representatives of minority communities about what it has been like as Hispanics (Ana Delia Espino), African Americans (The Rev Carolyn Foster), and Asian Americans (Heidi Kim) when health care is not always available equally and when some folks are treated as scapegoats to the cause of the pandemic.

Our monthly articles in *The Coastlines* seek to highlight a topic, tell an engaging story, review a wonderful documentary, refer us to a musical or other performing art offering which will draw us forward together in the work of Becoming Beloved Community.

Our social media news and articles enjoy a wide readership and sharing. People are reached with the message of God’s Love for All.

Beginning in 2021 we began laying the groundwork for a community building experience through meetings and a shared experience of pilgrimage to the Whitney Plantation. This work is for activities in 2022. Our first meeting is on March 5 to begin making friends from all over our diocese. On March 19 we travel to the plantation. On April 2 we meet again to discuss what our own experiences have been and how this helps us going forward. This experience is open to All and is paid for by a grant from The Episcopal Church.

All the following activities are in 2022 so please be aware! And join us!

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On March 6, we travel to Selma to participate in the annual march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. We will have Morning Prayer and will stop at several other sites along the way. There is no cost to participate.

On April 2, there will be a Service of Repentance hosted at Christ Church Cathedral. Bishop Phoebe Roaf of Western Tennessee and our own Bishop Russell Kendrick will be leading our restorative conversations following a litany of repentance.

For those who are reached by the visual and performing arts, we will be traveling to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival on April 23 to see *Freedom Riders*. We will discuss the messages we see and hear and how truth telling through Performing Art is so compelling. The tickets are paid by a grant from The Episcopal Church. (Limited Seating)

Of course, we will be hosting workshops across the Diocese in 2022 and are looking for host parishes. The requirements to host are not complicated nor expensive. We utilize the long-standing curriculum written by The Episcopal Church over 20 years ago. Worries about what some people call CRT are simply misplaced. Look for one near you or attend a virtual workshop.

We will also be leading pilgrimages to a variety of sites to include the Equal Justice Initiative sites in Montgomery and to historical sites in Birmingham and other places. We will also assist any parish with any method or model of learning, discussing, exploring the topics on how we can move from where we are to Becoming Beloved Community.

“And we [ALL] shall be called Repairers of the Breach.”

Respectfully submitted,  
Your Commission of Racial Justice and Reconciliation  
Nancy Bolton Beck, St Paul’s Daphne  
Sarah S. Bolt, Christ Church Parish, Pensacola  
The Rev. David R Chatel, St Stephen’s, Brewton  
Jill Showers-Chow, Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile  
Ozie Christian, Christ Church Parish, Pensacola  
The Rev. Jim Flowers, All Saints, Mobile  
Michael Foote, St Paul’s Episcopal Chapel, Magnolia Springs  
The Rev. John C. George, Good Shepherd, Mobile  
Andrew P Howard, Good Shepherd, Mobile  
The Rev. Clyde Jones, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Daphne  
Nichelle Jones, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Daphne  
Joe McDaniel, Jr, Christ Church Parish, Pensacola  
Susan Miller, At Stephen’s Brewton  
Valerie Mitchell, All Saints  
Gary Moore, St Paul’s Episcopal Chapel, Magnolia Springs  
Dent Neilson, St Thomas Greenville  
Mary Mullins Redditt, St James Fairhope  
Robbie Runderson, Good Shepherd  
Ken Thomas, Nativity Dothan  
The Rev. Lydia Knizley Johnson (Bishop’s Staff Advisor)

**REPORTS OF THE DIOCESAN COORDINATORS**

**BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW**

The Covid Lockdown affected Brotherhood activities in 2021, but through the magic of Zoom we were able to continue our monthly chapter meetings. Although our local outreach efforts were impacted, Dick Hooper, as National Council Chair, was able to preside over the Triennial held in Louisville and available to all members through Zoom. Also, Brother Lee Wright assumed in 2021 the National Vice Presidency of the Ministry of Recovery, one of the Brotherhood’s seven areas of national focus.

When the Pandemic abated in June, we were able welcome our rector, Michael Hoffman, to speak about *What Does the Lord Require?* With another lockdown Zoom meetings resumed in September and featured an address by our recently installed

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National President, Conrad Jones. When restrictions eased in October Eric Randall, Pensacola's new Chief of Police, discussed in person his views of law enforcement.

We were able to invite Rev. Dan Baughman, pastor of St. Mark's UMC, to speak live in November about *The Church's Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The December meeting combined fellowship and outreach as we sponsored our wonderful Christ Church Choir to perform their annual Christmas Concert for both the chapter and the residents of Azalea Trace.

In spite of the January closure the Rev. Tyler Burns challenged the Brothers with an excellent presentation, *Integrating America's Most Segregated Hour*. By introducing this eloquent man to our Diocesan co-chairs of the Racial Reconciliation Committee, we believe that a significant step toward that goal has been achieved.

