

Diocese of Western North Carolina



Commissions, Committees, Agencies and Boards
Reports for Diocesan Convention
2022

A Report from the Standing Committee
For the 2022 Convention of the Diocese of Western North Carolina

This year the Standing Committee continued its work in its areas of canonical responsibility:

- Consenting or withholding consent to episcopal elections from dioceses across The Episcopal Church
- Consenting or withholding consent about the sale, conveyance, or encumbrance of any real property owned by the Diocese or held in trust by the Diocese
- Interviewing postulants for Holy Orders, recommending them for candidacy and issuing testimonials to the Bishop as to their readiness for ordination
- Serving as the Bishop's Council of Advice

Additionally, at the Bishop's request, we have been working with him to implement recommendations from the 2020 Mutual Ministry Review, especially the focus on leadership development.

This year Mr. Bill Hasskamp served as the Secretary and the Rev. Joslyn Schaefer served as President.

We give thanks for Dr. Lynne Getz who resigned after 3 ½ years of service in July 2022. The Standing Committee chose to leave her position unfilled for the balance of her four-year term. As of December 2022, the Rev. Joslyn Schaefer will have completed her four-year term.

Those who continue to serve on the Standing Committee (with the final year of their term indicated in parenthesis) are as follows: Ms. Christine Longoria (2023); The Rev. Marshall Jolly (2023); The Rev. Jonathan Stepp (2024); Mr. Bill Hasskamp (2024); Ms. Jacque Dunbar (2025) and The Rev. Andrew Hege (2025).

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer+
President, Standing Committee
Rector, Grace Church in the Mountains, Waynesville

Diocese of Western North Carolina

Global Mission Committee

2022 Sustainable Development Goals/Global Mission Grants

Report for 2022 Diocesan Convention

Name of Project: Garden, Food Scarcity

Sponsoring parishes: All Saints Gastonia with St. Marks, Gastonia

Project description: We seek to revitalize the garden at All Saints to provide fresh produce for people in Gastonia who live in a food desert. The garden's produce will offer an alternative to processed foods, that while cheaper are less nutritious and harder to find and to afford in many areas of town. The revitalization will harness the unique gifts of the two congregations to further a common mission and to provide a theological context for reflection on poverty, labor, prayer and sustenance. Amount Awarded: \$1,925.

Name of Project: LaGonave, Haiti

Sponsoring parish: St Alban's, Hickory

Project description: Our primary focus now is on education and nutrition. We help support the K-12 school in Gros Manges with school lunches, teacher salaries and books. Monies obtained would go to supply lunches and books for 100 students and provide salaries for 8 teachers. Due to the pandemic, we have been unable to support our share of \$17,000 because many of our fundraisers have been canceled or delayed. We feel that health, nutrition, and education are vital factors to help the children create sustainable lifestyles. Amount Awarded: \$3,581.40.

Name of Project: American Friends of the Episcopal, Diocese of Jerusalem (AFED)
Princess Basma

Co-Sponsors: St. James, Hendersonville and American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFED)

Project description: The objectives are to support four women enrolled in the Sisterhood Academy in Ramallah, Palestine to build entrepreneurial skills, confidence, and networks that they need to launch their own home-based-based cooking, baking and catering business. These women will learn and grow together, build self-sufficiency and often meet their business partners in the program. This will provide life-changing opportunities for these women who would have few or no opportunities to achieve an education. Their households are already under financial stress and paid well below the minimum wage of the Palestinian Authority. The need for supplemental household income is vital to the well-being of the families.

Amount Awarded: \$3,581.40.

Name of Project: Bon Saveur Children's Home, Haiti

Sponsoring: Church of the Incarnation, Highlands

Project description: The Central Plateau of Haiti of Haiti is one of the poorest regions of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Over the years children and babies have been abandoned by parents unable to care for their children. Currently there are 18 children plus and an 83-year-old, homeless woman housed in the orphanage. 9 children have physical and mental disabilities and are confined to their beds much of the time. The other 9 children attend a school run by Bon Saveur Church. The situation is more severe because of Covid and increased violence and increased political instability. This has led to huge inflation. Gas is currently \$30.00 per gallon. The grant will be used to provide more staff, supplementing the children's food, so they get three meals a day, buying clothes and some toys, paying a physical therapist to work with bedridden children and wheelchairs so the bedridden children can come outside.

