

A photograph of two young women participating in a rope climbing activity. They are wearing helmets and safety harnesses, and are positioned on wooden platforms suspended by ropes. The background is a clear blue sky. The title 'THE Harvest' is overlaid in large yellow and white text at the top.

THE Harvest

August 2022 | The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

Mega Camp 2022

Episcopal campers gather at
Camp Wood YMCA to explore how
"Creation Speaks."

80th General Convention / Campus Ministry / Creation Care Task Force

Pilgrim bishop will travel, walk, and pray



“SO BISHOP, tell me about your pilgrimage...”

Until KU Canterbury Peer Minister Weston Curnow asked me, I had not recognized that I was going on one! But as I write this on July 4th, 2022, I do perceive that the journey upon which I am about to embark is a pilgrimage, one that I hope will bear fruit for our diocese as well as myself.

The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church defines “pilgrimages” as “Journeys to holy places undertaken from motives of devotion in order to obtain supernatural help, or as acts of penance or thanksgiving.” Wikipedia offers this definition:

“A journey...where a person goes in search of new or expanded meaning about their self, others, or a higher good... It can lead to a personal transformation.”

I did not immediately recognize my summer travels as a pilgrimage for I do not head to a religious shrine. Years ago, I did such a pilgrimage, staying near Assisi and walking some dusty miles to San Damiano where St. Francis heard Christ tell him “Go rebuild my Church.” As I walked, I was praying about my calling and future. Classic pilgrimage. Recently, my colleague Bishop Doug Sparks of Northern Indiana, spent his sabbatical walking hundreds of miles from South Bend to near Paola to experience what the Potawatomi people endured in forced resettlement. His was a pilgrimage of compassion. (I was honored to meet him on his journey and walk with him into Kansas!)

Let’s face it, on first glance my summer travels look pretty bourgeois. My journey includes General Convention, a week of vacation in England, the Lambeth Conference, and a week in France with my husband and sons. And yet...

I imagine that Weston asked me this question because wedged into our itinerary my husband Tim and I, with two dear old friends, will walk fifty miles of the southern coast of Cornwall. On some simple level, like the pilgrims in Chaucer’s tale, I go motivated by gratitude for health at age 60, for family, and friends, and the privilege of being Bishop of Kansas. I will walk my thanks.

Moreover, I realize that for me walking outdoors is time spent in a

holy place. Psalm 46:8 says, “Come and see what the Lord has done, the amazing things he has done on the earth.” Much of what is sacred is hidden in the ordinary. Meditative walking is often an experience of communing with our Creator amidst all that God has made. Soaking in creation, I come back from hikes spiritually refreshed even if sometimes physically exhausted.

Hiking is also akin to a relinquishment prayer. When I walk long distances, delighted and heartened by birds and plant species, I am able to offer to God my many human plans and my worries. Often, it is when my eyes are cast over ocean waves or prairie grasses, that a new and needed perspective emerges. It is a holy mystery, but as I walk, I sense I am companioned by the Risen Christ. The Incarnate God who considered the lilies of the field and birds of the air.

Traveling to Southwest England, I will be returning to landscape and people where my call to the priesthood was forged. Now, I return after three and a half years as your bishop. As I walk, I will ask Christ our Chief Shepherd to imbue me with new understanding for leading all of us forward the next few years. God knows better than I do what we may face.

Many religious pilgrimages are communal, think of Mecca, think of Canterbury. Chaucer, for all his bawdy irreverence, did capture the truth that individual pilgrims become a community in which ordinary time and space is suspended.

So, it is not only the cliffs of Cornwall that are sacred. I believe that the

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ON THE COVER: Senior High campers navigate the high ropes course during Mega Camp 2022. | Photo by Episcopal Camp Staff

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The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, *Bishop*

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News and notes from congregations

St. John's, Abilene collects non-perishable food items, personal hygiene products, and cleaning supplies in "Harriette's Basket" to deliver regularly to the Abilene Area Food & Clothing Center.

Trinity, Arkansas City held its 100th Anniversary Community Celebration with water games, inflatables, and a Cornhole Throwdown Challenge.

St. Paul's, Clay Center held a Back to School picnic with a blessing of backpacks for children returning to school.

St. Paul's, Coffeyville hosted a Red Cross blood drive for the community in the church's parish hall over two days in July.

St. Andrew's, Derby hosted a series of discussions on Zoom over a paper written by Deacon John Roper examining the Supreme Court's decision on Roe v. Wade.

Trinity, El Dorado hosted a Garden Party with the Tea Time Literary Society, featuring music and art for ambience and plants and bbq for sale.

St. Mary's, Galena purchased school supplies for local children in need at the beginning of the school year.

Epiphany, Independence celebrated 150 years of service to the community with a special Eucharist and a covered dish luncheon, displaying historical memorabilia of the church including the minutes from the first vestry meeting.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Eduardo García-Novelli

Cathedral welcomes new Choirmaster

Grace Cathedral is thrilled and grateful to announce the hiring of Dr. Eduardo García-Novelli who will serve as the church's next choirmaster. Following a busy summer of work and obligations here and abroad, his first Sunday will be August 21st.

