



The Sheaf

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

November 2021

So, how do you think it went?

Submitted by Bishop Thomas Ely

So, how do you think it went? That is a question I was asked several times following our recent Diocesan Convention. Of course, I had no North Dakota convention experience with which to make a comparison, so I often responded by turning the question back to the person asking it. The responses I heard seem to indicate that overall folks were pleased with how the convention unfolded. The most often heard refrains were, “it was good to be back together in person” and “there was a good spirit to it all.”

I echo those responses and as I have continued to reflect on my first convention as your Bishop Provisional (and Coach), the word “engagement” keeps coming to my mind. My observation is that the nearly 100 clergy and lay delegates gathered in convention were deeply engaged in worship, fellowship, table conversations and all the business of convention. There was a constant vibe of engagement with one another, renewing friendships, meeting new people, talking about our future, and deep listening. All of that, and more, it seems to me, is about living into the subtitle of the convention: “Building Community to Seed God’s Mission.”

God’s mission, in which we share as the Body of Christ, is a reconciling mission. It is about healing and the restoration of right relationships, including everything from interpersonal relationships to the trauma and pain that runs deep due to cultural and historical realities, to the global healing and future of our planet. We stuck our toes into that water during our sermon circles and I hope and pray that

we will continue to wade in that water, open to God’s spirit moving among us and through us in this new season of ministry.

Two of the most significant items of convention business related to this new season of ministry were the Diocesan Budget and the Mutual Ministry Review Matrix and resolution establishing the New Season of Ministry Task Force. Each in their own way are symbols of our commitment to take seriously the priorities set forth in the Diocesan Discernment Task Force Report, adopted last year at Convention.

The goals in the Mutual Ministry Review Matrix will serve as our roadmap for this coming year and in adopting the 2022 Diocesan Budget we agreed to support that work by “putting our money where our mouth is.” It is now up to each of us, working on the local and diocesan level to do all we can, and with God’s help, to support and strengthen our common life that is reflected in these two documents.



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None of what we experienced at convention simply happens because we want it to be so. My deepest thanks goes out the Convention Planning Team, the members of the diocesan Ministry Support Team, the many volunteers from Saint George's, Bismarck, to our workshop leaders, to Diocesan Treasurer, Charlotte Peterson, to John Floberg and his audio visual equipment and skill, to all who provided written and verbal reports, to Tammy Enockson,

Convention Secretary, to Diocesan Chancellor and Parliamentarian, Leo Wilking, to the Radisson Hotel staff for their hospitality, and to each member of the clergy and each lay delegate present who brought your local perspective to bear on our common life.

I closed my Convention Address with this Chinese parable and some questions for us to ponder. I close this article with an encore of those words.

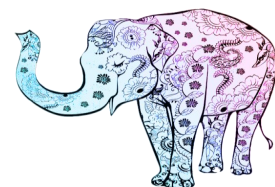
One day an elephant saw a hummingbird lying on its back with its tiny feet up in the air.

"What are you doing?" asked the elephant.

The hummingbird replied, "I heard that the sky might fall today, and so I am ready to help hold it up, should it fall."

The elephant laughed cruelly. "Do you really think that those tiny feet could help hold up the sky?"

The hummingbird kept its feet up in the air, intent on its purpose, and replied, "Not alone. But each must do what they can. And this is what I can do."



I ask you to consider what it is you can do for the well-being and future of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota and your local congregation. What gifts can you bring? What offering can you make? What engagement in our common life and in the future of our diocese are you able and willing to make? Will you sit by and watch as others seek to shape and strengthen our future as a diocese, or will you be a player in the shaping and strengthening of that future, both at the local and diocesan level?

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Thomas

The Right Reverend Thomas C. Ely, Bishop Provisional

There are many opportunities for you to say "YES" to that future and help us dance our way into this new season of ministry. I hope you have your dancing shoes on and are ready to go!



Dance, A New Season of Ministry!

Diocesan Convention 2021 Returns to Bismarck

by the Rev. Steve Godfrey, Diocesan Minister



“Dancing into a New Season of Ministry: Growing Community to Seed God’s Mission” was the theme of the 51st Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, held October 8 and 9, 2021, at the Radisson

Hotel in downtown Bismarck. It was the first in-person convention in two years and the first to be chaired by Bishop Thomas Ely. All in attendance were asked to covenant to be vaccinated against Covid-19 and to wear masks except when eating, following the recommendations of the Covid-19 Task Force approved by Diocesan Council. The bishop’s address, Eucharist, and business sessions were live streamed by the Rev. John Floberg.