Amount Awarded \$3,581.40.

Name of Project: Building Better Communities, Cuba

Sponsoring parish: St. James, Hendersonville

Project description: St. James has had a companion relationship with 8 churches in Eastern Cuba for the past 7 years. The 3 in 1 project goals are to *Building Better Communities* through education and accessibility for all citizens of all ages. One project is Learning to be Better Parents. The second project enhances the dormitory space and classroom space to better provide training in the Eastern sector of Cuba for clergy and laity. A third project provides for repair of two vehicles to help those in the community who have no access to transportation especially the aged and challenged populations who are often unable to leave their homes. Life in Cuba has been exponentially compounded by Covid 19, economic sanctions and severe food shortages, disorderly inflation and devastating economic changes introduced by a repressive government. The project promotes emotionally healthy lives, the wellbeing of children and families as well as inclusive and quality education. This requires external funding for the first year to make them operational. After that time, they will be continued without external funding.

Amount Award: \$3,581.40.

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

Sponsoring parish: Grace, Asheville

Project description: Consider Haiti works in three rural mountain locations and one urban setting (Sourd Borgne, Fond Baptist, Ivoire & Montrois. Montrois is the urban location. Nutritional supplements are provided for families with severely malnourished children. There is a small, dedicated staff of community health care agents who identify these children. When the children are enrolled in the program, their families are given water filter educational training on the maintenance of the filters. After they complete the program, they are given a pregnant goat as part of the Sustainable Nutrition program.

The families use the goats to help provide a sustainable income. Over the last 20 years, nutritional supplements have been provided annually to 110 new children and continued support for 2,000 families.

Grant Awarded \$3,581.40.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Deacon Clare Barry
Chair of the Global Mission Committee

Episcopal Foundation of Western North Carolina
2020 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

2020 Board Members: Bishop Jose McLoughlin – Chair; Sherree Brady – President & Treasurer (St. Peter by-the-Lake, Denver), Steve Nesbitt – Vice President (Calvary, Fletcher), Dillon Manly – Secretary (Trinity, Asheville), Larry Burda (Holy Spirit, Mars Hill), Jo Ann Hasskamp (St James, Black Mountain), Kathy Ledbetter–(Trinity- Spruce Pine), Paul Ormond (St. James, Black Mountain), and Judy Teele (Grace, Morganton),

Grant distributions since 2019 Annual Report (October):

- All Saints, Gastonia: \$20,000 (12/2019)
- St. David's, Cullowhee: \$20,000 (12/2019)
- All Saints, Franklin: \$20,000
- St. Mary's/St. Stephens: \$20,000
- Lake Logan Conference Center: \$20,000
- Camp Henry: \$20,000
- Christ Church, Sparta: \$11,000
- Center for Spiritual Wisdom: \$10,000 grant approved for program subsidies to be used as needed by requesting parishes. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person programs were not possible. Use of the remaining funds will be available through December 2021.
- No grant applications were declined.

Other 2020 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.
- A new process was put into place to allow for review & approval of emergency grant requests that cannot wait until the next scheduled meeting. This is especially helpful for

the two periods when there are 4 months between meetings.

- 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.
- Per the By-Laws, the board appointed Jo Ann Hasskamp to an unfilled (vacated) board seat in August. The remaining term of this seat ends in 2021.
- The Foundation nominated two directors for their second, three year term: Kathy Ledbetter and Sherree Brady. Additionally, the Foundation nominated Dillon Manly, currently filling a vacated seat, to fill a first three-year term. These positions are elected by delegates to the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of WNC. Their terms will run from 2021 through 2023.
- Foundation vacancies: There are 2 open seats for the upcoming 2021-2023 term, and 1 unfilled seat for the 2020-2022 term.

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

Report to Diocesan Convention from Iona WNC

Iona WNC is a part of the Iona Collaborative of the Seminary of the Southwest. There are currently around 30 dioceses who are training women and men for ministry through the Iona Collaborative. When Bishop José was consecrated as bishop, one of his priorities was to bring this church-wide initiative to the Diocese of Western North Carolina, in order to train vocational deacons and bi-vocational priests for ordained ministry. Our students are postulants for Holy Orders, approved through the COM process and the bishop. They follow a rigorous, three year curriculum, with online work during the month, and a monthly “residential” weekend at Lake Logan, ten months out of the year. Each student studies Biblical Studies, Church History, Homiletics, Systematic Theology, Christian Ethics, Liturgics, Theory and Practice of Ministry, and Leadership Studies. The testing and evaluation progress is rigorous, including some semester exams taken from the same General Ordination Exams taken by seminarians at the bricks and mortar seminaries. Spiritual formation and habits of prayer and contemplation comprise another important part of the program.

