

The Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina

Convention Reports 2021



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Formation & Spirituality



Beloved Community Commission

The Beloved Community Commission is an expanded version of the Commission to Dismantle Racism. Our purpose is to provide anti-racism training throughout the diocese for clergy, vestries and lay people; facilitate programs related to racial healing and reconciliation between individual parishes and local communities of color.

For decades, the Episcopal Church has been dedicated to the work of building this beloved community by extolling a consistent message of education on the systemic sin of racism, and has taken action to eliminate racism wherever it exists; our institutions, communities, churches, and in ourselves. Guided by the support of Bishop José McLoughlin, we are continuing to seek ways to become a beloved community.

In 2021, we have expanded the Dismantling Racism training required for all clergy and vestries, by adapting the curriculum from the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing. Workshops will be offered in October and November in-person and virtually, by two teams of facilitators (a third team will be added in 2022). After taking the initial training, we are offering a second “track” that will feature offerings such as Sacred Ground, that will meet the Canonical requirements for anti-racism training.

A virtual “Un-Learning” Library was created to provide reading materials to highlight positive and realistic views of what it is like to live as a person of color in the world. The library is designed to cover all age groups from pre-k to adults. The library may be accessed on the diocesan website.

Our biggest achievement has been the creation of a racial history timeline, specific to our diocese, by the Rev. Jim Abbott. The timeline is being developed into a virtual pilgrimage with the help of Virginia Taylor, Missioner for Communications.

We are excited to share some of the ministries in our diocese that forward the work of Becoming Beloved Community; our expanding Latino Ministries, newly developed Indigenous Ministries, and ongoing Barrier Breakers series.

Respectfully submitted,
The Venerable Brenda Gilbert
The Rev. Jim Abbott

The Iona Collaborative is a coalition of almost 30 dioceses whose training and formation of vocational deacons and bi-vocational priests is facilitated through the Iona School at the Seminary of the Southwest in coordination with diocesan bishops, Commissions on Ministry, and local diocesan faculty. Each diocese buys the right to use the three-year Iona curriculum, a (mostly) video curriculum of lectures by experts in the various fields of theological education. Iona students spend an average of 12-20 hours per month in preparation for the monthly intensive weekend, where they go deeper into the assigned topics under the supervision of diocesan faculty. At the completion of the three year curriculum, Iona participants earn a Certificate in Theology from the Seminary of the Southwest. The deans of the various Iona schools meet monthly via Zoom, and annually for a Dean's Retreat, which has been held virtually for the last two years. Iona deans and faculty are actively encouraged to participate in ongoing offerings on topics chosen to enhance their ability to share in the formation of women and men for ordained ministry. The Iona School at the Seminary of the Southwest has partnered with a diverse coalition to develop innovative and timely programs for ministerial formation. The preaching curriculum has recently been revised in conversation with the Episcopal Preaching Foundation and Iona students are eligible to participate in Episcopal Preaching Foundation workshops with seminarians from traditional theological seminaries. Iona has partnered with Episcopal Relief and Development to create an Asset Based Community Development curriculum for Iona students; the Rev. Pam Bright, our Dean for Spiritual Formation, completed the training of trainers for this curriculum. Both the Rev. Margaret Ann Faeth, Ph.D., Academic Dean for Iona WNC, and the Rev. Pam Bright are continuing to participate in a working group with other Iona Deans from around the country using the Episcopal Church's Sacred Ground anti-racism training, which will become a part of the Iona curriculum. Iona WNC is piloting a leadership development program that will be refined and revised to become an option in the larger Iona curriculum.

Iona WNC Year Two began with two new Instructors, the Rev. David Henson, who teaches Homiletics, and the Rev. Judith Anne Davis, Ph.D., who teaches Church History/Anglican Studies. We are often joined by Old Testament Instructor, the Rev. Richard Biega and our New Testament Instructor, Ed Bleynat. We are pleased to announce that the Rev. Deacon Bob Zito will join our Iona faculty in 2022 as our instructor in Christian Ethic and Systematic Theology.

We had hoped to resume our in-person weekends at Lake Logan this year, but continuing concerns regarding COVID has necessitated that we continue to meet monthly, via Zoom weekends. We pray together, study and learn together, and have formed strong bonds of friendship and collegiality. All of our Iona WNC participants and associates have shown great resilience, faithfulness and fortitude during this unpredictable season. The Seminary of the Southwest has done a remarkable job in helping us to adapt to the challenges posed by remote learning. Bishop Jose, Canon Augusta, our Iona WNC Steering Committee, and the diocesan staff have been a constant source of wisdom and encouragement.

Our ability to respond to the needs of our students was enhanced this year by the generous donation of library resource materials by Good Shepherd, Hayesville.

We ask that you consider adding Iona WNC to your parish Prayers of the People as we seek and serve Christ among the diocese of Western North Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Deacon Pam Bright
Dean for Spiritual Formation

The Rev. Margaret Ann Faeth, Ph.D.
Academic Dean

Latino Ministries

Multicultural Center:

Even though we have not been successful at bringing Latinos/Hispanics into the multicultural center yet, we are beginning to develop strong relationships within the community. Here is the work that we have been doing:

- Members of Epiphany gathered early this Spring to discuss the Vision and Mission Statement of the Multicultural Center:

"OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE A WELCOMING, NURTURING SPACE BASED ON LOVE, ACCEPTANCE AND SAFETY FOR ALL. OUR HOPE IS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY BY PARTNERING WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND PROVIDING A SPACE FOR LEARNING AND SHARING."