"It is a true honor to join the community of faith and the music ministry at Grace Cathedral to serve as Choirmaster," he said. "I look forward to contributing to the rich musical tradition that is a hallmark of this congregation. Come and sing with us!"

Eduardo is the Director of Choral Studies at the University of Kansas, where he directs the graduate program in choral conducting and leads the university choral program.

Before coming to Kansas, he served as Professor of Choral Activities and later Chair of the Music Department at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. Other academic settings include Lamar University in Beaumont, TX; Lee College in Baytown, TX; and Moores School of Music at the University of Houston. It was at Moores that he earned the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting. His Master of Music in Choral Conducting is from the Westminster College of Rider University in Princeton, NJ.

He has a wide range of experiences in sacred music, having led church choirs in the various places his career has taken him since 1995.

Church of the Covenant, Junction City prepared and served its 15,000th meal for the Community Dinner feeding ministry. The ministry was started in Feb. 2020; through it the church provides a weekly free dinner to the community. The church serves 180 guests per week.

St. Paul's, Kansas City joined with other churches in Wyandotte County for the Nehemiah Action Assembly to call for safe, affordable housing and an end to violence in the community.

St. Margaret's, Lawrence relaunched its prayer team ministry, offering prayers for parishioners wanting individual prayer immediately following Sunday service.

Trinity, Lawrence hosted a workshop on Safeguarding LGBT+ Rights to help individuals know how to legally protect their marriage and family rights.

St. Paul's, Leavenworth celebrated meeting its fundraising goal to pay off the mortgage for the church addition and reaching it more quickly than anticipated.

St. Paul's, Manhattan donated thirty pounds of food donations to the Flint Hills Breadbasket to feed those who are food insecure in the Manhattan area.

St. Michael's, Mission hosted a "Back to School Bash" with inflatables, games, and lunch provided by the Kitchen Angels, the church's volunteer catering ministry. Backpacks and car keys were also blessed for students and educators returning to school during services.

Church of the Ascension, Neodesha continued its Year of Good Deeds by collecting and sending cookies and treats to deployed military through Treats for Troops.

St. Matthew's, Newton collected school supplies for students in need at Northridge Elementary, which is located across the street from the church.

St. Aidan's, Olathe offered Dinner and a Movie once a month through the summer, featuring films like *The Way*, and *The Mission*.

St. Thomas, Overland Park served as a host site for Johnson Co. Interfaith Hospitality Network for a week in July, converting classrooms to provide shelter for situationally homeless families and single women.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

St. Andrew's, Emporia sets up hospitality table for Pride.

St. Andrew's Participates in Pride

St. Andrew's, Emporia participated in Emporia Pride on June 11 by setting up a hospitality table and handing out free bottled water, granola bars, welcome brochures, and stickers designed by Sarah McDonald. The church has seen new individuals and families begin to attend since the event and is excited about its witness of love to the greater Emporia Community.

St. Luke's, Shawnee hosted a Family Paint Night with water color demonstration and instruction inspired by the work of Georgia O'Keefe.

St. David's, Topeka distributed "Grab and Go" meals and served on site lunches for children every Friday in June and July.

St. Luke's, Wamego hosted a Faith and Film series where parishioners watch a selected film on their own and then come together for a Zoom discussion led by a church member who is a retired K-State professor.

Good Shepherd, Wichita hosted "Ladies Night Out" where women come together for food, fun, and fellowship once a month.

St. James', Wichita is working hard to furnish three Family Visitation Rooms at St. Francis Ministries, the agency that handles foster care in Kansas. These rooms are used for supervised visits between parents and their children in foster care.

St. John's, Wichita provided shower facilities through mobile shower program ShowerUp, to neighbors experiencing homelessness.

St. Stephen's, Wichita is collecting supplies for neighbor school, Price Harris Elementary, through a "Stack the Table" drive.

Grace, Winfield hosted a book discussion on *The Sacredness of Questioning Everything*, by David Dark with Trinity Episcopal, Arkansas City.

Deacon ordained in June

by Canon Patrick Funston

Daryl Stanford of Ottawa was ordained to the sacred order of deacons on Saturday, June 18, 2022. Bishop Cathleen Bascom ordained Deacon Stanford at the public service Grace Cathedral, Topeka and the video was streamed (and remains available) on the diocesan YouTube Page (<https://www.youtube.com/c/EpiscopalDioceseofKansas/>). Deacon Stanford was the only ordinand.

Deacon Stanford's ordination took place on the feast of Bernard Mizeki, an Anglican-trained Mozambican who served as a lay missionary among the Shona people of modern Zimbabwe. Mizeki was martyred in 1896 during his missionary work. In her sermon, Bishop Bascom connected the lives of Mizeki and St. Damien of Moloka'i, a personal saint for Daryl about whom Daryl had written a paper at the start of his seminary education. She illustrated

the way that the Holy Spirit worked in the lives of these saints and prayed that God would fill the new deacon "with the full measure of the grace of the Holy Spirit . . . ever-changing and never ceasing."