Bishop Ely welcomed clergy, delegates and guests on Friday afternoon before sending everyone out to attend workshops. Topics included congregational development with the Partnership for Renewal and The Episcopal Church’s Genesis II team, both sponsored by the Congregational Development Committee; “Building Cultural Awareness: A Circular Model of Wellness,” led by Robert Fox of St. Paul’s, White Shield; “Reconciliation in North Dakota: Answering our Baptismal Calling,” led by the Rev. Larry Thiele of St. Thomas, Fort Totten; “BCP855: Lay Ministries,” led by Leslie Ross of St. John’s, Dickinson, and the Rev. John Floberg of the Standing Rock congregations; “Discernment for Ordained Ministry,” led by the Rev. Harvey Henderson of St. Paul’s, Grand Forks, and chair of the Commission on Ministry; and “Children’s Christian Education During a Pandemic,” led by Michelle Weidman of St. George’s, Bismarck. Following social time and a buffet dinner, Bishop Ely offered his convention address, beginning with a land acknowledgment.

On Saturday, attendees were invited to gather at assigned tables representing the diversity of the diocese to facilitate conversation throughout the morning. The day began with the Convention Eucharist,

held in the Radisson ballroom, with Bishop Ely presiding. In lieu of a sermon, the Rev. Larry Thiele and Dr. Christie Iverson of the Reconciliation Committee invited worshipers to engage in table conversations reflecting on Zechariah 8:11-17, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, and Luke 4:18-19.

Following the Eucharist, Bishop Ely called the Convention to order, made necessary appointments for conducting business, repeated the land acknowledgment statement, and recognized the Convention Planning Committee and other volunteers and diocesan Ministry Support Team members helping to organize this two-day event. The Convention then elected a Convention Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer and members of the Standing Committee. Election results are posted separately in this edition of *The Sheaf*.

The Convention approved two resolutions, the first to dissolve Saint Mary and Mark, Oakes, at the request of that congregation, and the second to accept the New Season of Ministry Mutual Ministry Review Matrix and create a New Season of Ministry Task Force, both at the invitation of Diocesan Council. Bishop Ely described the latter resolution as the among most important business of this convention, setting the stage for the work of the diocesan leadership for the years ahead. Therefore, before formal discussion and voting, convention members engaged in table conversations about how they thought this matrix would be useful in charting the future for our diocese and hopes for the work of this new Task Force. Following a presentation on the proposed 2022 budget, further table conversations ensued about the budget as a theological document before the Convention voted to approve the budget.

During lunch, clergy, and delegates from congregations in the East and West regions met

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separately and elected representatives to Diocesan Council and heard updates from the various congregations. The Convention also approved a number of courtesy resolutions and appointments to committees and commissions, documented elsewhere in this edition of *The Sheaf*, and received presentations and announcements from the United Thank Offering, North Dakota Episcopal Foundation, North

Dakota Council on Indian Ministries, Safer Church Committee, and youth ministry on Standing Rock.

We may not have actually danced during the convention, but the spirit of the gathering was lively, uplifting, and convivial, and it seems that some important seeds were planted for growing a new season of ministry in the Diocese of North Dakota.



Diocesan Commission/Committee Appointments

October 9, 2021

Commission on Ministry:

The Rev. Harvey Henderson – Chair
The Rev. Dn. John Anderson
The Rev. Bart Davis
The Rev. Dn. Sloane Floberg
Joanne Lassiter
Elaine McLaughlin
The Rev. Jamie Parsley
Donna Pettit
The Rev. Canon Hal Weidman
The Rev. Steve Godfrey, dMST

Personnel Committee

Sandra Holbrook – Chair
Carmine Goodhouse
David Lokudu
Joyce Tello
Leo Wilking
Leslie Ross
Robert Hoekstra
Steve Godfrey, dMST

Youth Commission

Ericka Morlan – Chair
Don Henderson
Michelle Weidman
Hannah Gendron

Title IV Disciplinary Board

The Rev. Dn. Beth Lipp, John Baird, through Convention 2022
The Rev. Mary Johnson, Tom Tudor, through Convention 2023
The Rev. Dn. John Anderson, Donna Pettit, and The Rev. Robert Hoekstra, through Convention 2024

