



The Sheaf

August 2021

Diocesan Office Administrator Announced



The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota is pleased to announce the appointment of Kelly Noack as our new Office Administrator. Along with Bishop Ely and others she will be a part of the circle of leadership envisioned in the New Season of Ministry report adopted at the 2020 Diocesan Convention last fall. The hiring of Kelly is the result of a multi-month

discernment process that included an interview team of six people who are especially familiar with the administrative needs of the diocese. With this call, the diocesan Ministry Support Team is now complete.

For the last five years, Kelly has served as a finance specialist and administrative assistant at Concordia College in Moorhead. She has prior experience as a project coordinator for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program in Billings, Montana, and for the North Dakota Public Employees Association, and as religious education coordinator for the Unitarian Universalist Church in Fargo. These positions along with retail work have instilled in her a particular appreciation for providing great customer service through careful listening and problem-solving. She is excited to share this value, her considerable administrative experience, and her ability to figure out new challenges. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Minnesota State University in Moorhead.

Kelly is an associate of the Sisters of the Presentation and has done facilitation and community outreach for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Powwow and other events coordination for the Native American Commission. She has served on the Board of Directors of the People Escaping Poverty Project and volunteered with the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People. She shares our diocesan commitments to social justice, circular leadership, and healing for both Native American and non-Native people. She is a native of Colorado and loves the mountains.

Sandra Holbrook, a member of the interviewing team, notes that Kelly's curiosity and interest in learning new things and in tackling problems rather than avoiding them, and her breadth of work experience in a variety of organizational settings – educational, retail and many others – will be of great service to the diocese. Kelly writes, "I look forward to bringing my passion, my curiosity, and my knowledge to my position as office administrator with the North Dakota Episcopal diocese."

Kelly's first day in the office will be September 7. She will be based at the diocesan office in Fargo at 701-235-6688 and office@ndepiscopal.org.

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From Our Bishop

Dear people of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota.

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus, who is the Way of Love.

We are now in our eighth month together, since you welcomed me into this New Season of Ministry in the Diocese of North Dakota as your Bishop Provisional. It has been a rich and rewarding time for me as I have come to know so many of you and have had the joy of visiting most of the congregations of our diocese, either in person or virtually. The idea of a New Season of Ministry does not negate or ignore the heritage of our ancestors who established our diocesan life and championed the Way of Love for generations. What it does signal is a new chapter in our common life, a season of discernment and ministry in which we are journeying together to a future, as yet unknown, but nonetheless filled with the promise of God's abiding love and presence.

Our Diocesan Convention this year will celebrate our journey under the theme of ***"Dancing Into a New Season of Ministry: Growing Community to Seed God's Mission."*** We are still planning an in-person Convention at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck, October 8-9, 2021. The plan is to offer various workshops and trainings on Friday afternoon, enjoy a meal together Friday evening during which I will offer some reflections on this New Season of Ministry and our common life. Saturday will feature a morning Eucharist with the theme of Reconciliation and Renewal, followed by presentations and discussion in table groups around the 2022 Diocesan Budget, the Mutual Ministry Review Matrix developed by Diocesan Council and other matters related to our common life. During lunch on Saturday, clergy and lay delegates will meet by region (East and West) for election of Diocesan Council representatives and other discussion. After lunch, the Convention will take up various matters of business, including resolutions and elections. The hope of the Planning Team is that this Convention will be a celebration of our mission and ministry along with an opportunity to build and (continued on page 4)



The Work of Reconciliation in the Diocese

Submitted by Pastor Larry Thiele and Christie Iverson

The reconciliation committee is meeting regularly with the aid of The Rev. Sheneequah Broken Leg, our reconciliation consultant. We are engaging in work that shows us where we are, where we want to go, and what obstacles are in our way, in order to develop a plan for the future of reconciliation in the Diocese of North Dakota. It is a very exciting and productive time for us as we do this work and hope to be able to share it with everyone in the near future.

From Our Diocesan Minister

As I complete my first month in North Dakota, I can confidently say that I am loving my job, falling in love with the people and places, and so grateful for the invitation to join this diocesan community in embracing the challenges and opportunities before us!

Our Diocesan Council has created an ambitious and inspiring New Season of Ministry Mutual Ministry Review Matrix, which I am using as the guiding document for my to-do list. The Matrix Goals are printed elsewhere in this issue of *The Sheaf* and fully available on the diocesan web site. The Council is inviting the full Convention to affirm it.