During the year, the Seminary of the Southwest supports the faculty and deans with monthly meetings, annual retreat, and other supplemental opportunities for learning. Both of our Iona Deans participated and completed the Episcopal Church’s Becoming Beloved Community program, enabling us to teach our students about the facilitation and commitment to racial reconciliation in our communities and the Church.

We began the Iona program in January of 2020, with one student, a longtime deacon who became a postulant for the bivocational priesthood. Within three months we were all learning about Zoom, studying methods of online instruction through the Iona Collaborative, and missing our time together.

We are happy to report that, in August of 2022, we resumed our in-person weekend format at Lake Logan with one new student, training for the vocational diaconate. Our senior student is completing her final coursework and examinations and we are looking forward to a celebratory December graduation where, on behalf of this diocese and the Seminary of the Southwest, we will confer the Certificate in Theological Studies to Anita Ware.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of Bishop José, Canon Augusta and the Diocesan Staff. We benefit from the wisdom and guidance of our Board: The Venerable Brenda Gilbert, Canon Augusta Anderson, The Rev. Rich Biega, and the Rev. Dcn. Kristi Neal. Our deepest gratitude goes to our faculty, who adapted to the challenges of pandemic pedagogy with professionalism, flexibility, commitment and grace. Thank you Ed Bleynt, the Rev. Rich Biega, the Rev. Dr. Judith Davis, the Rev. Dcn. Bob Zito, and the Rev. David Henson. We are so proud of the work you have done and the service you have rendered.

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

The Rev. Dcn. Pam Bright
Dean for Spiritual Formation

Latino / Hispanic Ministry 2022 Report

When we think about the work we have been doing this year with the Latino/Hispanic community in WNC, we are reminded of one of the antiphons that we say in the liturgy of morning prayer, the first few words of the Jubilate: "Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; * serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song." The following report provides four areas that describe our labor of love and joy among our brothers and sisters in the Latino/Hispanic community in WNC, Parishes Report, Outreach Ministry, Advocacy and Projects for 2023.

Parishes Report

Our diocese has 4 communities that gather weekly to worship in Spanish, one parish that provides bilingual weekly worship services and a set of parishes that are in the midst of connecting and building relationships with the Latino/Hispanic community. If you and your parish are interested in creating a strategy plan to connect more deeply with the Latino/Hispanic community or minority groups in your local area, please contact us so we can help you develop a plan of action.

St. Mary's Chapel / Iglesia Santa Maria - Hendersonville

During this year we have experienced a growth in the community thanks to the different programs and activities we have developed for 2022.

For instance, during bishop's visit to La Capilla, three of our youth got confirmed and thirteen brothers and sisters were received into the Episcopal Church.

We have had five Quinceañeras celebrations. These celebrations have helped us connect more deeply with the community and Latino/Hispanic families.

We are providing weekly bible studies, a youth group program, and a leadership training for lay members.

We participated on the diocesan Latino/Hispanic retreat in September, we hosted the first diocesan Latino/Hispanic VBS at La Capilla in July and celebrated our annual summer picnic with members of St. James Hendersonville and Holy Family Church. Furthermore, we are hoping to provide a retreat for married couples later in the month of December.

Last, thanks to the diocese, St. James Episcopal Church and other donors and volunteers we have been able to get new pews for our parish and we have transformed the altar area in our chapel. It has been a labor of love and joy. We can't wait to see what God has In store for use in 2023.

St. Mary's & St. Stephen / Iglesia de Santa Maria y San Esteban - Morganton

Even though the Latino/Hispanic community at St. Mary's and St. Stephen's is a smaller group, this year we have experienced new energy in our group, and we are beginning to see growth in our midst.

Once we were able to open our doors after Covid, we developed a prayer group led by parishioners that met people at their homes for prayer and pastoral care.

We also began a bible class for adults and people interested in Christian education. This bible class takes place at Grace Episcopal Church.