Congregational Development Committee

Donna Pettit – Chair
John Baird
Tammy Enockson
John Floberg
Hal Weidman

Leo Wilking
Steve Godfrey and Kim Becker, dMST *ex officio*

Canons Committee

Leo Wilking, Chair
Tom Tudor
John Floberg
Larry Thiele
Sandy Holbrook

Finance Committee

Charlotte Peterson – Chair
John Baird
The Rev. Bart Davis
The Rev. John Floberg
Robert Fox
Andrea Stomberg
The Rev. Steve Godfrey, dMST

Reconciliation Committee

Larry Thiele – Chair
Christie Iverson – Vice Chair
Robert Fox
Carmine Goodhouse
Amy Phillips
Peter Halbach
Fern Pokorny
Kathy Hintz
Kim Becker
Hellen Lodu

UTO Coordinator*

TBD

Episcopal Relief and Development Coordinator

Andrea Stomberg

Education for Ministry Coordinator

Michelle Weidman



Courtesy Resolutions



51st Diocesan Convention, Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, October 8-9, 2021

1. Whereas our Diocesan Council has brought members, guests, and friends of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota together, in person and electronically, for our annual Convention in the centrally-located city of Bismarck; and

Whereas, many people have given of time and talent in preparation for this 51st Convention of the Diocese of North Dakota, most notably:

- the people, staff, and clergy of St. George's Church, Bismarck;
- members of the Diocesan Convention Planning Team: Steve Godfrey, Zanne Ness, Kim Becker, John Floberg, Jamie Parsley, Leslie Ross, Hal Weidman, and last but by no means least Sandy Holbrook;
- members of Diocesan Council; and
- the Administrative team of the Diocese: Kelly Noack, Diocesan Office Administrator; Charlotte Peterson, Treasurer; Steven Godfrey, Diocesan Minister, Hal Weidman, Canon for Mission; and Kim Becker, Coordinator of ministry in the Northwest Quadrant of this Diocese --and

Whereas, the management and staff of the Radisson Hotel, Bismarck have welcomed us with efficient and responsive service:

Therefore, Be it Resolved by this 51st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, as we convene, that we express our gratitude to the people of St. George's Church; the members of Diocesan Council; the Diocesan Convention Planning Team; and the Administrative Team of our Diocese for their careful planning, and

Be it further resolved that we express our gratitude to the management and staff of the Radisson Hotel for their exemplary hospitality.

2. Whereas the COVID pandemic has interfered with the ability of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota to hold worship services, meetings and conventions for almost two years, making the work and ministry of our Diocese more challenging, and

Whereas the Standing Committee's obligations as Ecclesiastical Authority during a time of transition between diocesan bishops were already significantly increased; and

Whereas the Standing Committee and its Chair, the Rev. John Floberg; the Treasurer, Charlotte Peterson; the Canon Missioner, Hal Weidman; diocesan Chancellor Leo Wilking; and administratively gifted lay leaders, Sandy Holbrook and John Baird, gave tirelessly of time and talent to provide leadership, oversight and administrative support during this time of transition:

Therefore be it resolved that the 51st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota convey its profound appreciation and gratitude to those aforementioned and the many others who served alongside them during this time.

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3. Whereas our Companion Diocese, the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, has continued to be supportive of the ministries of our Diocese during this time of transition and discernment:

Therefore be it resolved that the 51st convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota express its gratitude and commit to offering prayers for the wellbeing and effective ministry of the Diocese of Texas.

4. Whereas Conventions of the Diocese of North Dakota offer us the gift of remembering the ministries of former bishops of the Diocese in forming us as the people and institutions we are today; and

Whereas since we last met together in real time at a diocesan convention the Right Reverend Andrew Fairfield has been called into the nearer presence of Our Lord; and

Whereas the Rt. Rev. Michael Smith resigned as our Diocesan Bishop in 2019 and has continued to seek faithfully to serve Christ's Church in other capacities; and

Whereas the Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore served with distinction and pastoral sensitivity during our time of transition before the arrival of Bishop Tom Ely:

Therefore be it resolved that the 51st Convention of the Diocese of North Dakota send its condolences and best wishes to Sally Fairfield, widow of Andrew Fairfield; and

Be it further resolved that the 51st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota send its warm greetings to Bishop Michael Smith; and

Be it further resolved that the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota express its gratitude to Bishop Whitmore for his caring manner as he helped us to continue the work of the Diocese as we sought to follow a path of discernment for the future.