I am very happy to embody the completion of the first goal in the Matrix, filling the position of Diocesan Minister, and I look forward to working with our new Office Administrator, Kelly Noack, beginning Sept. 7, and with Bishop Tom, our newly hired Northwest Ministry coordinator Kim Becker, and our canon missionary Hal Weidman, as we form the diocesan Ministry Support Team (dMST) circle of leadership. We have begun meeting biweekly via Zoom, along with Finance Committee members Charlotte Peterson and Bart Davis, and the dMST is also planning periodic in-person team retreats, beginning September 10.

While I have begun to get up to speed on maintaining our venerable web site and email system, and Charlotte has been leading us in implementing Realm for connecting our leadership, Kelly's arrival will allow us to really address various ways of communicating across the diocese, using up to date technology and a diversity of media for reaching everyone. We hope to engage consultants to conduct a full communications audit to support this work. Kelly will also help us to be faithful to our canonical and administrative commitments, and to promote more financial transparency, in partnership with our Finance Committee. I am very grateful for John Floberg and his offer to edit this edition of *The Sheaf* while we get our communications efforts going.

My initial priority has been to meet clergy and lay leaders around the diocese and, while I have already met individually or in small groups with about 40 people from at least 14 of our congregations, as well as attending many meetings with many others, I have a long way to go! Please let me know if you would like to schedule a meeting. It has been a joy to hear stories of ministry and life in this diocese and to begin to explore hopes and dreams. I have also

enjoyed celebrating Eucharist with some of our smaller churches and begun to consider how best to support sacramental ministry in congregations without regular access to a priest, including the diverse community that is St. John's in Moorhead. It has also been fun to get to know Kim Becker and some of the leaders in the congregations in the Northwest. I look forward to supporting her work and the development of the teams in these communities.

Just recently I have met with Donna Pettit and begun to talk about convening the new Congregational Development Committee. We are working on finding a time to meet soon to share hopes and strategize. I have also met with Harvey Henderson of the Commission on Ministry, especially about reviving the School for Ministry. We are envisioning an event later in the fall as we begin to develop a cohesive long-term plan. Both groups hope to offer workshops at Convention. Watch the Convention web page for details! Council has just decided to share the \$40,000 in pandemic relief from Executive Council with each of our 20 congregations - \$2,000 each - to address local needs. I see this as an excellent opportunity for all of our congregations to exercise the congregational development muscles of seeking to understand and respond to the passions and concerns in our neighborhoods - what God is up to in the world.

Two areas of concern I have been hearing a lot in my conversations are around engaging youth and addressing the need for reconciliation among Native American and non-Native communities, East and West, large and small, inclusivity of LGBT people, etc. Stories of atrocious treatment of Native American children in the past, the church's role, and people's anger, have especially challenged me to

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strengthen community across the diocese, especially since it has been two years since Convention has met in person.

Mindful of the realities of the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, Diocesan Council has approved the recommendations from our Covid Protocol Team, chaired by Dr. John Baird. You can find those on the diocesan website. In the spirit of our call to love God and one another, we ask each congregation and member of the clergy to covenant with each other to:

- a. Send only delegates, clergy, and guests who are vaccinated
- b. Discuss issues in advance among members so delegates can represent all
- c. Wear masks when in groups indoors
- d. Maintain a proper distance (3 to 6 feet) when unmasked, such as for meals
- e. Maintain safe distancing and masking for any children who are not yet vaccinated

We will livestream the bishop's remarks on Friday night, the Saturday morning Eucharist, and the Convention plenary sessions. There will not be a provision for voting online.

It is my hope that all canonically resident clergy will attend, as they are able, and that each congregation will send a full contingent of lay delegates. Registration information is on the diocesan website. I also want to encourage any guests who might want to join us for all, or part, of the Convention to register. We are offering a special Friday only registration for guests.

More information about Convention, including hotel reservations, nomination forms, the proposed 2022 budget and resolutions can be found on the diocesan website – <https://ndepiscopal.org/2021-diocesan-convention/>

Please do all you can to help make this Convention a success by participating to the degree that you can (clergy, delegate, guest, online) and encourage your congregation to send a full contingent. as we dance our way into a new season of ministry together.