Deacon Stanford was sponsored for ordination by the people of Grace Church, Ottawa and their late supply priest, the Rev. Robert Harris. Daryl attended the three-year presbyteral track at the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry. Bishop Bascom has placed the new deacon in an initial bi-vocational placement with the Light-Emitting Disciples (LED) Minster where he will worship and learn with the clergy and people of St. Timothy's, Iola, Calvary Church, Yates Center, and Grace Church, Chanute. God willing and the people consenting, the bishop expects to ordain Daryl to the priesthood on Saturday, January 7, 2023, 10:30am at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. ☉



PHOTO BY MICHELE MOSS

Newly ordained Deacon Daryl Stanford and Canon Patrick Funston all smiles following ordination service at Grace Cathedral on June 18, 2022.

From the Bishop, continued

Continued from page 1

the human circles of my family, General Convention, and the global community of the Lambeth Conference are "sacred places" as well! Faces of many hues, the minds of many cultures, a rich landscape of humanity drawn together... in such sacred space and time may Anglican pilgrims sense God's presence and transformative power.

With war slogging on horribly between Russia and Ukraine; daily public shootings across the U.S.; and extreme weather affecting many in our global church, I venture forth in faith that gathering with other Episcopalians and Anglicans is holy pilgrimage. I pray and believe that I will return to the Diocese of Kansas with new insights, transformed and strengthened for the next leg of our journey together. ☉

Clergy News

- The Rev. Laird McGregor installed as Vicar of St. Martin in the Fields, Edwardsville May 3.
- The Rev. Vicki Smith retired and celebrated her last Sunday with St. David's, Topeka May 22.
- The Rev. Sid Breese celebrated his last Sunday with Church of the Epiphany, Independence and Church of the Ascension, Neodesha May 22 .
- The Rev. David Jenkins retired and celebrated his last Sunday at St. Peter's, Pittsburg June 12.



PHOTO BY EPISCOPAL CAMP STAFF

Campers enjoy sunset on top of “High-Y” at Episcopal Summer Camp held at Camp Wood YMCA.

Mega Camp 2022

by Megan Tyner - Senior High Camp Director 2022

For over 75 years, young people from the Diocese of Kansas have descended upon Camp Wood to spend a week in the beautiful Flint Hills. A volunteer-based event, adult Episcopalians from parishes across the diocese donate a week of their time to celebrate young people and highlight how our denomination serves the world around us.

This year’s theme was “Creation Speaks,” which invited campers to explore the theology of God’s creation while spending time in one of the most beautiful landscapes in Kansas. Campers reflected not only on God’s physical creation, but God’s creation of us as well. Everyone is created in God’s image with individual needs, dreams, and stories - which connect us to each other and the world around us.

It is that connection that I am most grateful to see each year. Camp is a special experience where young people are provided with activities that challenge them physically and get them out of their comfort zone, all while being cheered on and supported by young people their own age. Many of these connections will last a lifetime.

As a public-school teacher, I am keenly aware of the havoc that the last several years have brought down on all of us, but especially young people. They crave a place to connect, a place that provides them with a safe place to ask questions about their faith, and a place that surrounds them with a community that loves them unconditionally. There aren’t enough of those spaces in the world today.

Thankfully, the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas Youth programs provide these crucial spaces that help kids navigate what God’s presence means in their lives. As Episcopalians in the state of Kansas, I firmly believe this important ministry deserves our full attention. It is my deep hope that our diocese continues to faithfully support these ministries with our time, tithe, and talent as we have for so many years. And to prayerfully consider how God may be calling us to further our commitment to them.

I would also challenge anyone who reads this is to invite every young person in their congregation to attend camp next summer. Every kid deserves to be surrounded by a community that loves them unconditionally, encourages them relentlessly, and supports them on their journey of adolescence and faith. May it be so. ☉



PHOTO BY EPISCOPAL CAMP STAFF

The Rev. Andrew O’Connor of Good Shepherd, Wichita serves Eucharist to Jr. High camper at Mega Camp 2022.

Kansas deputation attends 80th General Convention



PHOTO BY THE VERY REV. LAURIE LEWIS

Kansas deputation meets over lunch on the first day of the 80th General Convention.

By Chad Senuta & Mike Morrow

The 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church often referred to as CG80, met from July 8-11 at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland. The convention meets every three years as a bicameral legislature that includes the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops, composed of deputies and bishops from each diocese. Initially scheduled for July of 2021, the 80th General Convention was postponed to 2022 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. With cases on the rise as the summer of 2022 approached, the convention was shortened from ten legislative days to four, the number of attendees was limited, and safety protocols were enacted to mitigate the potential spread of the virus.

The gathered bishops and deputies discussed and acted on a wide range of subjects including the 2023-2024 budget for the Episcopal Church, the Book of Common Prayer, racial equity, and climate change. A summary of all the actions taken at GC80 will be published at <https://www.generalconvention.org/about-gc80>.