5. Whereas the Rev. John Floberg has served God faithfully and with distinction in ordained ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota since 1991:

Therefore be it resolved that the 51st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota express our gratitude for his ministry among us at this, his thirtieth anniversary of ordained ministry; and

Be it further resolved that lay leaders of our various congregations commit to inform the Diocesan Minister as they become aware of significant (25th, 30th, 40th and 50th) anniversaries of the ordination of their clergy so that delegates of future diocesan conventions may celebrate appropriately with each priest or deacon.

6. Whereas appointed lay and clergy leaders of our Diocese in conjunction with leaders of The Episcopal Church brought the Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely to us as candidate for Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of North Dakota and

Whereas Bishop Ely was duly and unanimously elected at a Special Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota on February 6, 2021:

Therefore be it resolved that delegates of the 51st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota grateful to God for Bishop Ely's leadership, commit wholeheartedly to pray for Bishop Ely and, under his leadership to pledge their commitment to follow Our Lord Jesus Christ Who leads us in a joyful dance into a new season of ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

The Resolutions Committee:

Mary Peterson Johnson, Donna Pettit, Mark Strobel



Diocesan Convention Election Results Congratulations and Thank you!



Convention Secretary: Tammy Enockson

Diocesan Treasurer: Charlotte Peterson

Standing Committee:

Robert Fox and The Very Rev. Mark Strobel

Diocesan Council, from the East Region:

Stephanie Garcia, Deacon Hellen Lodu, and Brandy Watson

Diocesan Council, from the West Region:

Tammy Enockson, Christi Iron Eyes, and Leslie Ross

Realm is our New Diocesan Communication Tool

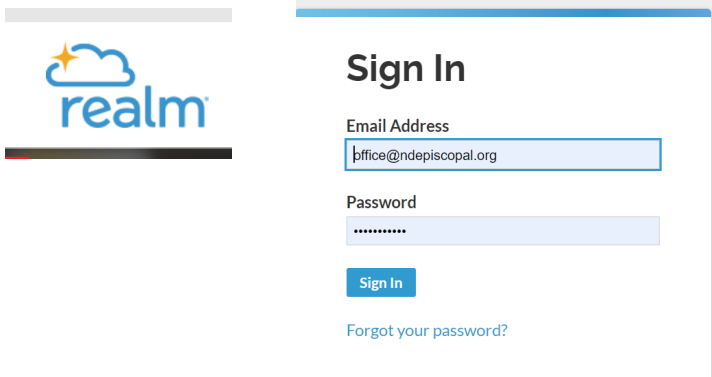
- ◆ It will allow groups to connect and share information .
- ◆ It is where we will create the Diocesan Directory.
- ◆ It provides functionality for processing event registration .
- ◆ A new round of invitations will be sent early in November.
- ◆ Please log in to create or complete your profile.



We are still learning the potential for this new tool and look forward to communicating with you in Realm.

Questions? Contact Kelly at:

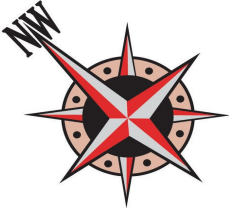
office@ndepiscopal.org or 701-235-6688

The screenshot shows the 'realm' logo on the left. To the right is a 'Sign In' form with the following fields and elements:

- Sign In** (Section Header)
- Email Address** (Label) with an input field containing `office@ndepiscopal.org`
- Password** (Label) with an input field containing dots for masked characters
- Sign In** (Blue Button)
- [Forgot your password?](#) (Link)





Regional Coordinator for Episcopal Ministry in Northwestern North Dakota

Dear Beloved in Christ,

I am continuing to enjoy getting to know the congregations here in the Northwest. It was a joy to be with Bishop Tom and Ann as they paid visits to Williston and Cartwright, as well visiting the church building and grounds in Dunseith.

Being from and formed by the mountains of North Carolina, it is extremely important for me to get to learn the spiritual geography of the places where I serve and to that end visited the north unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park not too long ago, where I was humbled and amazed to see bison right beside my car!