Faithfully,



The Right Reverend Thomas C. Ely

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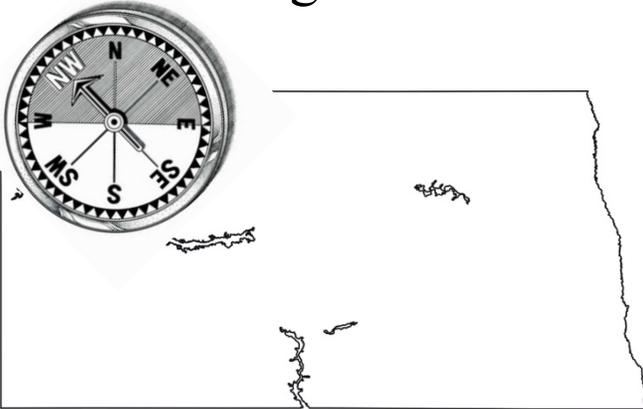
think and pray about how we might be called to repent and work for reconciliation so that all people can trust the church and the good news we offer. I am eager to support the work of the Youth Ministry and Reconciliation teams.

There is a lot of ground to cover in North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota, as we face the challenges of sustaining and growing the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement in the 21st century, so we are fortunate to have an excellent road map in the Matrix that will lead us confidently into this New Season of Ministry. I am honored to be able to help form this Circle.

Steve Godfrey, Diocesan Minister
sgodfrey@ndepiscopal.org
515-450-9858 (voice + text)

Regional Coordinator for Episcopal Ministry in Northwestern North Dakota

June 19, 2021



The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota is pleased to announce the appointment of the Reverend Kim Becker as Regional Coordinator for Episcopal Ministry in Northwestern North Dakota, effective August 1, 2021. This new position is partially funded through a grant from the Roanridge Foundation and includes ministry among five Episcopal Congregations in the Northwest quadrant of North Dakota: All Saints, Minot; Saint Sylvan's, Dunseith; Saint Paul's, White Shield; Saint Peter's, Williston; and Saint Michael & All Angels, Cartwright. The grant envisions enabling these congregations to join together for friendship and support, to learn from one another, to hear and respond to God's call to for faithful living in five very diverse places. Kim will serve as a resource person for all five congregations, from her home office in Minot.

Of mixed descent, including Cherokee, Kim brings 20 years of ordained ministry experience, most recently in the Diocese of Kentucky, where she was a hospital ICU chaplain and where she also trained with Dr. Catherine Meeks as a racial healing leader. In addition, she has served as rector, supply priest, hospice chaplain, and licensed wellness coach. Kim's ministry is driven by her fascination with people's stories and her pastoral gift for meeting people where they are—assisting in meaning-making during hard times and celebration during times of joy. Originally from North Carolina, Kim has also

served in the dioceses of Washington and Western North Carolina. Her dad was a priest, canon pastor, and Air Force chaplain. Her mother is an EFM graduate and Daughters Of the King member.

Kim is mom to one grown son, Alex, an artist in Baltimore. She is also a poet whose imagination is already captivated by the wide skies and open plains of North Dakota. She looks forward to serving as a resource for the Northwest region of the



Diocese and is eager to get to know the people in this part of God's creation. In her role as Northwest Regional Ministry Coordinator, Kim will, with the help of our Bishop Provisional, Diocesan Minister, and the diocesan North Dakota School for Ministry (NDSM), help these congregations identify, raise up, and train leaders with gifts and skills appropriate to their diverse settings. She will also provide an additional sacramental and pastoral presence at worship and coordinate the clergy resources presently available in the region.

Please join me in welcoming Kim as she joins us in this new season of ministry in North Dakota. I look forward to working with Kim as a colleague who brings years of experience in the Episcopal Church and a wide variety of skills for equipping leaders and congregations for deeper engagement in God's reconciling mission. Contact her at NWcoordinator@ndepiscopal.org.

Cartwright + Williston + White Shield + Minot + Dunseith

Northwest Regional Report

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Thank you for your warm welcome to North Dakota! I began my duties as Northwest regional coordinator on August 1st and so far have met and worshipped with three of the five congregations in the area.

As Bishop Tom mentioned in the announcement about my appointment, my role is to support and encourage the five Northwest congregations to draw on gifts for building up God's Kingdom, as well as begin to explore opportunities for fellowship and shared ministry.

My primary focus is on building relationships and earning trust by listening to stories, whether joyful or sorrowful--and I know this year has been especially difficult for many.