- Once we created the Mission Statement, we began to visit different non-profits and community groups in Catawba county to develop relationships. Within the many organizations that we contacted, we began conversations with the Latino Center (ELCA) in Hickory. The great majority of Latinos/Hispanics in the area are connected and have strong relationships with them. Our hope is to develop programs with this Latino Center with the hope of putting our name out on the community.
- I am working together with the director of this Centro Latino, a social worker in the community and a lawyer in Hickory to find ways to engage the community in conversations around affordable housing for minority communities in Hickory and Newton.
- We are providing Spanish Classes, Liturgical Classes in Spanish and computer classes both in English and Spanish. We continue to look for volunteers who would like to lead a class or training for the community.
- We are in the midst of creating a committee that will oversee the Multicultural Center.
- We are also working on developing a website for this ministry.

Epiphany:

- Similar to the MC, we will gather this fall to create a vision statement for the parish and help parishioners engage into this vision.
- We continue having bilingual services on Sundays and transmitting the service via zoom and facebook live.

Spruce Pine:

- Aware of the need among the Latino/Hispanic community up in the mountains, we are working closely with the group Vecinos to develop a Fund Raiser for this group. Fund Raiser will take place later on September, Sep. 19th. We will be selling food, we will raffle a computer and a mexican traditional dress and provide music for those who will gather for the fundraiser. Fundraiser will take place outdoors.
- We have also worked closely with YMCA in SprucePine to educate the Latino/Hispanic community in the importance of the vaccination.
- We have provided baptism and confirmation class to a big number of children. We are hoping to have at least 4 youth joining us for confirmations in Morganton on September 8th.
- We just began a Music and Catechism class up in the mountains on Friday nights.

Newland:

- Similar to SprucePine, we are providing Music and Catechism classes for our children and youth on Monday nights.
- YMCA in Mitchell came as well to provide information about vaccines and provide vaccinations for those who want to take it.
- We have also provided confirmation and baptism classes for our youth. We will probably have from 4 to 6 youth joining us in Morganton for confirmations.

Other ministries:

- I have worked closely with the following churches:
 - St. John's, Marion. We provided Spanish classes this Spring and hope to continue helping them in developing a weekly service in Spanish for the fall.
 - Transfiguration, Saluda. We met with members of the Pop Up Pantry, provided flyers and a video in Spanish to welcome Latinos into the pantry and helped Fr. Chip build connections with the Latino Center in Hendersonville.
 - Calvary, Fletcher. While building relationships in the area, I met an imigrant farm worker who is seeking a portion of land where to cultivate and develop a co-op. We were able to connect this farmer with Fr. J and the leadership at Calvary. We are hoping to work with this group and begin a conversation in the diocese in regards of the importance of a Farm Ministry in WNC.
 - Speaking of Farm Ministry, Rev. Ana Shine and I visited the Episcopal Farm Ministry in Dunn NC this past weekend. We met their director and had conversations about the ministries they are providing. I would love to identify others in the diocese who are passionate about this ministry and perhaps develop a committee that can help us create a vision and develop a strategy plan for this ministry in WNC.
 - We just began a monthly e-news for the Latino/Hispanic ministry in the diocese to keep everyone inform of our work and mission.

- Rev's Miguel, Erin and I have been working together on the Latino/Hispanic diocesan gathering taking place on Sep. 26th.

Boards and Committees:

- I am serving in the following committees:
 - Diocese of Cuba partnership - Diocese
 - VECINOS - Spruce Pine
 - Mitchell Community Garden - Spruce Pine
 - COM - Diocese
 - BRSC Formation Team - Diocese
 - VBS Latinos/Hispanics - Diocese
 - Latino/Hispanic College grants - Diocese
 - Latino/Hispanic Ministry Board (In the midst of developing it)
 - Farm Ministry WNC Board (In the midst of developing it)
 - Multicultural Center Board (In the midst of developing it)
 - Congress of Latino Organizations - NC

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Oscar Rozo

Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Convention 2021

Youth Ministry

Youth ministry in the Diocese was affected by Covid 19 and therefore we had to adjust our programming to online, when possible. The youth council in conversation Eden determined that they did not want to offer online conferences. Therefore you will not see a high school or middle school conference offering in spring of 2021. As we move into late 2021 we are working to have in person conferences for middle and high school youth.

Dismantling Racism Series for Young Adults, Nov - Feb: Dismantling Racism curriculum, created by the Diocese of Atlanta and the Absalom Jones Center, was used as the curriculum for this 6 session workshop series for young adults (college to mid- 20's). We had 6 participants from multiple Diocese attend the series. Toni Belhu, Archdeacon Brenda Gilbert and Eden Lewis will lead the series over six Thursday evenings from Nov. to Feb.

Health and Wellness Small Group: Will be offering a 26-week health and wellness small group for the youth council using the Living Compass curriculum for teens. We will meet once a week and delve into the five main points of living compass which are Heart, Soul, Strength, and Spirituality.

Live Compline: The youth council is led to compline live on Instagram on select Sunday evenings for the youth of the Diocese.

Worship Services: We collaborated with the Diocese of North Carolina and East Carolina to offer two separate online worship services led by youth leadership from each diocese.

Dismantling Racism Series for Youth, April -May: Dismantling Racism curriculum, created by the Diocese of Atlanta and the Absalom Jones Center, was used as the curriculum for this 6 session workshop series for high school youth. We had 25 participants from Christ Episcopal School attend the series. Rev. Toni Belhu, Archdeacon Brenda Gilbert and Eden Lewis will lead the series virtually over six evenings for the students.

Sacred Ground Circle for Youth Ministers: Eden facilitated a Sacred Ground for several youth *leaders in the Diocese over the course of three months*. Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

Middle School Retreat: We had a great middle school day retreat at Lake Logan in late september. The day included a service project, fellowship with games and swimming and hands-on activities focused around prayer.

High School Retreat: We have plans for our fall retreat to be an in person, overnight retreat, with covid safety measures in place to keep everyone safe. We are asking that all youth and adults be vaccinated, take a rapid test at check in and wear masks while indoors. Our theme for the weekend is Identity, Belonging and Purpose.

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Youth Council:

In 2021/2022 we have a dedicated group of high school youth leaders who volunteered their time to plan events for the youth of the Diocese.

2020/2021 Diocesan Youth Council

Anna Anderson, Trinity, Asheville, Asheville Deanery
Olivia Eaton, St. Albans, Hickory, Foothills Deanery
Kendell Grogan, St. James, Black Mountain, Asheville Deanery
Hayden Marshall, All Saints, Franklin, Western Deanery
Owen McDaniel, St. Francis, Rutherfordton, Foothills Deanery
Bea Perez, All Souls Cathedral, Asheville, Asheville Deanery
Maggie Stephenson, St. James, Black Mountain, Asheville Deanery
Lewis Stepp, All Saints, Franklin, Western Deanery
Sam White, Trinity, Asheville, Asheville Deanery

Campus Ministry

PECM: Presbyterian Episcopal Campus Ministry

The Rev. Anna Shine entered her second year of serving as the campus missionary at Appalachian State University with the Presbyterian Episcopal Campus Ministry (PECM) still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. PECM continues to meet outside at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Boone, with 20-30 students attending, masked and distanced. We have returned to sharing a meal together at the beginning of our meetings, which has allowed for a better opportunity to share our stories and socialize, a key missing ingredient in many lives of college students right now. We worship together and have held many meaningful conversations around what it means to be Episcopalian/Presbyterian, heard stories from ordained LGBTQia+ members of our local community, learned from each other with TED talks, and held a "Big Questions" night to explore those theological questions we all struggle with. We have also included game and trivia nights, as well as a craft night where we made name tags out of pieces of wood salvaged from a tree branch on St. Luke's church property. On Tuesday mornings, we are offering a Bible study exploring the women of the Bible for this academic year. We held a Fall Retreat night at Valle Crucis Conference Center, sitting around a bonfire and sharing stories and s'mores. The focus this year so far has been around patience, endurance, resilience, and finding rest and joy, trusting in and knowing our belovedness and God's boundless love. It is clear that mental health has been greatly impacted in a negative way by this pandemic, and so the Rev. Stephanie Hankins (the Presbyterian Campus minister) and the Rev. Anna have been attentive to the energy and emotional capacity of the group. We provide one-on-one meetings with students to check in throughout the semester.

Episcopal Campus Ministry at UNCA

UNCA Episcopal Campus Ministry is led by our Missioner for Campus Ministry, Kelsey Davis. This is her 1st year working with students on campus and caring for the campus community. Here are some of the elements of campus ministry at UNCA:

1. UNCA Faculty, Student Organization Leaders, and other students are aware of who we are and what our group hosts on campus as an Episcopal Campus Ministry. We attend the student

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organization fair held at the start of each school year, this year was a virtual student organization fair where we were able to share about ECM and connect with other student organizations on campus.

2. ECM has grown in student membership this fall. Relationships between students has deepened and we continue to expand our community through outreach, both in supporting other student organization events, and inviting others to join our gatherings.
3. Pastoral care is extended by Kelsey to all students in ECM and on campus. She seeks to provide a listening ear of loving support as students journey through their spiritual lives and social realities, with special attention to their wellbeing during the pandemic.
4. We seek to engage gatherings that weave spiritual formation, deepen social bonds, and address social justice concerns. Some of our gatherings this year have included:
 - a. *Sunday Night Gatherings*. Each week we gather on campus to pray, check-in, and learn together. Our learning topics, so far this year, have included: building community and queer theology. We spend time each week checking-in, creating a loving space where our students can explore their faith, and writing our prayers of concern, gratitude, and God-moments.
 - b. *Fall Retreat*. Our fall retreat theme this year was REST, one of the practices of the Way of Love. We spent a day at Lake Logan, exploring and experiencing God's call on our lives to rest and practice sabbath.
 - c. *Blessing of the Animals*. We collaborated with the Catholic Campus Ministry on campus to host an inaugural Blessing of the Animals & Pets on the UNCA Quad. We shared in a common liturgy and invited faculty, staff, and students to have their pets blessed, as well as a general blessing for the whole of creation.
 - d. *Spirituality & Wisdom Fair*. ECM collaborated with several other campus ministries to co-host an inaugural spirituality and wisdom fair on UNCA's campus.
 - e. *Coffee & Muffins*. We have continued the tradition of coffee and muffins by showing up on campus monthly to offer free coffee, donuts, and muffins. During This is a sweet time of getting to know other students, faculty, and staff across campus and offer a no strings attached form of hospitality and love.
 - f. Supporting Student Orgs. We are always looking for ways to support other student organizations across campus.

As we move through this school year amid our global pandemic, it is the hope and intention of ECM at UNCA to be a place of belonging and nourishment for our students. We are committed to finding creative ways to gather safely so that our students who are distance learning and our students on campus can stay connected with one another. Our students are engaging, open to new ideas, leaders, and eager to engage in spiritual and faith life. They are deeply committed to various social justice issues and are passionate about exploring the intersection of faith & action.

Episcopal Campus Ministry at Western Carolina University

ECM at WCU is in process of being reignited through the collaborative efforts of Campus Missioner, Kelsey Davis, Rev. Gaelyn Evangreene, and St. David's parishioners. We are in the process of listening, learning, and discerning what shape ECM will take at WCU. Some highlights and goals for this school year are not limited to but include:

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1. Wednesday Gatherings: We are meeting every Wednesday at St. David's and have a lovely group of students! We gather for a meal, evening prayer and reflection. We have engaged in community building activities, and are currently using the Iona Evening Prayer liturgy with Lectio Divinia reflection.
2. Connecting to St. David's: Kelsey has worked closely with Rev. Gaelyn and the St. David's vestry to build community and vision for ECM at WCU. This summer, Kelsey helped to lead the vestry in book study and discussion on: *Belovedness: Finding God and Self on Campus*. Rev. Gaelyn has been tremendously supportive, and Kelley D. has stepped forward to be our faculty representative on campus at WCU. To become a fully registered student organization on campus, we need a roster of 10 students and a faculty rep. So, we are very grateful for Kelley's leadership!
3. Tabling & Growth. Kelsey & St. David's have tabled at Balleyhoo, and Rev. Gaelyn has taken time to pass out skittles and gather information across campus. We continue to work together to reach out to the campus community and grow our community. Students are also attending worship on Sunday at St. David's.
4. Connection to other campus ministers/ministries. Kelsey has met with a cohort of other campus ministers from various denominations to connect in, learn from their wisdom, and discern how to engage in ecumenical collaboration.
5. Hiking. We gathered this fall to hike the WCU Trail system. More hiking is in our future!
6. Goals for this year include but are not limited to: 100 points of contact (throughout school year) listening, learning, and introducing ECM; Joining the campus community (events, being present, ecumenical collaboration, virtual gatherings) to build solidarity and relationships across campus; Formation with St. David's (to continue discussing young adult realities through book studies, dialogue, speakers, research, and Safe Zone Training).

We are excited about the points of connection and growth that has occurred in just a year of re-igniting this ministry. We look forward to continuing to co-create ECM at WCU with the collaborative love and support shared between Kelsey, WCU students, and the St. David's community.

Young Adult Ministries

Tapestry: Young Adult Ministry

Tapestry is a ministry offered to students and professionals at Appalachian State in their mid-20s and 30s. We continue to meet bi-monthly on Zoom due to the pandemic. This ministry is lay led by a graduate student at Appalachian State University with the support of the Rev. Anna Shine. We have begun incorporating monthly outings for those who wish to meet further, participating in attending a soccer game, picking apples at an orchard, and going for hikes in the area.

3rd Place

Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Convention 2021

3rd Place is a collaboration between the Episcopal and Presbyterian (U.S.A) Churches in Boone that provides opportunities for people to experience a sense of connection, community, and belonging. We partner with a variety of faith communities, non-profits, student groups, and artists to create spaces where people can be known by their community, pursue justice, explore spirituality, and express themselves creatively. We have been able to reopen 3rd Place in a limited capacity this fall, restricting groups to 20 people or fewer, and requiring masks. We have had meetings of groups invested in climate justice, poetry readings, a new composting co-op group meeting, affordable housing initiatives groups, and will host an art show in November. We continue to monitor the situation with the pandemic as we make decisions that always put the health and safety of our community first.

Blue Ridge Service Corps

In August 2021, Blue Ridge Service Corps welcomed its second cohort of corps members. Eris, Evan, Flora, and Matthew are currently living together as an intentional community. During their service year, our corps members will live out the pillars of our Blue Ridge Service Corps: serving others in solidarity, forming Beloved Community, deepening spirituality, vocational awareness, leadership formation, and living simply.

For 2021-2022, Blue Ridge Service Corps has partnered with the following organizations: Calvary Food Pantry/Calvary Episcopal Church, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity, Center for Spiritual Wisdom, The Red Door/Church of the Advocate, Sharing House, Lake Logan Camp & Conference Center, and the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina. Each of our corps members serves up to 32 hours a week at their internship placement, while practicing living in intentional community, and engaging in individual and communal formation.

The community of Blue Ridge Service Corps is multilayered and includes but is not limited to: corps members, BRSC Director Kelsey Davis, Missioner for Youth and Young Adults Eden Lewis, BRSC Advisory Board, Formation Team, community partner organizations, site supervisors, spiritual mentors, Diocesan staff, people of our diocese, and the Bishop. Our community is supported and upheld by *you*, the wonderful people of our diocese who love and care for us by supporting us with prayer and practical necessities. We are grateful for all the ways that you support BRSC to make our program possible.

Some highlights of our programmatic year (so far) include:

- The arrival of our second cohort of corps members.
- Pack the Pantry. The corps members arrived to an abundance of food and household goods provided by several people throughout our diocese.
- Commissioning Blessing & Dinner at La Capilla de Santa Maria. The Bishop and members of the community gathered to bless and send our corps members into their year of service. We shared a delicious meal outdoors at Folwell House afterwards. The liturgy was written in collaboration with our corps members.
- Orientation Retreat. This included a deep dive into BRSC pillars, community hike, and beginnings of exploring building intentional community.
- Monday Formation. Each week the corps members, director, missioner, and other facilitators engage in intentional prayer, learning, and conversation around themes/topics pertaining to the service corps and emerging adulthood.

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- Evening Prayer/Compline. The corps members engage in evening prayer and open their table, serving others dinner, on Thursday evenings.
- Spiritual Mentorship. Each corps member is invited to pair with a spiritual mentor during their time with BRSC.
- Service in Solidarity. All of our corps members are actively engaged at their placement sites: learning from and listening to their neighbors as they seek to serve the community in solidarity.
- Retreats. We are engaging in an Indigenous Education Retreat in October with St. Thomas and Rev. Beth Turner. And, we are looking forward to our winter retreat in December at Lake Logan. We have been awarded a grant for Spring 2022 to curate a Contemplative Justice Retreat, learning about the acts of mercy, and organizations across our region that live out the acts of mercy.
- BRSC Advisory Board Meetings. Our Advisory Board is active and supportive in a myriad of ways. We are so grateful for the many gifts and talents that each member of the Board brings to our program!
- BRSC Formation Team. Our inaugural formation team supports our themes, curriculum, worship gatherings, and retreats. We are grateful for this new layer of care and support.

BRSC corps members live in an intentional community at Folwell House, which is located on the property of La Capilla de Santa Maria. We are grateful to share the grounds with the La Capilla de Santa Maria community!

Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook for updates. Please visit our website to find out more information, how you can get involved, and ways to donate to Blue Ridge Service Corps. We would love to get to know you and connect with you!

Submitted by:

Kelsey Davis, Missioner for College Ministry at UNCA & WCU and Director of Blue Ridge Service Corps
Eden Lewis, Missioner for Youth & Young Adults

Rev. Anna Shine, Missioner for College, 3rd Place, Creation Care, and Social Justice at
Appalachian State University and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Boone



- 2021 ECW Diocesan Report for Convention

This year, ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Diocese of Western North Carolina celebrates 149 years of mission and ministry in our diocese. With the support from women and men in our churches, we have been able to make a difference in so many lives during these years. This past year, we have started work on our history for next year's 150th Anniversary.

As an organization, we do our best to meet the needs of those who are suffering. Our women are generous with their funds, time, and prayers. We ask all of you to continue to keep our mission and ministry in your daily prayers. We ask our younger women to come join us to continue making a difference in lives of women and children.

I wish to thank Mary Lou Daily, President ECW, Grace in the Mountain and Donna Buckner for sending report and for their ministry and also these photos.

Grace Church in the Mountains Episcopal Church Women

One of the ministries of our Grace Church in the Mountains ECW is to support local homeless programs. In recent years we have raised funds through our Tablescapes Luncheon and Christmas Cookie Sale to support Haywood Pathways Center, a homeless shelter in our community. In addition to these fund raisers we volunteer to assist with various Pathways projects including the HPC Empty Bowls Dinners, the HPC Ecumenical Breakfasts and the Annual HPC Golf Tournament.

Over the years Edwina Costley, an ECW member, has served the homeless men and women in our community in several different capacities. Through her work she became particularly concerned about the plight of homeless women and children and has strongly advocated for better services for them.

When Pathways announced the initiative to build a homeless shelter for women and children, it was an answer to Edwina's long held desire to help establish a shelter for women and children. Our

ECW chapter was fortunate to have \$10,000 available and elected to use it for the sponsorship of an activity/playroom in the shelter which would become Edwina's Place.

Everyone pitched in to furnish the room with toys, furniture and games. We approached our Arts Ministry with the idea of painting a mural for the room and it resulted in Suzanne LeClaire designing a humorous, cartoon style Noah's Ark mural that young children would enjoy. It is a beautiful addition to the room and is used when telling the Noah's Ark Bible story.



Mary Ann Ransom, Diocesan ECW President (email: nanaransom43@gmail.com)

Please visit our website: www.ecwwnc.org

Justice & Outreach



Global Mission Committee
2021 Report to Diocesan Convention
Sustainable Development Grant Awards

With thanksgiving and deep appreciation to the Diocese of Western North Carolina for approving the following grants. As you know the Global Mission Grants include our diocese, state and national as well as international grant opportunities which affirm the United Nations Sustainable Development goals to end poverty. In the future, we hope that parishes will respond with programs to help alleviate poverty in their own communities. Thank you for your participation and involvement with these grants. The grant deadline for 2022 will be May 1, 2022. Please mark that date on your calendars so you will have plenty of time to apply for a grant.

1. Sponsoring Parish: Grace Episcopal Church, Asheville, NC

Project Title: Consider Haiti's Children's Health Care, Clean Water and Nutrition Program.

Consider Haiti works in 3 mountain villages and 1 urban setting in Haiti. This ministry provides nutritional supplements, water filters, educational training and upon program completion, families receive a pregnant goat. This goat will help provide sustainable income for the families. The ministry offers new service to 120 Haitian families annually with ongoing support for some 2000 families served by Consider Haiti during the past 20 years. During the past 2 years, the self-funded, mobile medical trips have not occurred due to the country's instability and on the advice of the Haitian team and the U.S. State Department. Therefore, continued support of this program is desperately needed. Grant Award: \$10,049

2. Sponsoring Parish: St James, Hendersonville, NC

Project Title: The Princess Basma Center Hybrid Residential and Virtual Family Empowerment Program in Jerusalem.

The Princess Basma Center is located in East Jerusalem. This ministry offers virtual speech, occupational and physical therapy sessions online, as

well as to children who cannot travel to the Center because of the travel restrictions on Palestinians. The success of the virtual therapy program caused the Center's leadership to reevaluate how to offer services. As a result, a hybrid program of shorter residential stays and online sessions for additional therapy and support is now the new normal at the Princess Basma Center. Grant Award: \$5,049

3. Sponsoring Parish: Church of the Incarnation Highlands, NC

Project Title: Bon Saveur Children's Home in Cange, Haiti

The Central Plateau represents one of the poorest regions of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. There are twenty-five children who live in an orphanage abandoned by their parents who cannot care for them. There are insufficient resources for most Haitians to provide food and shelter. Nine children have physical and mental challenges. Over the years funding from various entities has enabled the hiring of a physical therapist, food, clothes and wheelchairs so bedridden children can be outside. Funds are needed for the provision of adequate food, staff and to insure cleanliness. Grant Award: \$4,049

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Deacon Clare Barry
Global Mission Committee Chair

Human Hurt and Hope Fund 2021

The Human Hurt and Hope Fund was established as part of the Centennial Witness program to address the needs of the citizens of Western North Carolina. HHH was listed as one of the three most important ministries supported under the Freed for Ministry program established to determine the use of funds after the Lake Logan debt was retired.

The Human Hurt and Hope Fund has empowered Episcopalians and their partners to address human need through hands-on ministries in communities around the Diocese. HHH funds programs which address issues of justice, poverty, and marginalization, as we live out our Baptismal vow to serve Christ in all persons and respect the dignity of every human being.

In 2021, the Diocese received 8 grant applications for a total of \$90,500. After site visits and/or Zoom conversations, all eight grants were approved for a total of \$90,500. Funds were granted for four food programs, to programs to provide housing, a Latino ministry program and a way to expand offerings at Camp Henry to children who would not otherwise be able to attend.

Since its inception, the fund has awarded grants for over \$1.5 million dollars. Grants are intended to support innovative programs that involve Episcopalians in ministries that respond to human needs. Grant applications are due to the diocesan office by April 15th each year. Grant applications are reviewed by the HHH committee who submits recommendations to the Executive Council for final approval. Funds are distributed in July. However, in 2021 because of the Covid 19 pandemic, all deadlines were postponed a month. For more information, please refer to the grant and loan page on the DioceseWNC website.

The HHH committee was reorganized this year with nine members each serving a three-year term. I am extraordinarily grateful to the committee members who are excited about the incredible work of the parishes in our diocese to address the increasing needs of housing and hunger and immigration. Those members of HHH are Mary Elizabeth Banks, St. James, Black Mountain, Mary Anne Farrell, St. John's, Sylva, Tim Rhodes, St. John's, Asheville, Tari Watson, St. James, Hendersonville, Ron Rios, St. James, Black Mountain, Paul Dismukes, Trinity, Asheville, Claudette Forbes, All Saints, Gastonia, Mary Anne Caplinger, St. Paul's, Wilkesboro.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Neal

The Rev. Kristi Neal, Deacon
Chairperson, Human, Hurt and Hope Fund

Conference Centers & Institutions



Lake Logan
Report for Diocesan Convention
November 2021

Lake Logan serves Christ by welcoming all generations to experience restoration and reconciliation with God, one another, and all creation. Located in Haywood County in a pristine valley near the Blue Ridge Parkway, Lake Logan is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina. The Retreat Center is open year-round to host all types of events, groups, and individuals for retreat, rest, renewal, and recreation. Camp Henry is a summer camp program for children, youth, and families. And the Outdoor School offers a year-round outdoor education program for learners of all ages.

The 300-acre property is adjacent to the Shining Rock Wilderness Area of Pisgah National Forest, featuring a mile-long lake fed by the West Fork of the Pigeon River. The lake is surrounded by forested and open land, a wide array of historic buildings with 86 cabin beds and 80 dorm style beds, plenty of places to gather indoors and out, and five primitive campsites. Lake Logan is often described as “a thin place,” where visitors experience the serenity of God’s glorious gifts. All are welcome to this special place, where the power of nature’s bounty nourishes, restores, and rejuvenates.

Since last Convention, Lake Logan has new bylaws and branding which more clearly acknowledge the importance of the three ministry “arms” of Lake Logan – the Retreat Center, Camp Henry, and the Outdoor School.

- The Retreat Center at Lake Logan is a place apart for people to gather in community, renew in spirit, and grow in love.
- Camp Henry offers every participant an experience of the Living God in an environment of unconditional love, imagination, and engagement.
- The Outdoor School at Lake Logan develops active citizens and conscious stewards of our earth through outdoor experiential education.

Thanks to the additions in 2020 of Jessica LeFiles as the Director Camp Henry and Outdoor Programs and Brice LeFiles as Director of Facilities, Grounds, and Environmental Stewardship, Lake Logan has new hiking trails that connect our property to state and national forest land.

With support from Grace Church in the Mountains, Lake Logan and Camp Henry were awarded a \$23,000 Creation Care grant through The Episcopal Church. This will fund planting of a native river cane break on Lake Logan property that will be designated for Cherokee artisan use, interpretive signage educating visitors of our lands Cherokee past, educational materials for camp and year-round outdoor programming, and more.

With help from volunteers and a grant from the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority, additions were made to provide more outdoor community areas. We also built a new beach to provide a campers-only area for Camp Henry during the summer.

Trinity Asheville led the charge to completely refurbish Ash Cabin. This is the second lakeside cabin adopted by a church (St. Philip’s refurbished Walnut in 2019). We are seeking churches who would like to adopt Sunburst, Maple, and Retreat House in the coming years.

In the past year, we had an almost complete turnover in leadership staff over the past year. Some of these changes were a result in layoffs that had to take place because of the drop in revenue due to COVID-19. In addition to Brice and Jessi, we have welcomed Jen Brauer as Guest Services Manager, Nick Hopper as

Assistant Director of Facilities and Grounds, Frank Townsend as Business Manager, and Travis Zach as Director of Dining Services.

Because of COVID-19, staff has worked creatively to continue our ministry of hospitality in new ways – developing campsites, holding drive-in movies, increasing day passes and season memberships for outdoor recreation, and more. These activities have been crucial to our financial health and have been a great addition for guests. In spite of the pandemic, we have been able to serve over 4000 guests since the last convention.

Current challenges we are addressing:

- Tropical Storm Fred took a large portion of the dock, which is central to camp and retreat ministry. The old dock was in rough shape, so we are taking this opportunity to try to replace the entire dock with a safer, lower maintenance option. As of this writing, we are raising funds for the replacement, which will be in the neighborhood of \$50-60,000.
- With help from volunteers, we are replacing porch railing on the historic Sit 'n' Whittle cabins, as well as replacing the rotting kitchen floor, adding a stove to the Lodge, and making other major repairs to these cabins.
- We are exploring avenues that will increase access to cabins for people with limited mobility.
- We have been and continue to increase security measures to help keep our guests and property safer.

The staff and Board of Lake Logan are grateful for the opportunity to provide a place of restoration and reconciliation for the Diocese and the broader community, and we thank all those in the Diocese who help make it possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri SoJourney
Executive Director



SEWANEE
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

The University of the South is the only university in the nation that is owned and governed by dioceses of The Episcopal Church. Founded over 150 years ago, Sewanee is committed to being a resource for the whole church. Located atop the Cumberland Plateau between Nashville and Chattanooga, Sewanee's 13,000-acre campus - ^{the}the second largest in the United States - provides students with vast opportunities for research, recreation, and reflection.

Report for the Diocese of Western North Carolina (as of September, 2021):

- I. **FINANCES** (for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021)
 - A. Diocesan donations to Sewanee: **\$6,000**
 - B. Donations from parishes in the Diocese: **\$8,674**
 - C. Percentage of parishes making donations: **4.76%**
 - D. Financial aid to college students from the area: **\$545,790**
 - E. Financial Aid Awarded to Episcopal students (college and seminary): **\$175,880**
 - F. **On average, constituent dioceses received \$37 for each dollar donated to Sewanee.**
- II. **ENGAGEMENT**
 - A. College students from the area: **21**
 - B. Episcopal college students: **8**
 - C. Residential seminarians: **2**
 - D. Advanced Degree Students: **0**
 - E. School of Theology alumni currently serving in the diocese: **28**
- III. **TRUSTEES**
 - A. The Rt. Rev. Jose A. McLoughlin
 - B. The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin
 - C. Christina Butterworth
 - D. Bill Stiefel, Jr.
- IV. **ALMANAC ~ 2021-2022**
 - A. **College:**

1. Enrollment in the College: **1743**
2. Class of 2025: **480**
3. **SEP** Number of applicants for Fall 2020: **5127**
4. Percentage of entering first-year students who received a Sewanee scholarship or need-based funding for Fall of 2021: **97%**

B. School of Theology :

1. Residential Enrollment in the Seminary: **73**
2. Advanced degree and non-degree enrollment: **84**
3. Percentage of full-time, residential seminarians receiving a scholarship or need-based aid: **95%**
4. Average number of Education for Ministry (EfM) groups per Diocese: **9**

For more information, visit episcopal.sewanee.edu.

Bess Turner
Director of Church Relations
The University of the South
931.598.1460
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Governance



In spite of the challenges of COVID-19, the Hendersonville Deanery has persisted in building a culture of mutual support and consistent fellowship over the past year. Having been relatively dormant for several years, we have found a rhythm of meeting once a month, beginning the year on Zoom and later rotating between the parishes in the deanery. This pattern has allowed us to grow in familiarity with one another, share the challenges and joys of ministry, explore scripture, and worship together. We have welcomed several new clergy as well as saying goodbye to others.

We continue to explore opportunities for mutual work in mission. The presence of the Blue Ridge Service Corps; the Towel Ministry at Transfiguration, Saluda; the Food Pantries at Calvary, Fletcher and St. Paul's, Edneyville; Co-Create at St. James', Hendersonville; and many other ministries provide ample opportunity for these types of collaboration. We look forward to exploring God's call to us in the next 12 months.

Report from the Standing Committee 2021

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western North Carolina serves as a council of advice for the Bishop and is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in the absence of a Bishop.

The Standing Committee gives consent for persons at various stages in the ordination process and consent to the elections of bishops in other dioceses. The Standing Committee also provides consent to the sale or encumbrance of property of the Diocese of Western North Carolina. Elected by diocesan Convention, the Standing Committee is comprised of four clergy and four lay members, each serving a four-year term. The Standing Committee meets every month for its regular business and for called meetings, as necessary.

Here is a summary of Standing Committee actions since Convention 2020 (through October 7, 2021):

Approved property transactions and encumbrances from:

- St. John's, Sylva
- St. James, Hendersonville
- Grace, Asheville

Consented to the elections of:

- The Rev. Paula Clark as Bishop of Chicago
- The Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler as Bishop of Wyoming
- The Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley as Bishop of South Carolina
- The Rev. Ketlen Solak as Bishop of Pittsburgh
- The Rev. Betsey Monnot as Bishop of Iowa

Interviewed candidates and approved applications regarding ordination:

- Toni Belhu for ordination to the Diaconate
- Will Bryant for ordination to the Diaconate
- Kevin Todd for ordination to the Priesthood
- Adam Nygren for admission as a Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood
- Ian Williams for admission as a Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood
- Logan Lovelace for admission as a Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood
- Toni Belhu for ordination to the Priesthood
- Will Bryant for ordination to the Priesthood
- Ian Williams for ordination to the Diaconate
- Logan Lovelace for ordination to the Diaconate

We reviewed the findings of the 2020 Mutual Ministry Review, shared a summary of the findings with members of the diocese and explored addressing issues named as areas for action and areas for continuing support. The Standing Committee plans on engaging in a form of mutual ministry review every year, and will work with the Executive Council, the Bishop's office and other diocesan leaders in addressing these areas.

Members of the 2021 Standing Committee are:

The Rev. Patty Mouer, St. Luke's, Asheville (2021)

Mr. George Sweet, Transfiguration, Saluda (2021)

Ms. Lynne Getz, St. Luke's, Boone (2022)

The Rev. Joslyn Schaefer, Grace, Waynesville (2022)

The Rev. Marshall Jolly, Grace, Morganton (2023)

Ms. Christine Longoria, St. Mary's, Asheville (2023)

Mr. Bill Hasskamp, St. James, Black Mountain (2024)

The Rev. Jonathan Stepp, All Saints, Franklin (2024)

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Patty Mouer

President

FISCAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION – 2021

Members: Larry Byerly (Holy Cross-Valle Crucis & Diocesan Treasurer); Pat Fox (Good Shepherd-Hayesville); Chad Hardy (Trinity-Asheville); Bruce Hunt (Transfiguration-Saluda); The Rev. Toby Summerour (Good Shepherd-Cashiers); The Rev. Sam Tallman (St. Mary's-Blowing Rock & Chair)

Commission Responsibilities:

- ❖ Review the financial position and operating results of the Diocese on a monthly basis with reporting from CFO Carol Tannenbaum on any significant financial changes and variances from budget.
- ❖ Review and recommend to Executive Council the investment policy of the diocesan endowment and semi-annually review investment performance and compliance with policy.
- ❖ Recommend engagement of the auditor and review the audit process and the audit report.
- ❖ Review overall financial policy of the diocese and ongoing financial management.
- ❖ Review parish and diocesan organization applications for grants and loans from the Diocese for completeness and financial soundness. Grants are reviewed with recommendation for action to the Diocesan Foundation, and Loans with a maximum of \$25,000 are recommended for action to the Executive Council.
- ❖ Assist the Bishop, the Canon to the Ordinary, and the Chief Financial Officer with issues having financial implications for the diocese.
- ❖ Assist the Chief Financial Officer with accounting & related support provided parishes and diocesan organizations

Commission Actions:

December 2020

- ❖ Referred St. John's-Haw Creek \$20,000 grant (installation of solar panels) to Foundation
- ❖ Referred Redeemer-Shelby \$20,000 grant (rectory repair) to Foundation
- ❖ Referred Transfiguration-Saluda \$25,000 loan (rectory repair) to Executive Council
- ❖ Reviewed diocesan financial support of Camp Henry, Lake Logan Conference Center, & Valle Crucis Conference Center and anticipated needs
- ❖ Recommended approval to Executive Council of Valle Crucis \$25,000 withdrawal from their board designated funds held by the diocese
- ❖ Recommendation to Executive Council to pay off remaining balance of \$20,855 diocesan debt incurred in support of Lake Logan, eliminating all diocesan debt

February 2021

- ❖ Referred Valle Crucis Conference Center \$12,500 grant (ADA compliant restroom) to Foundation
- ❖ Referred Christ Church-Sparta \$25,000 loan (church repair) to Executive Council
- ❖ Made note of \$257,000 bequest to diocese placed in Contingency Reserve
- ❖ Reviewed parish 2020 commitments to diocese—all parishes fulfilled their commitments
- ❖ Reviewed financial status of Camp Henry, Lake Logan & Valle Crucis
- ❖ Year-end diocesan financial review

- ❖ Joint session with Trustees for Bowen Hanes review of investment performance for 2020

April 2021

- ❖ Update on income distributions from Fiduciary Funds, Endowment & Diocesan Funds
 - ❖ 1st quarter financial review
 - ❖ Continuing financial review of Camp Henry, Lake Logan & Valle Crucis
 - ❖ Beginning of diocesan audit
 - ❖ Review of small parish audit team assignments

June 2021

- ❖ Referred St. James-Hendersonville \$25,000 loan (church repair) to Executive Council
- ❖ Referred Grace-Asheville \$25,000 loan (roof repair) to Executive Council
- ❖ Reviewed diocesan loan funds available (\$458,725) & outstanding loans (\$95,00) all being current in payment
- ❖ Reviewed work of diocesan audit team

August 2021

- ❖ Referred St. George's-Asheville \$20,000 grant, with loan to follow (facilities renovation), to Foundation
- ❖ Reviewed 12/31/20 audit with Dixon Hughes Goodman
- ❖ Reviewed 2022 Budget with approval referral to Executive Council
- ❖ Reviewed HHH grant approvals
- ❖ Joint session with Trustees for investment performance review 6/30/21 with Bowen Hanes, investment advisers

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Samuel V. Tallman, Chair

September 30, 2021

Episcopal Foundation of Western North Carolina
2021 Report to the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western North Carolina

Established in 1962 by Bishop Henry as a non-profit corporation, the Foundation's funds are used to foster, develop and contribute to the support of the religious, educational and charitable work of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of WNC, or elsewhere, by making gifts, grants, loans and advances solely and exclusively for religious, educational and charitable purposes to any individual, organization, institution, agency or other body within the Church or associated or affiliated in any way with the Church.

Under current policy, the Foundation restricts fund distribution solely to grants up to \$20,000 per application. Also by policy, the annual distribution is no greater than 4% of the total fund.

Total Assets as of December 31, 2019: \$2,889,890

Total Assets as of September 30, 2020: \$3,093,033

Total Assets as of July 29, 2021: \$3,663,894

2021 Board Members: Bishop Jose McLoughlin – Chair; Sherree Brady – President (St. Peter by-the-Lake, Denver), Paul Ormond – Vice President (St. James, Black Mountain), Dillon Manly – Treasurer (Trinity, Asheville), Kathy Ledbetter – Secretary (Trinity- Spruce Pine), Lee Berger (All Saints, Franklin), Jo Ann Hasskamp (St James, Black Mountain), Catherine Metzger (Trinity, Asheville) and Steve Nesbitt (Calvary, Fletcher)

Grant distributions since 2020 Annual Report (October):

- St. John's, Asheville: \$20,000 (12/2020)
- Redeemer, Shelby: \$20,000 (12/2020)
- St. Mark's, Gastonia: \$10,000 (12/2020)
- Valle Crucis Conference Center: \$15,000 (2/2021)
- St. George's, Asheville: \$20,000 (8/2021)
- No grant applications were declined.

Other 2021 Business:

- Fiscal Ministries and the Foundation continue to meet in joint session four times per year to eliminate double grant presentations and improve coordination of various funds available to support the needs of WNC parishes.
- David Kelly of Bowen Hanes presented the year-to-date status of the portfolio at the February and August meetings.
- All documentation for grant requests and meeting materials is now stored electronically using the Basecamp tool provided by the diocesan office. Documentation is no longer emailed, and only authorized users have access to the materials.
- Foundation vacancies: There are 4 open seats for the upcoming 2022-2024 term. Qualified candidates are actively being sought and are encouraged to contact any current Board Member for more information.

Respectfully submitted – Sherree Brady – President, Episcopal Foundation of Western North Carolina