As you know, these majestic creatures were nearly killed to extinction by colonizers and there are heartbreaking photographs of skulls piled seemingly to the sky. So it was especially moving and meaningful to me to see them thriving in the wild. I am reminded of the importance of buffalo or bison to the tribes in this area and as Northwest coordinator not only want to meet with congregations to help provide sacramental support, but also to get to know the spiritual significance of the land in each community, whether on ranches or reservations.

In her book *Selu: Seeking the Corn-Mother's Wisdom*, Marilou Awiakta recounts her mother always asking her "...and what will you do for the people?" In Cherokee culture there are no individuals in the sense that decisions are made based on what is

best for the community. Ideally that is the Christian way, as well.

We might ask ourselves the same question: what will we do for the people in our community?

Community is not just people who already attend our church, but also those who live in the surrounding community, yet might not yet be aware of service times or opportunities for fellowship. Practicing creation care within our communities is also vital to our calling as Christians. Seeing the powerful and imposing bison was a humbling experience for me and a reminder of Creator's glorious manifestation all around us. It is good to be in community with you here in North Dakota!

In Christ's peace, power, and love,
Kim+



Cartwright, Williston, White Shield, Minot, Dunseith

Please Welcome

Episcopal Priest Father Mark Bradshaw

Stationed at Minot Air Force Base

Father Mark Bradshaw, from the Diocese of Los Angeles, recently became an Air Force chaplain and was assigned to Minot Air Force Base. Prior to his commission he served as the Rector of St. Barnabas, Pasadena, CA. He is married to Katie and the two have four children between the ages of 8 and 1. During his formation and training he was often drawn toward other military chaplains and intrigued to learn more about this ministry. In particular, he sensed a call to practice a ministry of presence among the women and men who serve in the Armed Forces with the unique pressures and challenges which their service brings.

The Bradshaws are grateful to have been welcomed by All Saints, Minot where Mark has also happily stepped into the rotation for Sunday worship, often preaching and presiding on a monthly basis. Mark is an avid triathlete and loves the outdoors. Katie is a former volunteer and program director for non-profits who is currently adjusting to life as a military spouse. The Bradshaws have already come to love Minot and are tentatively ready to embrace their first North Dakota Winter. They also have one cat and a black Lab puppy.



Feel free to contact Father Mark at:
markdbradshaw@gmail.com



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About Loving Your Neighbor

Submitted by Harvey Henderson from an article published in October 2021

As communities across America begin to welcome a new wave of refugees from Afghanistan, I was reminded of this little piece which I wrote for another occasion. Let me share the edited version with you.



Luke 10: 25 – 37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.” Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

A lawyer, a biblical lawyer and not a lawyer as we would think of one, tests Jesus with a question about inheriting eternal life. If you remember your Ten Commandments from Confirmation class you might notice that Jesus gets the first commandment correct, but the “love your neighbor” commandment is not one of the Ten! You can check the Catechism, pages 847-848 of the BCP, or the Book of Exodus, chapter 20.

The commandment to “love your neighbor” is however in the Law, the first Five Books of the Old Testament. More precisely it comes from the Book of Leviticus, the 19th chapter, the 18th verse:

‘You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.’

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It is likely that by the time of Jesus, the “love your neighbor” command had become part of the way of summarizing the biblical message: *Love God; love neighbor.*

In Matthew’s account of the conversation between Jesus and the lawyer,

Matthew 22: 35-40, ‘and one of them, a lawyer, asked (Jesus) a question to test him.

‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.””

Jesus adds that on these two commandments “hang all the Law and the Prophets.” These are technical terms which refer to the books of the Old Testament which had become published by the time of Jesus. The Law is first five books of the Old Testament, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, and these were written on one scroll. The “Prophets” refers to the four prophetic scrolls which had come into existence by the time of Jesus. The first three prophetic scrolls are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the fourth prophetic scroll includes the Twelve Minor Prophets, which are the last 12 books of the Old Testament.

Did you have to memorize the order of those in Sunday school?

I think that Jesus means that we are to read and understand the whole of scripture in the light of the two great commandments, Love God, and love your neighbor.

Genesis 47.4 - “They said to Pharaoh, ‘We have come to reside as aliens in the land; for there is no pasture for your servants’ flocks because the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now, we ask you, ‘let your servants settle in the land of Goshen’.”

Exodus 22.21 – “You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.”