As Christians, we are in the business of hope and faith, not fear and despair, so even in the midst of a pandemic, we can still give thanks for this New Season of Ministry and try to reframe challenges as opportunities.

When I was at All Saints to attend a recent vestry meeting, I was struck by the beauty of a stained glass window in the narthex. It is sometimes easy (for me anyway!) to walk past things without appreciating their beauty and so I include the photo as a reminder to myself and perhaps to all of us to practice gratitude by celebrating what is good in the present. In fact, I begin every day by facing East towards the rising sun and praising Creator for the gift of another day. What rituals or practices feed your spirit?

Cherokee Chief Wilma Mankiller said:

The most fulfilled people are the ones who get up every morning and stand for something larger than themselves. They are the people who care about others, who will extend a helping hand to someone in need or will speak up about an injustice when they see it.

Although we come from different backgrounds, we are united in our faith as we strive to uphold our baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of every person. Or as Presiding Bishop Curry has said: if it's not about love, it's not about God!

I am excited to be here as part of the diocesan support team and am already blessed by those whom I have met.

As I get to know you all and have the privilege of serving with you, I invite you to email or call with any questions or concerns:

Nwcoordinator@ndepiscopal.org

240.472.1102

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



51st Annual Convention
Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
October 8-9, 2021
Dancing into a New Season of Ministry:
Growing Community to Seed God's Mission

If you are interested in being nominated for any of the following positions, check those that apply:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary of Convention | <input type="checkbox"/> East Region Representative to Council
(multiple positions open) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer of the Diocese | <input type="checkbox"/> West Region Representative to Council
(multiple positions open) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standing Committee
(Lay – 1 3-year term)
(Lay – 1 2-year term) | <input type="checkbox"/> EFMHE Member (2 positions) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standing Committee
(Clergy – 3-year term) | <input type="checkbox"/> NDEF Member (3 positions) |

Nominee's Affirmation (check boxes):

- I understand the obligations of the position.
- If elected to this office, I agree to serve.

Nominee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Nominations received for Diocesan Convention by the deadline of September 15, 2021, will appear in with the publication of pre-convention materials.

Any individuals nominated "from the floor" will need to prepare this same information and provide printed copies to the Convention Delegates.

Experience and Qualifications

NOTE: this information will be published in 2021 pre-convention materials.

1. Please list the experiences which help equip you for this position.

2. Why do you wish to serve in this ministry and what gifts would you bring to it?

DANCING INTO A NEW SEASON OF MINISTRY: GROWING COMMUNITY TO SEED GOD'S MISSION



submitted by Canon Hal Weidman

Here's the **latest news on Diocesan Convention**, October 8th at 9th at the Bismarck Radisson.

The theme of convention is *Dancing into a New Season of Ministry: Growing Community to Seed God's Mission*. Convention will include a variety of workshops and fellowship opportunities. It's important to know that *everyone is invited to attend this year's convention, whether they are a delegate, an alternate or a visitor. All are welcome!* The cost of registration is \$55.00. There is also a \$30.00 option for the Friday Afternoon and Evening

workshops and dinner with the Bishop's Address. Registration forms are on the diocesan web site <https://ndepiscopal.org/2021-diocesan-convention/>.

If your congregation has chosen its delegates and alternates, **please provide their names, mailing and email addresses, and cell number to me at canon@ndepiscopal.org**. If your congregation hasn't named them yet, you still have time to do so. Call me if you need help with this process. Diocesan leadership is eager for all Diocese of North Dakota congregations to participate.

Canon Hal must have your delegates' names to give to Bishop Tom so he can create the list of lay voters for our elections. Also, we must give our menu choices to the Radisson no later than September 8th. Therefore, it is vital that you send me your delegates and alternates' information as soon as possible.

We are excited about seeing you at diocesan convention and **celebrating our New Season of Ministry!**

Diocesan and congregational leaders will receive a separate email from me with the number of delegates their congregation earned based on their congregation's annual parochial report.



Please find everything related to Diocesan Convention as it becomes available on the diocesan web site: Financial Reports, Committee Reports, Registration and Nomination Forms and the Agenda. Many forms are able to be completed online and sent in electronically from the web site: <https://ndepiscopal.org/2021-diocesan-convention/>. E-mails will be sent to delegates rather than diocesan mailings going out as there have been in past years. Convention packets will be available at the convention.

