



**Dancing into a New Season of Ministry:  
Growing Community to Seed God's Mission  
The 51st Annual Convention  
Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota**

October 8 & 9, 2021

The Radisson Hotel in downtown Bismarck

**Convention Agenda & Workshop Details**

All events will be at the Radisson, including the Eucharist.

We plan to live stream and record the Bishop's Address, Eucharist, and plenary sessions.

**Friday, October 8:**

**Registration** starts at 1:00 PM – *Ballroom Foyer*

**Welcome: 1:45** – *Rembrandt Room*

**Workshops, Session 1: 2:00-3:15**

**1. Congregational Development: Birthing New Rhythms, New Life in our Churches**  
*Picasso-Da Vinci Room*

The [Partnership for Renewal](#), facilitating new ways of being church, The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer and Martin R Darby, Co-Executive Directors. It is a reality that mainline churches have been experiencing sluggish membership growth and Sunday attendance along with downward trending pledged income for years. The pandemic has only exacerbated this situation. Believing that every church is an intentional action of the Holy Spirit, PFR is dedicated to enabling churches to discern their current divine purpose, reimagine stewardship, worship, Christian formation, mission-ministry, and evangelism, and build their own divinely guided path forward. This workshop shares stories of actual churches served while demonstrating and discussing the processes and concrete tools we offer to enable churches to form new rhythms, new life. These churches have reported increases in Sunday attendance, finances, energy, and participation in ministries, even during the COVID-tide.

**2. Building Cultural Awareness: A Circular Model of Wellness** – *Renoir-Russell Room*

Robert F. Fox, Sahnish (Arikara)/Santee, serves as Cultural Wellness Specialist at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck and consults with a variety of groups on Indigenous wellness, gardening, and food sovereignty, including advising Indigenous dialogue to UN Food Systems Summit 4 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). He serves on the Standing and Finance committees and on NDCIM. He is a lay delegate from St. Paul's, White Shield and serves on the Indigenous Advisory Council of the Episcopal Church.

**3. BCP855: Lay Ministries** – *Van Gogh-Remington Room*

Led by Leslie Ross, St. John's Dickinson, and Fr. John Floberg, Standing Rock. Were you baptized? Well, you are a minister. Now here's how you can serve!

## Workshops, Session 2: 3:30-4:45

### 4. **Congregational Development: What does it mean to be a Developing/ Re-Developing Congregation? How do we move forward with energy and hope as a church?**

*Picasso-Da Vinci Room*

Tom Brackett, Manager for Church Planting & Mission Development on the Presiding Bishop's Staff and Steve Matthews, Project Manager for [Genesis II: Re-Vision and Renew](#), will guide us through some of the exciting opportunities available for churches in the Diocese of North Dakota. [Genesis II](#) is a church-wide attempt to bring churches together in cohorts to explore new visions for how we can be church in loving and compelling ways in our communities. Participants will hear exciting stories of redevelopment and get to "try on" a training session.

### 5. **Reconciliation in North Dakota: Answering our Baptismal Calling**

*Renoir-Russell Room*

Presenter Larry Thiele, ELCA, is a member of Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, serves St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Spirit Lake Nation, and as chair of the reconciliation committee for the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota and works with Shaneequa Brokenleg of the Episcopal Church to assist the Diocese in naming divisions and seeking racial healing.

### 6. **Discernment for Ordained Ministry – Rembrandt Room**

Led by Fr. Harvey Henderson, Chair, Commission on Ministry. A look at the Diocesan guidelines for discerning a call to ordained ministry, both locally and for the wider church, with an emphasis upon the role of the congregation in this process. All are welcome!

### 7. **Children's Christian Education During a Pandemic – Van Gogh-Remington Room**

Led by Michelle Weidman, St. George's, Bismarck. Wondering what to do about the children during the pandemic? There are many ways to reach out to our youngest members. New and flexible methods may be the way we will be working with young families in the future.

**Social Time:** 5:30 – cash bar w/ free non-alcoholic beverages & snacks – *Ballroom Foyer*  
Friends of Bill – *Van Gogh-Remington Room*

**Dinner:** 6:15, with Bishop's Address at 7:00, followed by Compline – *Galleria Ballroom*

## **Saturday, October 9:**

**Breakfast & Registration:** 7:30-8:30 – *Galleria Ballroom/Foyer*

**Gather at Tables to Meet Table-Mates:** 8:45 – *Galleria Ballroom*

**Eucharist:** 9:00 – *Galleria Ballroom*

(Clergy will not be vesting or sitting apart, except for liturgical leaders)

**Morning Business Session:** 10:30 – *Galleria Ballroom*

Elections, Resolutions, Budget & Table Conversations

**Noonday Prayer & Lunch:** 12:30-1:30 – *Galleria Ballroom*

**East Meeting** with election of Council representatives – *Van Gogh-Remington Room*

**West Meeting** with election of Council representatives – *Renoir-Russell Room*

**Afternoon Business Session:** 1:30 – *Galleria Ballroom*

Budget Adoption, Reports, Announcements, Committee Appointments,  
Courtesy Resolutions (submit requests to Donna Pettit, Mary Johnson or Mark Strobel)