We are extremely thankful for the Rev. Dr. Marshall A. Jolly's support as well as the Rev. Logan Lovelace.

Trinity Episcopal Church / Iglesia de la Trinidad - Spruce Pine

It has been an extreme joy to work with the Latino/Hispanic community at Trinity. We gather every Sunday at 2:00 pm for worship and fellowship. Once a month, we gather with members from the community to discuss issues affecting the Latino/Hispanic community and identify unique ways to provide support. For instance, earlier this year while assessing the needs in the community, we also looked at the different organizations we could partner with to provide aid and support to those in need. Within months we began conversations with organizations like the community garden, public library, George Pappas Immigration legal aid, YMCA and health services and together we began a monthly resource fair to provide resources to the Latino/Hispanic community in Spruce Pine. We provided resources from the months of May - September to approximately 350 families.

We have also begun conversations with the group that gathers for worship at Trinity in the mornings to find unique ways to partner and work together for the common good of our beloved community.

Later this fall we began to provide English 101 classes to the Latino/Hispanic community. Thanks to this effort we are establishing new relationships in the community.

Last, we were able to gather 60 members of Trinity this past summer at Mount Mitchell for an outdoors worship service and picnic.

We are extremely thankful for the Rev. Canon Richard Biega's support as well as the diocese. We look forward to continuing building God's kingdom in WNC.

Our Savior Lutheran/Episcopal Church / Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador - Newland

The church of Our Savior gathers Sundays for worship and fellowship starting at 5 pm.

During this year we celebrated two Quinciañeras. These services were hosted by the Episcopal Church of St. James in Lenoir. We also had a special service to renew our baptismal vows with more than 38 members renewing their call to follow and serve God.

Among the different Latino/Hispanic celebrations, we have gathered to celebrate the feast of St. Francis (October 4th), feast of St. Jude Thaddeus (October 28th) and we are hoping to gather for a joint celebration of Las Posadas later in December.

Similar to the ministry taking place at Trinity Episcopal Church in Spruce Pine, we are providing English classes on Saturdays at 4:30 pm.

Finally, acknowledging that we are the body of Christ when we come together and work together for the budding of God's kingdom, we are making an extra effort to build stronger relationships with the group that worships in English at church of Our Savior in order to find common ministry and support one another in our call to serve and love Christ in all people.

We are thankful for the support provided by the members of the Lutheran/Episcopal church of Our Savior as well as our beloved diocese.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany / Iglesia Episcopal de la Epifanía - Newton

One of our dreams for the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany is to use this parish for the creation of a multicultural ministry that celebrates the gift of diversity and a space that provides resources for the community and the diocese in regard to multicultural ministry. We are doing this work by developing bilingual services that are streamed via Facebook and YouTube on Sundays, providing weekly healing services, and having our clergy and lay leaders connect more deeply to the community of Newton, Hickory, and Conover.

Part of our outreach program, also known as the Multicultural Center, has helped us to celebrate diversity and provide resources to the community. We have provided the following resources to the diocese and the larger community:

- We provide English classes for the community and leaders in the diocese. This year we provided a Pastoral Care in the Latino/Hispanic context for the diocese. We had a total of 9 participants.
- We provided a Spanish 101 class for the non-profit Children's Home Society. We had a total of 15 participants.
- We have regular Spanish classes for leaders in the Catawba county. We have a total of 6 participants.

- We also have English 101 classes for the Latino/Hispanic community in Newton and nearby areas. We have a total of 6 participants.
- We provide guitar and piano lessons to children and youth in the Catawba county. We have a total of 4 participants.
- Inspired by the work of St. Francis & Gabriels Episcopal Church in Rutherfordton and their Food, Faith, and Culture program, we began a monthly celebration of the different cultures in our community. We gathered in September to celebrate Latino/Hispanic heritage month and October for Italian American Heritage month. Our next celebration in November will be Asian-American heritage celebration. Everyone is welcome to join us for these celebrations. For more information, please contact the Rev. Oscar A. Rozo at orozod@diocesewnc.org.

Last, we would like to give thanks to all parishes who have worked with us this year, St. James Episcopal Church in Lenoir, St. John's Episcopal Church in Marion, St. Francis & Gabriels Episcopal Church in Rutherfordton, Church of the Holy Spirit and Esperanza Group in Marshall, St. James in Hendersonville, Calvary Episcopal Church in Fletcher, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Edneyville and Lake Logan. We look forward to continuing working with these parishes and the many other parishes in our beloved Diocese.