The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas GC80 Deputation

- Ms. Michael Funston (Deputation Chair)
- Ms. Kirsten Lee
- Mr. Mike Morrow

- Ms. Sarah Shipman
- Mr. Larry Hannan (Lay Alternate)
- The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis
- The Very Rev. Torey Lightcap
- The Rev. Andrew O'Connor
- The Rev. Casey Rohleder
- The Rev. Monte Giddings (Clergy Alternate)

Throughout the convention members of the Kansas deputation wrote blog reflections for the diocesan website. Mike Morrow of St. Stephen's, Wichita shared the following about his experience serving as a deputy and Deputation Chair for seven General Conventions including GC80:

This is my seventh and will be my last, General Convention as a deputy. I began serving in 2003, and have served in each subsequent convention. In 2012, Larry Bingham was serving in his 7th general convention and had been chair of the deputation for the previous five general conventions. He decided that 2012 would be his last general convention, and also graciously asked me to take over as chair of the deputation in 2012 in order to provide a smooth transition.

After serving for 21 years, I decided to follow Larry's precedent, and make this my last General Convention. I also informed the deputies that I would not serve as chair.

The deputies selected Michael Funston as chair of the deputation, and she did an excellent job preparing us for the convention.

For the first time since a yellow fever outbreak in 1798, General Convention was postponed from 2021 to this year because of Covid. The convention was also shortened to four days, and all committee work was done on Zoom in advance of the convention. For three days, we were on the floor of the House of Deputies from 9:30 in the morning until 9:30 at night in order to act on the resolutions before us, and adopt a budget for 2023-2024. On our final day, we were able to finish during the morning session.

In order for a resolution and the budget to be approved, they must be adopted by both the House of Deputies (lay and clergy deputies) and the House of Bishops. As such, we operate as a bicameral legislature like the U.S. Congress.

Major issues before us included the treatment of people of color, women, and people of different sexual orientations. We also discussed the process for making changes to the Book of Common Prayer. However, no major revision to the 1979 Book of Common Prayer has been authorized. We approved a budget that keeps apportionment for each diocese at 15%. This represents a major reduction from when I began serving when apportionment was at 21% from 2004-2012, and then was gradually reduced to 15% by 2018.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you as a deputy to General Convention. I am humbly grateful that the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Kansas gave me this opportunity to serve. I especially enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the committee that rewrote the Title IV canons; I was able to propose key changes that, in my opinion, made the process more just for clergy accused of misconduct.

In 2003, at my first convention, we debated the ordination of an openly gay bishop and same-sex blessings. I was elected for that convention after stating in a questionnaire that I would support the ordination of gay clergy and same-sex blessings. I never would have believed that by 2015 the church and the United States would legalize gay marriage. I have been amazed at the work of the Holy Spirit in leading our church and our country to be more inclusive and accepting of people of color, women, and people of different sexual orientations. The election of a woman as presiding bishop in 2006, and an African-American presiding bishop in 2015 would have been unheard of 20

or 30 years ago. The composition of the House of Bishops today looks much more like the country as a whole and is no longer the exclusive province of white heterosexual men. As we look forward to the future, I believe we must maintain the best of our traditions, while being open to the Holy Spirit leading us in new directions as we worship and serve the wider world in ministry. I encourage others interested in service to the wider church to consider serving as a deputy to the General Convention.

Reflections written by other members of the Kansas deputation can be accessed at <https://episcopal-ks.org/category/gc80/> The 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be held in July 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky. 📍



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Deputy Kirsten Lee places a windmill that she constructed on top of the Kansas sign in the House of Deputies.

Care of Creation Task Force seeks to answer God's call

By The Rev. Evan Ash

When the ancient Hebrews sought to understand how God brought the world into being, they knew they had a special place in that world and that they were called to love and care for the creation just as God had from the beginning.

Today we find that creation desperately needs our attention. Just recently at the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, the House of Bishops released a statement expressing “The Mind of the House on climate and our vocation in Christ.” In the statement the bishops express that, “Climate change and environmental degradation are manifestations of our turning away from God. The effects of this willful separation from God resonate across our collective lives: All areas of justice are either worsened or made better depending on the health of the planet. A changing climate and degraded environment worsens conflict, forces human migration, and causes food insecurity. These related crises increase the rate of gun violence, cause more natural disasters and humanitarian crises, and deepen the wounds of those already suffering from racism. People living in poverty are

plunged further into poverty by the deteriorating condition of the planet.”

The earth is crying out for us to care. And awakened to that cry, our diocese is mobilizing our faithful response. The mission of the Creation Care Task Force is to enable every one of us to bring creation care into our daily lives as a regular part of the choices we are given to make as individuals, parishes, and communities. Four areas have been identified to help us fulfill this calling: spiritual practices, Green Teams, land use, and community advocacy.

Spiritual practices keep us mindful of how our relationship with God is the source of our gifts, abilities, and capacity to care. The task force has developed a Creation Care Rite of Passage to be used as a Sunday School curriculum for children ages eight to ten. And for all ages to nurture awareness, “The Way of God’s Creation” offers a devotional experience, mirroring the Stations of the Cross, to reconnect with our journey in the world and bring it into sync with our Creator.

Liturgical expressions from around the world will help lift our voices in commitment to being a Church that cares for creation. Prayerful petitions can be offered ev-



PHOTO COURTESY OF EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

Bishop Bascom among bishops that worked on Climate Crisis Statement issued by House of Bishops at GC80.