Lev 19: 33-35 – “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

Deut 10:19 - You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

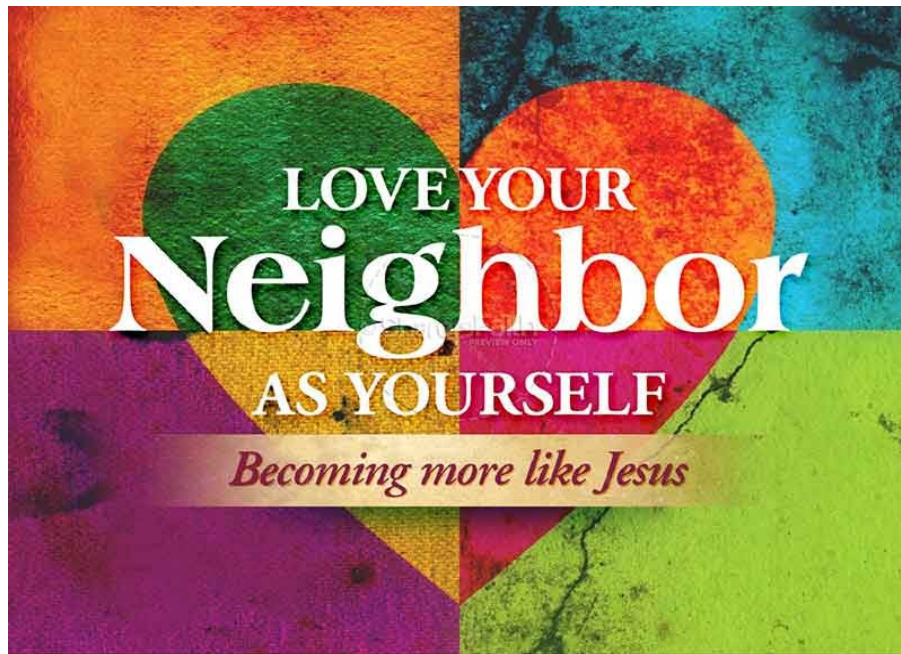
How did God’s people come to live in Egypt? Abraham’s grandson Jacob had 12 sons. Joseph was his favorite and his jealous brothers plotted to kill Joseph. They changed their minds and left him in the desert. He was rescued by a group of travelers and ended up in Egypt. His ability to interpret dreams put him in good stead with Pharaoh. Joseph is appointed “Secretary of Agriculture,”

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and he devises a plan to store grain during years of abundance and use it during the years of famine. Soon Joseph's family moves to Egypt and thus begins their time as aliens or strangers or immigrants in a foreign land.

It is important to remember that the example of the Good Samaritan is what Jesus uses to answer the lawyer's second question, "Who is my neighbor?" At the time of Jesus the Samaritans were bitter enemies of the Jews. That the Samaritan is the one to stop and offer help to the wounded man in the ditch would be hard for his listeners to hear. It is a rather extraordinary example of neighborliness.

As the followers of Jesus today we may be asking the same question: "Who is my neighbor?" In both Testaments of the Christian Bible we find ample evidence that our "neighbors" may not look like us, they may not speak our language, and they not even share all of our religious beliefs. Nonetheless we are called to love them. When God called a people together in the days of Abraham and Sarah, they were charged with one basic responsibility: "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Gen 12:3)



[Episcopal Migration Ministries](#)

[Our Allies in Afghanistan Need Your Help](#)

Volunteer or Sponsor, Advocate, Donate

Episcopal Migration Ministries welcomes refugees, educates communities, and mobilizes congregations to advocate for the protection and rights of all migrants



Do you have a passion for Youth Ministry?



The Commission on Youth Ministry was formed following the DDTF report to strengthen youth programming around the diocese.

The initial goals set out by the commission were to make connections between those doing youth work in the congregations around the state. We hope to foster the sharing of resources and ideas. We believe that growth and excitement within our congregations is necessary for diocesan growth. For 2022, we will focus on the goals in the Mutual Ministry Review Matrix.

Current members of the Commission are Hannah Gendron, Don Henderson, Joelle Shewey, and Michelle Weidman. The Chair of the Commission is Ericka Morlan.

A Facebook group has been started for anyone to join who is interested in connecting with those around the diocese doing youth work. Here we share resources and information about events. Contact any member of the commission to be added.

We would love to appoint additional members.