Outreach Ministry

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." 1 Cor. 12:12-27

As the office of Latino/Hispanic ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, we acknowledge that we are not able to do this work ourselves. We need to partner with others in order to transform this broken world into the kingdom that God has promised for all humanity. This year we have spent some time looking at the resources around our communities to identify partners in ministry and build new relationships with our communities.

Earlier this year we began conversations with True Ridge, a non-profit that provides resources to the immigrant community in Henderson county, in order to help them raise funds for a new legal clinic that would provide legal aid to the immigrant community in WNC. We helped them connect with churches in the area and other nonprofits that could help them and us raise enough funds to support this important ministry.

Similarly, using tools from the ABCD (Asset Based Community Development), we gathered with 10 different organizations in Spruce Pine to provide a resource fair for the immigrant community in Mitchell. Thanks to this effort we were able to provide resources to 350 families.

While dreaming together with some of the organizations that gathered to provide resources in Mitchell county, we began to think about ways in which we could collaborate and create a curriculum that trains new leaders in the Latino/Hispanic community in Mitchell and Avery County.

We are encouraging our churches to go into their communities and neighborhoods to build new relationships and identify people and organizations that could partner with us in ministry. It is together that we are the body. It is together that we can transform this world.

Advocacy

Towards the end of 2021, we realized that many of our immigrant families in WNC were financially affected by Covid-19, the tropical storms in the fall of 2021 and the unstable market in the U.S. Acknowledging the many needs, we requested funds from the Episcopal Relief and Development to provide financial support to those in need in WNC. Earlier in 2022 we received a grant for \$15,000. Thanks to these funds we were able to provide financial aid to 600 families in WNC. We are hoping to apply for other grants for 2023 and create a leadership program that empowers the immigrant population in WNC.

On a similar context, we have become aware of the desperate need for immigration education among all our communities. There are many misconceptions and theories about the immigration system in the U.S. Therefore, we have partnered with an immigration attorney in Burnsville who will help us develop this year and next a set of bilingual videos that will help immigrants and the larger community understand better the immigration and legal system in the U.S.

Projects for 2023

As important as it is to acknowledge the work that has been done this year, it is also important to have a vision for the work that needs to take place next year. Here are some areas we are hoping to work on. We are always looking for partners in ministry. If any of the following programs calls your attention, please contact us to join forces and work together as the body of Christ:

- College Grants for Latino/Hispanic and immigrant community:

Even though it is important to feed and provide support to those who are in need, it is also imperative to empower those in need so they too can be part of the solution. A great way for us to empower those in need is education. Our diocese has two main organizations that provide funding for college grants for the Latino/Hispanic community in WNC. One of our goals for this coming year is to identify other churches, individuals and organizations who could help us raise funds for our college grant for Latino/Hispanic and immigrant community. If you are interested in this work, please contact our diocesan missionary the Rev. Oscar Rozo at orozo@diocesewnc.org.

- Leadership Curriculum:

One of the major realizations that we are experiencing in our churches is that even though we all are called to be leaders in our communities, we do not know how to be leaders. When our clergy are sent to seminary to be trained as pastors, many of them do not get to learn how to be strong leaders and how to empower others to be leaders. Therefore, we are hoping to develop a curriculum that looks at leadership in the 21st century, understands the most important tools and skills that leaders use to transform the communities and bring this curriculum to our churches and diocese. If you are interested on this work, please contact our diocesan missionary the Rev. Oscar Rozo at orozo@diocesewnc.org.

- Latino/Hispanic Strategic Vision for Reaching Latinos/Hispanics and minorities:

Even though our church in large acknowledges the importance of diversity, according to an article provided in 2020 by the Pew Research, 92% of our church is made out of White/Caucasian members. As we look towards the future of the church, there needs to be a space for us to acknowledge the need to bring more diversity within our parishes. Our hope as the office of Latino/Hispanic ministry is to identify a group of people that could help us look at a Strategic Vision for Reaching Latinos/Hispanics and minorities. If you are interested in this work, please contact our diocesan missionary the Rev. Oscar Rozo at orozo@diocesewnc.org.

Respectfully submitted:

The Rev. Miguel Álvarez
The Rev. Oscar A. Rozo