PHOTO FROM <https://www.klt.org/red-buffalo-ranch>

Red Buffalo Ranch near Sedan, KS is one of the locations recommended in task force publication on creation pilgrimages in Kansas.

ery Sunday as encouraging reminders, especially during the Season of Creation from September 1 to October 4th.

To help parishes and people grow into Earth Stewards, the task force is creating a guide called *Planting Your Green Team—Growing Earth Stewards*, which will be introduced at Diocesan Convention in October. This guide, developed with over thirty years of experience at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lawrence, will help people discover ways that they can corporately and individually be agents of creation care in terms of their buildings, grounds, and everyday practices. And together parishes and individuals can become witnesses to the communities around them.

New learning will be made available through updates in the diocesan email newsletter. And the task force will provide an archive through which people can access resources to further their earth healing efforts.

Anyone can be an Earth steward, and those with access to land can have a great impact. Whether a person cares for multiple acres or even a small backyard, they can help replenish and refresh the air we breathe. Parcels of land all over the diocese have been brought into this caring effort, reminding people of their co-creator role with God.

The task force is developing a diocesan publication, *Restoring Our Roots in Creation: Pilgrimages You Can Take in Kansas*. It will describe places in the diocese that utilize land-use practices to help cultivate earth stewardship understanding and provide spaces for reflection and devotion.

There are a variety of communities in the diocese. Some are civic, some are economic, and some are social. But each can have an impact on the well-being of creation, depending on the choices each community makes. The community advocacy effort of the task force focuses on identifying opportunities to bring faithful voices to decision-makers and help communities refresh and restore the earth to the blessing God intended. The task force seeks to empower courageous decision-making that serves all generations, now and in the future. ◉

*Resources mentioned in the article are available at <https://episcopal-ks.org/care-of-creation/>



PHOTO FROM <http://www.stmartinweb.org>

“God’s Light Fire Ring” at St. Martin in the Fields, Edwardsville suggested as one of many diocesan pilgrimage sites for creation care.

Diocesan campus ministries ready for new academic year

By Weston Curnow - Peer Minister KU

As the days begin to shorten and interest in the pool starts to wane, one can feel it - fall is on the way. College students will be returning to their campuses, and the campus ministry programs of the diocese will return in full force, proclaiming the Gospel and witnessing in Christ's love.

Diocesan campus ministries have faced many challenges over the past two years, and staying true to the pioneer spirit, with prayerful flexibility, have adapted accordingly. The Canterbury House programs in Manhattan and Lawrence find themselves in a healthy position heading into the new semester after experiencing significant growth in student participation during the spring semester of 2022. K-State regularly welcomed fifteen students or more to its Monday night program and KU frequently saw up to thirty students attend its Tuesday night program.



PHOTO BY ANASTASIA CUNNINGHAM

Student leaders and The Rev. Mary Donovan welcome students to Canterbury KSU in fall 2021.



PHOTO BY THE REV. KAREN SCHLABACH

Students gather for a Tuesday night dinner at the Canterbury House of Lawrence.

Both Canterbury houses experienced a transition in leadership in May with Program Assistants Anastasia Cunningham and Will Chaney departing their positions at K-State and KU. The Program Assistants are full-time staff members, who live on-site, and coordinate the ministry with the students. They typically serve for one to two years as the position is meant to be a learning opportunity and a potential steppingstone to other leadership and ministry roles. Largely due to the pandemic, Anastasia stayed on for a third year at K-State providing stability and faithful care to the ministry. For the 2021-2022 academic year Will Chaney served as the Interim Program Assistant at KU. After graduating with a Ph.D. in May, he moved to California to marry and begin a new career. The diocese is deeply grateful to both Anastasia and Will for their service and to all who have supported these ministries with their leadership.

K-State Canterbury continues its search to hire a new Program Assistant and in the meantime plans to begin the fall semester with a model of student-led ministry, supported by Director of Young Adult Ministry Chad Senuta, Campus, Youth, and Digital Missioner Karen

Schlabach, and local clergy. Student Peer Ministers will work together with these diocesan staff, local clergy, and volunteers to coordinate the Monday evening dinner program, a weekly Bible discussion with evening prayer, and a monthly Eucharist.

This year, Canterbury KU is pleased to announce the arrival of a new Program Assistant, Brady Hornstra. Brady grew up in Washington State. From there he went to study youth ministry in Iowa for four years. After graduation, Brady moved to Independence, Missouri, where he worked for two years in a residential facility for at risk teens. In addition to ministry, Brady enjoys trivia, and board games. The students of Lawrence are excited to begin a new season of ministry with Brady and will offer similar programs Canterbury K-State with Tuesday evening dinner and religious education, evening prayer and bible study on Thursday evenings, and Holy Communion once a month, officiated by the Rev. Mary Donovan.

The diocese is also home to a few parish-based campus ministries like St. Peter's Episcopal which engages students from the Pittsburg State music program as Choristers in the church's choir, and St. Timothy's, Iola which provides meals for students at Allen County Community College.