Table Displays & Sharing

Sharing space will be available at Convention for members and friends of the diocese to make offerings available. Tables may be set up at beginning by 1:00 pm on Friday, October 8. Email Steve Godfrey sgodfrey@ndepiscopal.org with planned offerings and the amount of table space and any other needs.

Resolution For Convention

Acceptance of the New Season of Ministry Mutual Ministry Review Matrix and Creation of a New Season of Ministry Task Force - Proposed by the Diocesan Council August 14, 2021

Whereas the Diocesan Council and Bishop's Transition Committee developed a Mutual Ministry Review Matrix to evaluate progress on the New Season of Ministry activities (based largely on the Diocesan Discernment Task Force Report found at this link: <https://ndepiscopal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/A-DDTF-Final-Report-to-Convention-1.pdf>); and,

Whereas the Diocesan Council gave final approval to the Mutual Ministry Review Matrix on August 14, 2021 (see Revised Matrix on the Convention Page of the Web Site: <https://ndepiscopal.org/2021-diocesan-convention/>); and,

Whereas one of the goals in the Mutual Ministry Review Matrix is to establish a Diocesan *Way of Love Mission Focus* based on the Episcopal Church's *Living the Way of Love* practices that help provide guidance on meeting the spiritual and material needs of our parishes, communities, and the world (see <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/>); and,

Whereas a New Season of Ministry Task Force is proposed to begin work in January 2022 to assist the Diocese and parishes with identifying specific activities and a timetable for carrying out the Diocesan *Way of Love Mission Focus*; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the 2021 Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Church in North Dakota:

1. Commends the New Season of Ministry Mutual Ministry Review Matrix;
2. Authorizes the Bishop and Diocesan Council to establish a New Season of Ministry Task Force; and
3. Authorizes the New Season of Ministry Task Force to develop a Way of Love Mission Focus for the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota according to the timetable in the Mutual Ministry Review Matrix.

Goals for A New Season of Ministry

from the 2021 Mutual Ministry Review Matrix approved by Diocesan Council

See the [full Matrix online](#) for complete information about how these goals are relevant, and how and when we plan to achieve them and measure success. Call diocesan minister Steve Godfrey at 515-450-9858 if you are not online and would like to receive a copy.

- Fill positions of Diocesan Minister and Office Administrator
- Establish circle of leadership model for diocesan staff
- Provide sacramental support for small congregations
- Launch Northwest Ministry project and hire Coordinator
- Increase communication across the diocese
- All Canonical Obligations will be met.
- Improve Stewardship
- Explore ways by which the diocese might provide administrative support for small congregation
- Establish Congregational Development Committee membership & goals
- Clarify relationships among the various communities that worship at St. John's, Moorhead to seek direction for the future of St. John's and those associated with it.
- Re-establish School of Ministry
- Develop Youth (and Young Adult) Ministry
- Heal Divisions/ Reconciliation
- Foster clearer understanding of tensions between east/west & smaller/larger congregations
- Promote deeper/ broader/mutual understanding of the bases and need for healing & reconciliation
- Develop fuller understanding of wider church & diocesan funding for ministries within the diocese
- Increase transparency in diocesan financial matters
- Review/update current diocesan personnel policies
- Decide how the \$40K grant from the Executive Council of TEC will be used

Formation of a **New Season of Ministry Task Force** to explore options for our diocesan future (2023-2025 and beyond) in the spirit of *Living the Way of Love* in our parishes, our communities, our state, and the world. See this web page and particularly the video on the page about the Way of Love: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/>

Recommendations of COVID-19 Task Force for Diocesan Convention

Approved by Diocesan Council for diocesan-wide distribution – August 14, 2021

COVID-19 has been with us for some time. It appeared infections were decreasing and that we could totally back off, but now we face a resurgence of infections from the delta variant. On August 2 we recommended that each congregation decide their policy since they know their own situation. Vaccinations were strongly encouraged as the best way to prevent further spread of COVID, and masks should be worn at indoor services if community transmission is substantial or high.

In the meantime, more of our state has increased the risk of transmission to substantial or high. We are called to love God and love our neighbor including the weak and vulnerable. Our task force offers its recommendations concerning gathering for Diocesan Convention.