Interested? Please email Ericka Morlan at youth_family@gethsemanecathedral Fargo.org.

Submitted by Ericka Morlan



Ericka and Carol from Gethsemane in Fargo are *Thankful* to be together to create this fall altar display after months of worshipping apart.



St. Michael and All Angels, Cartwright is celebrating community with their beautiful altar display!



Safe Church– A New System Launched

Submitted by Diocesan Coordinators: Zanne Ness and Sandy Holbrook

The online Safe Church training has had a complete overhaul including the updating of existing courses and/or addition of several new courses. The Safe Church training is one of the important ways we are able to take good care of each other and all who participate in our worship, education and formation --in all our church activities whether in our buildings or elsewhere.

Many people in our diocese have participated in the safe church training over the past years, but it's time for all who need training to either refresh that training or take for the first time.

Our diocesan safe church policies address three issues: working with children and youth, adult sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment.

Training in all three is required for all clergy (stipendiary and non-stipendiary) and training in one or more of the areas is required for a wide variety of lay people (licensed lay ministers, vestry members, Standing Committee and Diocesan Council members, church school teachers and many others).

This new online training is called Praesidium Academy (<https://www.praesidiumacademy.com>) and it provides much easier access and greater independence for participants. Users can now set up their own accounts using their email address as their username and then creating a password. Please note, however, that each user must have a unique email address.

Three new courses have been created:

- 1) Introduction and Theological Background,
- 2) Organizational Rules and Model Policies,
- 3) Abuse and Neglect (this new Abuse and Neglect course replaces the four entry-level courses in the previous system).

Additional courses will be available by the end of 2021.

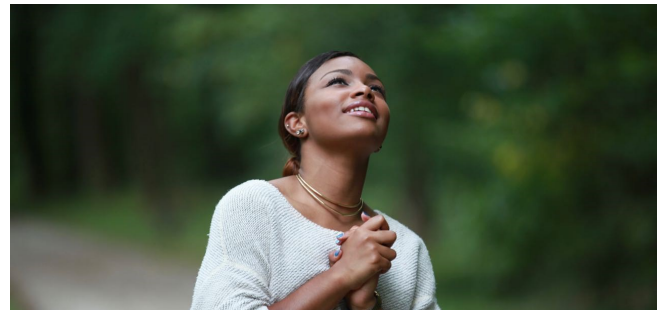
In the coming months, watch *The Sheaf* for additional information and communication from us as we renew our diocesan wide efforts to provide safe church communities for all those who participate in our congregational life.

Forward Movement

Daily Prayer

Forgot your daily devotions at home visit

www.ForwardMovement.Org



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pandemic Relief Grants

Through a grant from The Episcopal Church, our Diocesan Council is offering

\$2,000 to each of our 20 congregations to address local pandemic-related needs. This could be a great opportunity to reach out into surrounding neighborhoods and perhaps partner with wider community organizations as we discern locally what God is up to in the world around us. It could also be a way to strengthen pastoral care in congregations that have been especially hard hit by Covid-19.

To participate in this initiative and receive the \$2,000, email Steve Godfrey at sgodfrey@ndepiscopal.org and briefly indicate how you imagine spending the money. A sentence or two is enough. Recipient congregations are asked to submit a brief story from the experience of sharing this resource, again by emailing Steve Godfrey. We will publish these stories and share them with the Executive Council, as they requested.

For more information, contact Steve at 515-450-9858.

The Way of Love is a way of life.



Curious?

Visit [Episcopalchurch.org](https://www.episcopalchurch.org) for the practices of a Jesus centered life.

- Digital Resources
- Print Materials
- Curriculum
- Blog and Pod cast



Public events hosted by the Episcopical Church:

October 28th at 1 PM EDT: "Episcopal Climate Advocacy at the UN: COP26 Kick-Off with the Presiding Bishop's Delegation" – [Register here](#) or <https://ukcop26.org>

November 6th at 11 AM EDT: "Liturgy for Planetary Crisis: Episcopal Worship Service during COP26" – [Register here](#) or <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/creation-care/cop26/>

November 12th at 2 PM EDT: "COP26 Closing Event: Report Back from the Presiding Bishop's Delegation" – [Register here](#) or <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/creation-care/cop26/>

Also if anyone is generally interested in watching in on events, here's a link to the youtube channel where most of the public events will be livestreamed: <https://www.youtube.com/c/cop26>