Over the past year, Rev. Marc McDonald of St. Andrew's, Emporia has led interested students of Emporia

State in prayer and fellowship activities online. This fall Rev. McDonald and his daughter Sarah, serving as a student peer minister, plan on hosting a weekly program for Emporia students at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. In addition to fellowship and religious education on Sunday evenings, Rev. McDonald envisions opportunities for students of Episcopal Campus Ministry, Emporia to engage in community service around the city.

The potential of the campus ministries of the diocese is very apparent following our recent Peer Ministry Training Retreat held at St. Francis of Assisi in the Pines, Overland Park July 29-31. Drawing students from Kearny, Nebraska to San Antonio, Texas, the annual peer ministry training brought together students who will serve as leaders at the campus ministries in Emporia, Lawrence, and Manhattan. The students learned and practiced skills for welcoming, listening, and caring. They also spent time planning the activities, programs, and worship for the coming semester. The Peer Ministers left the retreat feeling ready to meet the concerns and challenges of their generation, seeking to "go in peace and serve the Lord."

Let us remember these ancient words as we think about the coming season of ministry for the college students of the diocese and offer them our prayers for a fruitful and faithful fall semester. ☪



PHOTO BY ELIANA SEIDNER

Student Peer Ministers gather for training at St. Francis of Assisi in the Pines, Overland Park July 29-31, 2022.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Update on Minster and Convocation Listening Process

By Canon Patrick Funston

The Minster and Convocation Listening Process, which was described in the Spring 2022 issue of the Harvest, continued through the spring and summer and looks next to diocesan convention and the new year. Bishop Cathleen Bascom and the Council of Trustees (including its Listening Process Working Group), along with the members of the Diocesan Leadership Initiative Team, continue their research and recommendation development, incorporating data from a spring survey of the diocese. A full report including recommendations is expected ahead of diocesan convention in October.

Following background research and qualitative interviews during the first quarter of the year, the Listening Process Working Group (a subgroup of the Council of Trustees with staff support from the Canon to the Ordinary) invited the diocese to respond to a survey. Invitations were sent at the end of April to the DioLog distribution list with additional targeted invitations to diocesan clergy. Through the survey, the Working Group sought to enhance its previous research by providing quantitative data to the Council of Trustees about diocese members' experience and understanding of Minsters and Convocations. The distribution of the survey also provided an opportunity for the Council of Trustees to gain feedback on their parallel strategic planning process by sharing twelve possible diocesan goals that emerged from that process.

The survey was completed by 318 people (a response rate of approximately 30% of those directly invited). 75% of respondents (240) identified themselves as laypeople. An additional 78 members of the clergy responded: 52 priests and 26 deacons. Following demographic and general familiarity questions, the survey invited those with direct experience of Minsters and Convocations to dive deeper, asking how effectively these structural elements met their purpose. The survey also included open-ended opportunities for respondents to provide feedback about Minsters and Convocations. Finally, the survey asked respondents to priority rank the twelve proposed goals that have emerged from the Council of Trustees' strategic planning process.

The bishop and Council of Trustees met for an overnight retreat in May to consider the data from the survey and to discuss recommendations for the future of Convocations and Minsters. After the retreat, the bishop invited the members of the Working Group and the Diocesan Leadership Initiative Team to further process and distill the Council's work which led to a series of recommendations later affirmed by the Council fitting into several "buckets":

- New and Updated Policy Documents - including leadership ministry descriptions and agenda templates.
- Convocation Bylaw Review and Harmonization - aligning convocation organizational documents.

- Canonical Amendments - clarifying the purpose and role of Convocations and Minsters.
- Development of an understandable, shared visualization of diocesan structure - including definitions and purposes of various elements and councils.
- “Relaunch” Minsters - clarifying minister purpose and provide suggestions for shared discernment.

The details of these recommendations will make their way into the formal report expected before diocesan convention in October.

The retreat also included time for the Council to process diocesan feedback on the twelve goals rising from the strategic planning process. At its June meeting, the bishop and Council affirmed the feedback of the survey and unanimously identified four priority goals to “form the basis for a diocesan strategic plan”:

1. Develop a culture of invitation throughout the diocese.
2. Focus on Congregational Vitality as a major tenet of congregational and diocesan health; both spiritually and financially.
3. Increase youth and young adults’ participation in leadership and decision-making bodies of the Church.
4. Grow leadership capacity (clergy and lay) in all congregations.

The Bishop, Council, and diocesan staff will continue to work on developing objectives related to these goals and other elements of a strategic plan in future meetings. ☉



Diocesan Convention Preview

By Canon Patrick Funston

The diocese of Kansas will gather for its 163rd Diocesan Convention on October 21 and 22, 2022. After two years of hybrid conventions, the bishop and Council of Trustees are planning for a return to a fully in person convention at All Saints’ Hall, Grace Cathedral. In addition to normal business, the convention will include a ribbon-cutting for the newly renovated Bethany House and Garden.

Business is expected to begin around 1pm on Friday, October 21 with the convention banquet taking place at St. David’s Episcopal Church, Topeka that evening. Business will continue on Saturday, October 22 into the early afternoon.

The theme of the 163rd Diocesan Convention is Message Love, based on 1 John 3:11, “For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.” The theme generally impacts the bishop’s keynote and vision-casting for the year ahead.

As the Convention looks to 2023, it will consider recurring annual business including the 2023 Mission

Plan and Apportionment Calendar. Convocation Boards are considering the initial drafts of these documents at summer meetings and sending feedback to the Council ahead of its formal proposal at its August 24th meeting. At time of publication, the August 5th deadline for other business had not passed, but the Convention is expecting to consider business relating to the Minister and Convocation Listening Process.

The Convention will elect members of the diocese to representative leadership including:

The diocesan deputation to the 81st General Convention at Louisville, Kentucky in summer 2024: four lay deputies (and four lay alternates), four clergy deputies (and four clergy alternates). Terms continue until successors are elected at diocesan convention in 2025.

The Council of Trustees: one lay at-large, one clergy at-large, three-year terms.

(The convention will also affirm the September election of the four lay convocation representatives to the Council.) ☉



PHOTO BY NASA

Image of the Carina Nebula from the James Webb Space Telescope

Discernment is spiritual decision making

By Canon Lisa Senuta

If you have not already seen the first pictures from The James Webb Space Telescope, visit the NASA website. They are mind-blowing images of stars and galaxies alive with details. What many do not know is that when NASA receives these images from the Webb, they are unrecognizably different than what we see in the news or on social media. The initially received images are infrared, high-resolution “pictures” that appear more like data. It takes a skilled team of people to interpret the data with color to reveal the light, depth, and complexity of the cosmos not apparent at first.

Like the initial Webb images of the cosmos, there is too much information in our modern-day lives for our faculties alone to understand. We need help interpreting the data of our lives to best know what to do, what to think, and the way to go.

Honestly, every day feels like a data dump, and I am overwhelmed by the volume of information I take in on any given day. Sorting the urgent from the not urgent and important from not important is a big job. Maybe you are like me and get lost following a rabbit trail of the not urgent and unimportant all too often. Life can feel like a data dump to sort instead of a beautiful cosmos to enjoy and explore.

Jesus said “Come follow me” to Simon after the miraculous catch of fish. Perhaps the abundant life in Christ is practicing the art of discernment.

Discernment is spiritual decision-making, an art taught through numerous saints and teachers throughout the centuries. Like peering through a telescope, the art of discernment begins by leaning back and gazing at the big picture through a spiritual lens. Discernment helps us interpret the data dump and allow

the Holy Spirit to reveal what is next, what is right, and what is needed from a grounded center.

Read slowly the words of this poem:

Remind me, again, spinner of galaxies, possibilities, and my inquisitive quivering spirit, that what joins me to you is less the devout repetition of the tried and safely true, than the creative dare, the imaginative lurch, the reworking of the expected toward an unexpected new. - Ted Loder

As Ted Loder poetically explores, discernment is an adventure with God. Leaving the known and safe, discernment guides us to trust in Christ and locate the courage of the Holy Spirit to choose the “imaginative lurch” toward the “unexpected new” God is spinning in our world.

It is easy to get lost in the data dump as parishes, in ministries, and as individual Christians.

I have learned in these first months serving as Canon for Spiritual Life and Clergy Care that teaching the practice of discernment is needed everywhere. Across the diocese, I have led vestry retreats, joined minster teams, offered quiet days, taught classes, supplied for priests, served as chaplain for meetings, and found the common purpose has been to support discernment.

Coming up I am doing more intentionally focused discernment training.

I have joined the work of the Commission on Ministry to develop the Vocationers' Retreat in August for those discerning a call to ordained ministry. This retreat is not just for those who aspire to be deacons or priests. It is also for any baptized person who desires to discern a more intentional ministry.

Additionally, I am supporting, reforming, and training the four discernment teams for the four convocations. These teams are trained clergy and laity who listen to aspirants as they discern a call to the sacred orders of deacons or priests.

Those Webb images are so exciting as they reveal our awesome, mysterious, and complex cosmos and to gaze at them reminds us how small earth is in comparison. Humbled, we ask ourselves, "What is our place, and what is our purpose with the time we have?"

There will always be a need to discern, and we can trust that the God who has spun the cosmos into being is also spinning possibilities with our quivering spirits here in Kansas toward the unexpected new in Christ. ☉

EMM hires new Director Sarah Shipman

Announcement from EMM

Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) is pleased to announce the hire of Sarah Shipman as its new director, beginning Aug. 1. Shipman—who served most recently as deputy attorney general for Kansas—will oversee EMM's operations as an Episcopal Church ministry and one of nine national refugee resettlement agencies partnering with the U.S. government.

A graduate of Washburn University School of Law, Shipman held several positions in the Kansas Department of Administration, including the secretary of administration, before joining the Office of the Kansas Attorney General. She also served as vice president and counsel at a Topeka, Kansas, bank, and has held other managerial, legal, and academic positions.

Shipman is studying at Bishop Kemper School for Ministry in Topeka and served as a lay deputy to The Episcopal Church's 80th General Convention in July.

"I am delighted to welcome Sarah in her new role and look forward to seeing EMM continue to thrive under her direction," said the Rev. C.K. Robertson, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Beyond the Episcopal Church.

Shipman replaces longtime director Demetrio Alvero, who retired after 17 years with EMM



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sarah Shipman, new Director of Episcopal Migration Ministries

and 44 years in the field of refugee and migrant work. During Alvero's tenure, EMM reached a milestone of welcoming and assisting more than 100,000 newcomers to the U.S. in search of safety and opportunity since the 1980s.

In addition to the federally funded programs EMM administers to help resettle and integrate new neighbors, its partially church-funded engagement unit provides education and resources; hosts a monthly Episcopal Asylum and Detention Ministry Network; and connects congregations with asylum seekers and newly arrived Afghans through the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

"EMM is the Way of Love in action," said the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church. "For decades, this ministry has been a mighty tool by which our church and our partners have lived out Jesus' call to minister to those who are vulnerable and in need of hope."

Learn more about Episcopal Migration Ministries' work at <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org> ☉



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Randal Maurice Jelks signs a copy of his book for Bishop Bascom at the KIFA Annual Event.

KIFA holds annual event at Grace Cathedral, Topeka

By Chad Senuta

Kansas Interfaith Action (known as KIFA) held its annual fundraising event on June 7 at Grace Cathedral in Topeka. Community, civic, and faith leaders gathered for an evening of inspiration and celebration focused on the ways that the organization puts faith into action.

The Keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Randal Maurice Jelks author of *Letters to Martin: Meditations on Democracy in Black America*. The book reflects on contemporary history and political struggles, addressing many of the public issues we face currently in the United States such as economic inequality, freedom of assembly, police brutality, ongoing social class conflicts, and geopolitics. Dr. Jelks writes the book in the form of letters to The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

KIFA seeks to address the issues of racism/discrimination, violence, economic injustice, and climate dis-

ruption as a multi-faith, multi-issue coalition from all over the state of Kansas, recognizing that individuals and their own faith traditions can't address all of these questions or needs alone. Coming together in mutual respect, cooperation, and love KIFA hopes to model a peaceful, compassionate, and cooperative world where meaningful change can happen.

In January of 2022 the Council of Trustees voted for the Diocese of Kansas to become a strategic partner with KIFA. Both individual Episcopalians and churches of the diocese have been active participants in the coalition for many years. The diocese also recently hired ShaMecha Simms who serves part-time as the St. Simon's Justice and Advocacy Community Coordinator for Bethany House and Garden and will work part-time with KIFA doing advocacy work with the state legislature. Bishop Bascom and the Council hope to see the connection between the diocese and KIFA continue to grow in its impact. ☉

More Than Enough; Stewardship Resources 2022



MORE THAN ENOUGH

AS SUMMER leads to fall we can predict many things: school starting, leaves turning, pumpkin-flavored everything, and the annual stewardship campaign. Even with my training and experience, the words “annual stewardship campaign” bring a degree of trepidation as I know what it feels like to walk that familiar road as both a priest and a parishioner.

Further still, the realities of our present world mean that this year’s stewardship discernment will be at least as difficult as any I’ve experienced. In my thirty-nine years I’ve never experienced inflation like this and, combined with patterns of spending and saving during the pandemic, I’m asking hard questions and filled with much more stress: How will we meet our goals? What do I need to sacrifice? What habits and patterns do we need to rethink? How do we include God in our search for answers?

Our anxieties might be raised more than ever before, but the truth is that these are always the questions we should be asking ourselves. This is the work of faith: How do I shape the way I live my life based on what I believe? And while life is, thankfully, so much more than the balance of my accounts, so much is impacted when I start to fret about my enough-ness.

And that’s why I’m excited that this year’s stewardship resources from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) are inviting us into our stewardship this year with a reminder of God’s abundance and a campaign theme of More Than Enough. This resource is available for all parishes of the diocese through our diocesan membership in TENS.

I’m pleased that the diocese has reengaged its relationship with TENS, which means that all parishes of the diocese have access to the resources of the Network including a ready-out-of-the-box stewardship campaign. Some congregations love to put together their own campaigns, but the TENS resource is excellent for those who’d like help at whatever level. The resource includes:

- A theological statement about the annual theme and how it can be used.
- A timeline and instruction guide for the annual campaign resources.
- Sample letters from the clergy and wardens / stewardship committee.
- Prayers of the People for use during your pledge campaign.
- Logos for use in marketing and materials in English and Spanish
- Sample pledge cards – customizable and ready for use.
- Seasonal reflections, available in .doc and .pdf which relate the theme of the season to stewardship perspectives.
- Weekly reflections on the October and November Sundays which tie to the lectionary read-



ings and highlight stewardship themes.

Along with these materials, parishes have access to webinars and recordings to help vestries and stewardship committees lead their parishes through this discernment. For more information, visit www.tens.org.

I’m glad that many of our congregations will be taking advantage of these resources, and I look forward to the ways that discernment of God’s abundance in our spiritual and temporal lives will shape us. ☉



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MESSAGE LOVE

*For this is the message you have
heard from the beginning, that we
should love one another. 1 John 3:11*