- 1) – Meet in person. It is important for us to meet in person. We missed this opportunity last year and much is gained being together in convention.
- 2) – Covenant together. We ask each congregation and member of the clergy to covenant with each other to:
 - a. Send only delegates, clergy, and guests who are vaccinated, b. Discuss issues in advance among members so delegates can represent all, c. Everyone wears masks when in groups indoors, d. Maintain a proper distance (3 to 6 feet) when unmasked, such as for meals, e. Maintain safe distancing and masking for any children who are not yet vaccinated
- 3) – Limit exposure during meals. We will have a plated dinner, buffet breakfast, and a Saturday box lunch. Try to keep a distance when eating and be unmasked for the short time needed to eat.
- 4) – Holy Communion to be distributed in one form. Distribute only bread for communion of those at the worship service
- 5) – Live stream highlights. Use livestreaming for the bishop’s address Friday night, the Holy Eucharist, Saturday morning and to share the larger plenary gatherings of Diocesan Convention on Saturday. It is too cumbersome to have a 2-way discussion or voting via live stream. Delegates should be prepared to discuss issues their congregation may want brought up.
- 6) – Check with the Radisson. See if they have mask signage and if they have any requirements for groups.

**Jesus told him “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”
John 5:8**

Submitted by: Andrea Stomberg

Thanks to the generosity of the people of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, children treated at the Brace Shop associated with St. Vincent’s Center for Children with Disabilities, in Port au Prince, Haiti, will continue to receive life-changing orthopedic treatment, through a gift for brace shop supplies. Some children will indeed be able to take up their mats and walk!

Because the political and security situation in Haiti is so difficult, it was determined to take funds budgeted for Haiti outreach in the Diocesan budget and direct them to this mission and put further activities on hold until the situation stabilizes. While this is discouraging, it enabled us to send funds that will provide brace shop materials for a full year. The Brace Shop employs deaf St. Vincent’s Center students or graduates. Please take a minute to read the latest N’Ap Kanpe Ansanm (We Stand Together), the newsletter from St. Vincent’s (www.stvincentshaiti.org) that highlights not only two of these students but acknowledges this important gift.

It is gratifying to me to ponder how far reaching and consequential gifts from this Diocese can be. With this gift, along with the funding of a medical laboratory at the main clinic at St. Vincent’s through a grant from the North Dakota Episcopal Foundation, we have shared our blessings with God’s people in Haiti and helped make their difficult lives a bit less so.

Reflections on Council

By: Leo Wilking, Diocesan Chancellor
The Diocesan Council met at Grace Church in Jamestown on May 22, 2021. The Rev. Robert Hoekstra was a gracious host and prepared his specialty – home-made pizza – for those who attended in person (others appeared via Zoom).

The Finance Committee presented four important resolutions for consideration by the Council and all were approved by unanimous vote:

1. The Diocesan Council will establish a Task Force, which is to include a member of the Finance Committee, to evaluate and review the Our Fair Share formula, listen to congregations, and develop a new Our Fair Share policy to be presented at the Diocesan Convention.
2. The Diocese will send, in addition to the four regular Clergy delegates and four regular Lay delegates, a First Alternate Clergy delegate and a First Alternate Lay delegate to the 80th General Convention scheduled for July 2022 in Baltimore, Maryland. This will allow better coverage of the multitude of meetings, presentations and reports which occur at General Convention.
3. A revised Policy for Financial Management as distributed to the Council.
4. A timeline for the 2022 budget process recommended by the Committee, which indicated the 2022 budget would be approved by Council at its meeting on August 14 and distributed to Convention delegates in early September.

Reports were received from numerous committees. The Congregational Development Committee presented a two-part request which was approved without objection:

1. Change the name of the New Church Plantings Fund to the “Congregational Revitalization and Renewal Fund” and broaden the use of the fund.
2. Designate up to \$50,000 from this fund for the Northwest Ministry Initiative.

By: Amy Phillips, Standing Committee Member
In its meeting on Saturday August 14, the Diocesan Council dealt with several financial matters. The Council approved the 2021 Year-to-Date Financial Report and voted to recommend the 2022 Diocesan Budget to Convention. The Council also voted to disperse \$40,000 to Diocesan parishes for Covid relief. The funds were given to the Diocese by The Episcopal Church for this purpose, and each parish will receive \$2,000.

In other actions, the Council approved the Mutual Ministry Review Matrix (a list of goals and actions developed by Bishop Ely and the Transition Committee) and approved a Resolution for Convention establishing a “New Season of Ministry Task Force” which will help the Diocese formulate a vision for its future.

The Council adopted a Covid Protocol for Convention, developed by Dr. John Baird and the other members of the Diocesan Covid-19 Task Force. The full Protocol will be distributed to congregations before the Convention. The Task Force decided that it was important to hold the Convention in person but asks that each congregation covenant to:
"a) send only delegates who are vaccinated,
b) discuss issues in advance among members,
c) ensure that everyone wears masks when in groups indoors,
d) maintain a proper distance (3 to 6 feet) when unmasked, such as for meals."

It is the hope and expectation of the Diocesan Council that this year’s Convention will be a productive and joyous event, helping to inaugurate a Diocesan New Season of Ministry.



August 19, 2021

Dear Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota,

When people think of hunger, they often think about the feeling you get from missing a meal or when your stomach growls with hunger pains. That's very different from food insecurity where people, 1 in 6 of our neighbors, honestly don't know where their next meal is coming from.

Right now, throughout North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota, more than 145,000 individuals turn to the Great Plains Food Bank and our network of charitable feeding partners for food assistance – more than half of those are children and seniors.

By including the Great Plains Food Bank as part of your mission, you are helping provide nutritious food to those in need - Hunger exists in each of our communities. But so does the solution!

*To help provide much needed food for the children, seniors and families facing hunger in our communities, **our friends who make-up the Dakotas United Methodists are offering to match gifts from all churches and faith groups, throughout our service area, up to \$12,000, now through December 31, 2021.***

*Please prayerfully consider joining the Dakotas United Methodists and include the Great Plains Food Bank as part of your mission with a gift of in an amount that is meaningful to your church. Remember, **gifts up to \$12,000 will DOUBLE and provide TWICE as many meals** for the 1 in 6 of children, seniors and adults living in our communities who turn to the Great Plains Food Bank and our network of charitable feeding partners for food assistance each year.*

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. – Matthew 25:35

Please be sure to indicate this match with your gift, or reply using the envelope enclosed to ensure your gift is doubled. On behalf of those who can count on accessing nutritious food because of friends like you, we thank you for your prayers, consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Heather Schmidt

Donor Relations Manager- hschmidt@greatplainsfodbank.org; 701.476.9117

The North Dakota Episcopal Foundation: Doing God's Work in North Dakota and the World

Submitted by: Andrea Stomberg

The North Dakota Episcopal Foundation provides grants to Episcopal congregations in North Dakota to further the work of their churches, at home and abroad. Grants have recently been given for improvements at Camp Gabriel (everyone likes a shower!), a new organ (everyone likes good music!), training for up-and-coming clergy (that's always good, right?), and for providing health care in Haiti (where the needs are ever-present).

You, too, can apply for a grant to further God's work in the world- visit the web site <https://ndepiscopal.org/about/ministries/north-dakota-episcopal-foundation/> and get writing. This year, the applications for the second round of grants are due November 1, to give you some extra time to brain-storm your project!

If you have questions or concerns, contact Andrea Stomberg at andrea.stomberg@yahoo.com.

Canon Hal Weidman Offers These Resources

Episcopal Evangelism Newsletter - August 2021

Dear Episcopal Evangelist:

This month, as many of us prepare to go back to school and back to ministry programming, we are talking all about learning. Learning about what it means to know we are loved by Christ, learning what it means to be formed in God's image, and learning how to share that love and knowledge with others.

Topics covered in the August newsletter are: Catalyst Connections, August Story-sharing Prompt, Back-2-School, Back-2-Ministry Resources, Evangelism Resources, Embracing Evangelism, A Year in the Life, Evangelism Matters, Upcoming Events, Evangelism Resources from The Episcopal Church.

The newsletter is found at the following link: <https://mailchi.mp/episcopalchurch/episcopal-evangelism-newsletter-august-2021?e=23af24c3e4>.

Province VI Campus Ministry Offers Paid Small Group Internship

*Inspired by our faith,
let's build communities
that bring joy, love and
healing to the world*

WHAT

Thanks to a generous grant from Province VI of the Episcopal Church, we have 24 paid internships to offer young adults ages 18+. Between Sept-Dec 2021, interns will:

- - Read *The Art of Gathering* and learn community organizing strategy.
- - Form a group of 6-10 friends/classmates that will gather 5x/semester.
- - Check-in with the other small group leaders

3x/semester for mutual support.

We estimate that this will be a 30-35 hour commitment spread across the semester. All interns will be paid \$400 upon the completion of the internship.

WHY

Groups let us know that we belong. They are places to tell stories, ask questions, goof around and share life. At its best, ministry is all about gathering folks in small groups to show folks they are loved--no matter what.

This world needs the joy and healing that can come from small groups. Our small groups will focus on telling our own story and hearing the stories of others. We believe that starting with stories helps us build real

friendships and strong communities.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Are you 18+? Great! You should apply! It doesn't matter if you're an introvert or an extrovert. It doesn't matter if you are experienced in leadership or brand new to this. It doesn't matter what language you would use to describe your faith background. You'll have coaches to check in when challenges arise + 23 other small group leaders rooting for you. You got this!!!

I'M IN! WHAT'S NEXT?

Fill out an application at: <https://forms.gle/s62kCGy1TdaXQTGp9> Questions? Email: gretchen@universityepiscopalcommunity.org

TENS - A Stewardship Network

The **Diocese of North Dakota is A Member of TENS---**

TENS is an association of church leaders who understand, practice, and proclaim God's call to generosity.

A Network of Stewardship Practitioners

Network is in the TENS name, and it's their philosophy about how they maintain the interconnectedness so important in Anglican communities. You, TENS, all of us are a part of the network of generosity and abundance as we engage each other in the meaningful work of fundraising in our churches and ministries.

Some of TENS content is free of charge to all: webinars on stewardship, best practices, toolkits, and information about Stewardship formation, liturgy, and practice. TENS annual pledge campaigns are available to members only. However, WE engage with the many resources

available from TENS, they hope that they're helpful to you.

To access this year's **Annual Pledge Campaign** materials, go to the TENS website in the Annual Pledge Campaign section. <https://www.tens.org/annual-pledge-campaigns/every-perfect-gift-2021/>

If you want to download TENS material you will need to input the diocese's password—"James1:17". There is no space between "s" and "1" and it's case sensitive.

To help your campaign be successful this year, sign up for free webinars all summer long. Check them out at <https://www.tens.org/webinars-events/> If you have any **questions** on TENS or any of its **resources**, contact: Mr. Davey Gerhard, Executive Director, at 415.869.7837-Office or 414.307.0172-Mobile or davey@tens.org.

Council Approves Use of Pandemic Relief Grant

The Executive Council of The Episcopal Church has made available \$40,000 to each diocese for pandemic relief. 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, please email Steve Godfrey (sgodfrey@ndepiscopal.org) and briefly indicate how you imagine spending the money. A sentence or two or short paragraph 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 have requested. For more information, contact Steve at 515-450-9858.

St. Gabriel's Camp

Implementing Covid-19 Protocols that relied on every person being tested and found negative upon arrival at camp, three sessions were able to be held during the months of June, July and August. In all 55 teens were registered to attend camp - which is lower than the typical 90+ teens that normally populate the four day long camp.

Among those giving talks at the camp this year were Bobbie Grey Eagle, Chaska Moore, Isaiah Floberg and Fr. John Floberg. The topics ranged from recovering from the Pandemic to growing a personal faith in Jesus.

Among the support and leadership staff of the camp were Dn. Sloane Floberg (often time finding her in the camp's kitchen), several recent high school graduates and a few college-aged young adults.

This was the Camp's 25th Season of operation and the first full season using the newly constructed Star Lodge and a fully remodeled bathhouse (thanks to a grant from NDEF). A replacement speedboat specially equipped to pull a three-person tube was added to the mix this year, and the decade old pool was replaced with a salt water pool as well.

Of special note is that with the Solar Panels fully connected the electric bill for June and July totaled \$2.00 - a savings of \$200.00 for the same period in other years.





The Sheaf

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Diocesan Calendar – *God Giveth The Increase*

September

Bishop Ely in diocese 8-15:

- Grace Jamestown, Sunday September 12
- St. Sylvan's, Dunseith, Sunday September 12
- St. Peter's, Williston, Monday September 13
- St. Michael and All Angels,
Tuesday September 14

Canon Hal Weidman:

- St. John's Dickinson, Sunday September 5th

-Jamestown/Bismarck, Diocesan Ministry
Support Meeting, Friday September 10th

October

Bishop Ely in diocese 6-12:

- Diocesan Convention October 8-9
- St. George's, Bismarck, Sunday October 10