Although we could not have our annual BBQ fundraiser, we plan to raise funds necessary for outreach by offering chili to go to parishioners after Sunday Service. The Brotherhood does not sponsor the Annual Men's Conference, but members are actively involved. The featured guest for this year's conference will be the Right Rev. Eugene Sutton, Bishop of Maryland, who will speak on *Sacred Ground. The Episcopal Church's Call to Confront Racism*. March 4, 5 & 6 will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the Conference which will honor the founders of the event, Glenn Boom and Ed Rhoel.

Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, has honored the Brotherhood by declaring our organization THE men's ministry of our denomination and that designation encourages our local chapter to continue its effort to fulfill St. Andrew's vision of introducing men and youth to Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dick Hooper, Chapter Director

### **CHAPLAINS TO RETIRED CLERGY & CLERGY SPOUSES**

The diocesan Chaplains to Retired Clergy and Spouses regrouped in mid-summer 2021 after the coordinators, Fr. Dick and Pam Schmidt moved to Kentucky. By late summer, our Bishop accepted the offer of Fr. Albert and Nancy Kennington to return to the team as coordinators, a role they filled when Bishop Duncan first appointed a team. Chaplains Fr. John and Ann Phillips (Pensacola), Sheila Campbell (Fort Walton Beach), and Fr. Joe Hagberg (Panama City Beach) continued their ministry. Fr. Ken Cumbie (Mobile) and Fr. Bill and Millie Ericson (Foley) accepted the Bishop's appointment to the team.

At the time of this mid-summer regrouping, 144 retired clergy, spouses, and surviving spouses lived within the boundaries of our Diocese. Another 66 who are canonically resident here, licensed to serve here, or call home presently live beyond the boundaries of our Diocese. Of those with the diocese, 79 are retired bishops, priests, or deacons, and over half of them and their spouses are active in parochial, diocesan, or charitable ministries.

Each chaplain serves retired clergy and spouses within the convocation where they live or as otherwise assigned. Ministry of the chaplains includes a yearly contact between a chaplain and the appointed retirees. An annual cycle of prayer is based on birthdays. More personalized ministry is offered when there is special need. While chaplains do not take the place of the Bishop as our chief pastor nor of local parish clergy, we are available to the Bishop when we can be of help.

The Bishop keeps chaplains informed in times of serious illness or death. In the latter part of last year, one of our chaplains, Fr. Ken Cumbie, was present with Fr. John Hicks in the last hours of his final illness and his death.

Prudence in the time of COVID has suspended the good times of fellowship usually scheduled each year. Also suspended were the informative and enjoyable provincial and nation gathers of chaplains sponsored by the Church Pension Group. The conference for chaplains in Province IV (southeastern United States) first planned for Savannah, Georgia, was reformed as a three day Zoom conference. Chaplains report to the Bishop and to the Church Pension Group.

Happily, COVID numbers and beautiful weather allowed for the annual invitation of the Bishop for retirees to gather at Beckwith Camp and Conference Center on November 9, 2021, with some 35 retirees present.

Respectfully submitted,  
S. Albert and Nancy B. Kennington, Coordinators

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**DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

The Central Gulf Coast Diocesan Assembly of The Order of the Daughters of the King® currently has 237 members total, including 24 parish chapters and 31 members called Daughters at Large who are in parishes without chapters. On July 18, 2021, a new chapter was instituted at St. Paul's in Daphne, AL, with ten members; four who had been Daughters at Large, and six who took the lifelong vows to be admitted to the Order. Julian of Norwich is the name of this new chapter.

Members of The Order undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating two Rules:

1. Rule of Prayer: praying daily for the extension of Christ's Kingdom, their clergy, the spiritual growth of their parish, needs brought to their attention, and for members of the Order;
2. Rule of Service: participating regularly in the worship, study and work of the Church, assisting their priests in the ministry of the Church, and bringing others to a knowledge and love of Christ.

The Central Gulf Coast Assembly meets twice a year in the spring and fall. At the spring assembly, we voted on updates to the Assembly bylaws to be in line with the national DOK bylaws. We also voted in the new officers for the 2021-2024 Triennium: President Elizabeth MacWhinnie, Vice President Dianne Walters, and Treasurer Monica Barnard. Secretary Karen Raine, and Historian Carolyn Formsma were later appointed by the president.

The fall assembly was a hybrid meeting held in November at Saint Monica's in Cantonment and on Zoom. The Rev. Katie Gillet, appointed by the president and approved by Bishop Russell, presided over her first Eucharist and All Saints service as chaplain of the assembly.

Diocesan Daughters organized and a virtual prayer chapel for the Diocesan Annual Church Convention, which was fully online last February, with Daughters across the Diocese providing prayer support throughout the proceedings. The DOK prayer chapel during the Diocesan Convention is traditionally an annual event.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth MacWhinnie, Diocesan Assembly President

**ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH OFFICERS**

Due to the continuing COVID-19 deprivations and precautions this year, there is nothing to report from either state.

Joseph Hagberg,  
Ecumenical & Interreligious Officer for Florida

Thomas Heard,  
Ecumenical & Interreligious Officer for Alabama

**EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM)**

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year program designed to facilitate ways to enrich laypersons seeking to answer their call(s) to ministry. It was developed and administered by the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee), but functions on the parish level with both lay and ordained leadership. Seminar groups meet weekly in an adult-learning format under the guidance of a Sewanee-trained mentor. Mentors are required to be certified by Sewanee and recertified at least every other year, either at the School of Theology or diocesan sponsored training events.

EfM has a long history in this diocese. However, Covid 19 has put a serious damper on EfM, both in the Central Gulf Coast and nationally. Concerns with meeting for two hours or more each week has resulted in groups either going on sabbaticals or finding alternate methods to meet in seminar groups.

Seven seminar groups at five parishes in the diocese were completing their 2020-2021 schedule last May. During 2021, five participants graduated (that is, they completed the four-year program).

There are currently four seminar groups meeting at four parishes in the diocese. Of these, four are meeting via Zoom. A fifth parish is offering a limited version of EfM to those who were participating this past year in order that some momentum continues.

Covid-19 concerns have also affected mentor training. The School of Theology is not currently offering in-person training. Training via Zoom has been available but is difficult to schedule. The University of the South has initiated new software to manage EfM, and this is also causing problems the EfM staff is attempting to resolve.

Updated 2/13/2022

**Reports to the Diocesan Convention 51st Annual Diocesan Convention  
of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast**

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As EfM coordinator for the diocese, I have been in contact with as many past and present EfM mentors as possible, as well as with the EfM staff at the School of Theology in Sewanee. It is my plan and hope to reinvigorate this much needed program this summer.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. David M. Clothier, Coordinator

**UNITED THANK OFFERING REPORT**

The past two years have been hard on everyone including UTO. The ingathering totals are very low but we are hopeful that, as we emerge from Covid, people will respond in gratitude and giving will rise. The total ingathering for 2021 was \$1,039,462.77. Our diocesan ingathering for 2021 was \$5,118.89. The breakdown of the participating congregations can be found at the end of this report.

UTO chose to change our proposed focus of creation care to Covid relief during the 2021 granting cycle. In order to get the funds out as soon as possible, we broke the granting cycle into two segments, one in the fall of 2020 and one in the spring of 2021. We were able to fund a total of 53 grants including a grant to St. Mark's in Troy, Al for \$3,232.68. This grant to purchase freezers enabled the St. Marks' food pantry to begin offering perishable food items. This grant marks the 27<sup>th</sup> UTO grant our diocese has received. That number does not include grants that were received by our congregations before we were formed. Many of those ministries are still active. Clearly, UTO has had an enormous impact on us.

If anyone is interested in learning more about The United Thank Offering, please check out the website at [United Thank Offering](#). Feel free to contact me at the email address listed below. I am also available to visit your congregation and make a presentation about UTO. Thank you all for your continued support and participation. Remember that 100% of funds given are sent out to support new ministries around the world.

Church of the Nativity, Dothan, Al	\$190.00
St. Paul's, Mobile, Al	\$2,376.35
Christ Church, Pensacola, Fl	\$465.00
St. Mary's, Coden, Al	\$492.20
St. Christopher's, Pensacola, Fl	\$38.27
St. Matthew's, Chipley, Fl	\$256.00
St. Monica's, Cantonment, Fl	\$25.00
St. John's, Wewahitchka, Fl	\$153.00
St. James, Fairhope, Al	\$39.90
St. Mark's, Troy, Al	\$190.28
St. Francis of Assisi, Gulf Breeze, Fl	\$779.89
St. James, Port St. Joe, Fl	\$113.00
St. Thomas, Greenville, Al	\$713.75

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Landers  
Diocesan UTO Coordinator  
UTO Vice-President  
[jlanderscgc@gmail.com](mailto:jlanderscgc@gmail.com)

## CONVOCATION DEAN REPORTS

### CONVOCATION V

Convocation V of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast serves Bay, Walton, Okaloosa, Washington, Gulf, and Franklin Counties.

Ordinarily, the clergy of Convocation V convene bi-monthly as *Clericus*, which is an opportunity to meet over lunch for fellowship, the sharing of mutual concerns, and occasionally a program or speaker beneficial to the pastoral ministry.

In January 2021, the customary clergy and spouse post-Christmas party, this time to have been a Mardi Gras luncheon at Dat Cajun Place in Panama City Beach, was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Likewise, a March Clericus was also cancelled.

In May, Chaplain Mark Juchter hosted Bishop Kendrick and the clergy of Convocation V at the Horizons Officers Club on Tyndall Air Force Base, for a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Renewal of Ordination Vows, and a luncheon.

In September, an Oktoberfest luncheon was held at Grace Church, Panama City Beach.

In October, and in consultation with the clergy of Convocation, Noah Dalby, a communicant of the Church of Christ the King in Santa Rosa Beach, was appointed Youth Delegate to this convention.

In November, the clergy were the guests of Saint Andrew's, Panama City.

On January 6, 2022, clergy and their spouses were invited to the Christmastide party at the Saint Andrew Bay Yacht Club in Panama City.

We look forward to gathering at Saint Thomas', Laguna Beach, in March, and at Holy Nativity, Panama City, in May.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Hagberg, Dean