St. George's listed in National Register of Historic Places

BISMARCK, N.D. – St. George's Episcopal Memorial Church in Bismarck has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's list of properties it considers worthy of preservation and recognition. North Dakota nominations are coordinated by the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

St. George's Episcopal Memorial Church was originally patterned after Cass Gilbert's 1898 St. John the Divine Episcopal Church in Moorhead, Minnesota, but the design evolved through the 1940s until it was built in 1949. The final design by Herman Leonhard blended Gothic Revival architecture with contemporary design and boasted unique features such as reinforced pumice concrete and stained-glass windows commissioned by Barton, Kinder, and Alderson of Brighton, England, that used recycled glass from churches bombed during World War II. This was the first building in the northern United States to employ pumice concrete, and the stained-glass windows are the only known examples of their kind in the country.

Contrary to some misconceptions about the National Register program, listing in it does not prevent owners from altering their property, restrict the use or sale of the property, or require establishing times that the property must be open to the public. Entry into the National Register of Historic Places does give a property prestige, provides protection from adverse effects in federally assisted projects, and provides eligibility for certain preser-



vation financial incentives.

For more information about the National Register program in North Dakota, contact Architectural Historian Lorna Meidinger, State Historical Society of North Dakota, at 701.328.2089 or find information online at history.nd.gov.



Indigenous Ministries Presents a Panel Discussion

[Native Voices: A Response to The Episcopal Church's History with Indian Boarding Schools](#)

On October 11, Indigenous Peoples Day, the Episcopal Church hosted a panel discussion with Indigenous Episcopalians as they respond [to a statement](#) on Indigenous boarding schools issued by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and House of Deputies President Gay Jennings.

You may also be interested in viewing

[The Episcopal Church Exposes the Doctrine of Discovery.](#)

Both are important to further our understanding surrounding these difficult and critical conversations from the lack of accountability on the part of our churches to deep spiritual pain and anger. Our participation allows us to sit with the uncomfortable truths, unpack our feelings and historical fact and lean towards and move into the process of truth, healing and reconciliation.

God of peace, we pray for this community:

For our local leaders; for our schools and markets; for our neighborhoods and workplaces.

Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all.

Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home.

God of peace,

Hear our prayers for this community



Please review Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's and House of Deputies President Gay Jennings' [statement in response](#) to the discoveries of mass graves of Indigenous children on the grounds of former [boarding schools](#) in Canada, condemning such practices and committing to "the work of truth and reconciliation with Indigenous communities in our church."

The vital work of remembrance, recognition and rec-

onciliation in connection with our Indigenous siblings continues.

Additional resources:

[The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#)

[U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Boarding School Initiative](#)

Willing Hearts and Working Hands in Mission

Submitted by Bart Davis

On Sunday, September 19, many members of Grace Church, Jamestown assisted their Mission Team by staying after worship to help bag beans. Bulk edible beans were bagged into approximately one-pound packages for distribution. We had a nice variety of black, kidney, pinto, and navy beans which were taken to Diocesan Convention. If you attended, perhaps you saw us there, and we were pleased to be able to distribute sixty pounds of beans over the course of Convention. Seven people from congregations throughout the Diocese



volunteered to be contacts for helping us distribute more beans as they become available.

In conjunction with the bean project we are also collecting new and lightly used clothing which we distribute to two grade schools in Jamestown. We are grateful for the co-operation of the teachers in their guidance and distribution of the clothes to children in need at their schools. These teachers have also helped us by providing sizes for winter boots and outerwear for those in need as they prepare for the coming winter.

“If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.”

– Isaiah 58:10 NRSV





The Sheaf

Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

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Fargo, ND 58104-6861

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The Sheaf

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

Calendar of Events

Nov. 4: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting @ 8:30 am (Zoom)

Nov. 10: Personnel Committee @ 11:00 am (Zoom)

Nov. 19: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting @ 12 noon (Jamestown)

Nov. 19-20 Diocesan Council Meeting (Jamestown)

Nov. 21: Bishops visitations at St. Paul's, Grand Forks, and St. John the Divine, Moorhead (Arabic Service)

Nov. 25-26: Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 29: Deadline for Sheaf

Dec. 2: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting @ 8:30 am (Zoom)

Dec. 14-15: Advent Clergy Retreat (location to be determined)

Dec. 15: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting