

Minster Action Items from Task Forces

Minster leadership teams are invited to set goals and make plans for shared mission and ministry in 2022 from these ideas.

Care of Creation

Chair: JoLynne Martinez, jolynnemartinez@gmail.com

Throughout our diocese, our many parts celebrate creation connecting us one to another. Our work should be viewed as part of a knitting together of creation care endeavors, so that actions of all parishes and minsters, large and small, add to the whole. We are all in relationship to everything and everyone God has made. As Jesus showed us to love God and one another, we are guided to respect and care for all persons and all things God has made.

To celebrate our unity in the love and care of creation, we invite you to join us in action in the coming year:

1. Conduct an audit to assess the needs for maintaining, repairing and improving congregations' building infrastructure and HVAC system, then prioritize addressing these needs in order to make wise use of our resources.
2. Facilitate use of the various creation care sites in the diocese by publicizing the sites within their minsters and around the diocese.
3. Minsters will further develop or create two creation sites within their minster through one or more of the following:
 - a. Sponsoring minster workdays at sites
 - b. Provide matching grants within the minster for sites
 - c. Inventory church properties and private properties within the minster that are either available for use now or need further development
4. Incorporate weekly prayers for creation in the Prayers of the People
5. Advocate for creation by monitoring national and state legislatures and county commissions for legislation that impacts creation, disseminating information about legislative acts through parish newsletters, websites, Facebook and other public forums.

Children's Ministry

Chair: The Rev. Kay Dagg, kay.dagg@sbcglobal.net

We invite everyone in the diocese to join us with your contribution of time, talent and/or money toward shaping the lives of our youngest members as they begin to grow into their full stature in Christ. We would love for you to connect with us to do one or more of the following:

1. Pray for the children, parents and children's ministers in your parish and around the globe.
2. Donate gently used children's ministry curriculum to the diocesan Children's Ministry Resource Room at Upton Hall and online. (Online Resource Room coming soon)
3. Host one or more children's ministry events (Godly Play trainings, diocesan events, etc.) Attend events in other minsters.
4. Create a children-and-families-focused pastoral care team (or send the one you have) to check-in with, pray for and support families with young and elementary-aged children.
5. Start a prayer partners program, connecting parishioners across generations through letter writing and greeting card exchange.

Evangelism

Co-chairs: The Rev. Gar Demo, gdemo@stthomasop.org; and the Rev. Jon Hullinger, priest@trinityepiscopal.church

1. Engage in neighborhood prayer walks. This is a way of seeing and hearing both the needs of our context and God's guidance (there are examples of this at <https://episcopalchurch.org/posts/evangelisminitiatives/neighborhood-prayer-walks>).
2. Encourage and equip congregations to engage in one-to-one story-sharing evangelism and non-judgmental evangelism — one that owns our life in Christ fully while engaging in interfaith relationships.
3. Work together and with the canon for congregational mission to research, learn and use various media opportunities including traditional and social media.
4. As a minster, brainstorm how parishes might use social media during Advent and Lent. Support each other in this evangelism opportunity.
5. Develop a plan to use the arts for evangelism. Consider how parish property might support local artists and musicians.
6. Participate in the “Digital Evangelism: Beyond the Age of Covid” workshop from Jerusalem Greer, Episcopal Church staff officer for evangelism. This will be sponsored by the diocese in November.

Global Partnerships

Co-chairs: Pat Parker, patparker51@gmail.com; and Lisa Welker, lisawelker123@gmail.com

The task force requests that each minster identify an interested person from their minster parishes to serve as liaison to the Global Partnerships Task Force. This person would ensure that task force-related activities are conveyed to the parishes and keep the task force apprised of mission activities of their parishes.

The diocese recognizes three currently active partnership missions: the school program in Haiti, Kansas to Kenya medical and community missions; and Karin Feltman's missionary work on human trafficking in Nepal.

1. Create a prayer team to support individuals on-site in Haiti, Kenya or Nepal.
2. Invite a speaker from the task force to your minster to discuss one or more of the individual ministry programs.
3. Plan and hold a fundraiser for one or more of the individual ministry programs.
4. Nepal: Sponsor an at-risk Nepali child for 1 year; includes school fees, uniforms, school supplies, etc., to allow the child to remain in school. (\$250)
5. Haiti: Sponsor an at-risk Haitian student for 1 year; includes school fees, uniform, supplies, etc., to allow the child to remain in school. (\$250)
6. K2K: Agatha Amani House: Sponsor a woman at risk of domestic violence for 1 year at Agatha Amani House in Kenya. Medical team: Support for medications and supplies. Library: Support for two sponsored libraries. Kijabe dental: Support for 1 month of dental care for indigent patients in three clinics. Student education: Help sponsor student exchange with KU School of Pharmacy and University of Nairobi School of Pharmacy. (\$250)
7. Support a team member to join one of the ministry teams for on-site mission activity. (\$500-\$2,000)

Liturgy, Music and the Arts

Co-chairs: The Rev. Mary Schrom Breese, momary1400@gmail.com; and the Very Rev. Torey Lightcap, tlightcap@gracecathedraltopeka.org

1. Strive to incorporate expanded-language liturgies.
2. Appeal to more diverse backgrounds by incorporating music from different available approved resources.
3. Create access to the body of available liturgical and musical resources by establishing minster funds for the purpose.
4. Create a minster-level virtual art gallery with submissions from artists in the communities involved.
5. Publish a minster Advent or Lenten meditation book (either physical or digital).
6. Discern what the Way of Love looks like when expressed in liturgy.

Outreach

Co-chairs: The Rev. Fran Wheeler, frances.wheeler11@gmail.com; and the Rev. Mike Loyd, mikeloyd53@yahoo.com

1. Engage resources of the “Creating Caring Congregations” model found on the mentalhealthministries.net website. Consider doing a parish self-assessment and learning on competencies for mental health and wellness ministry. (Invite a member of the Diocesan Outreach Mental Health & Wellness team to speak more on this in your minster or congregation.)
2. Appoint a minster or parish-level contact and/or ministry for mental health work; provide that contact’s information to our Outreach Task Force Co-Chairs.
3. Plan a minster-level event or initiative around Mental Health and Wellness:
 - Create awareness in reducing the stigma associated with Mental Health – by providing educational presentations/sessions during one or more of the following: Mental Health Awareness Week (first full week of October), Mental Health Month in May, or PTSD Awareness in June.
 - Provide a wellness activity session such as:
 - Spiritual Yoga or Yoga for Anxiety
 - Make Sensory Mazes or Calming Bottles – Plastic water bottles filled with water, vegetable oil, and glitter or dye or create
 - Workshop on Breathing
 - Workshop on Progressive Muscle Relaxation
 - Make Mandalas
 - Make Prayer Flags or Prayer Quilts
4. Create a collective listing of resources for housing needs to share in your minster.
5. Research, report and share active parish outreach ministries to the Outreach Task Force, including history of the ministry and current leadership.
6. Develop and mobilize at the minster level to equip individuals and parishes for civic action, especially around basic needs of food, housing, and employment services/workforce development. Provide education and resources to individuals and parishes to assist in the identification of needs, the availability of resources, and how to advocate for systemic change, so that each member of the community can live fully and with dignity.

Justice and Racial Reconciliation

Co-chairs: Terrell Mann, terrellmann49@gmail.com; and the Rev. Patrick Funston, apfunston@episcopal-ks.org

1. Engage the “Sacred Ground” resource from the Episcopal Church to form conversation groups at the minster and/or parish level. <https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground>. (Join the diocesan group put together by the Task Force starting in November 2021! Contact Canon Patrick Funston for more information.)
2. Develop and mobilize at the minster level to equip individuals and parishes for civic action, especially around voting and voter registration. Talk about the importance of voting with members of the church, but it’s not just our parishioners we need to reach. Elderly, minority, and lower socio-economic populations do not vote at the same rate as white, educated, wealthier individuals. In our baptismal covenant, we promise to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” Exercising the right to vote is an extension of this dignity and respect and is a way for our neighbors to achieve justice. Once we are able to gather in groups and visit neighbors safely again, there will be even more opportunities to engage our neighbors who aren’t registered and/or don’t vote often.
3. Capitalize on the “fierce urgency of now” by committing to preaching and teaching about dismantling racism. Follow-up with experiences and reception with minster group and/or a member of the task force.
4. Reach out and schedule one social event with a local congregation of color. Practice letting go of your power by offering first to join that community, not inviting them into your space. Hosting will come later.