The Journal of the
229th Annual Convention of the
Episcopal Church in Vermont
being the
169th Annual Convention of The Diocese of
Vermont
held at
The Hilton Hotel, Burlington, Vermont
October 26, 2019
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During this 12-month period, 47 visits were made to congregations in Vermont and 3 visits were made to DEPO congregations in the Diocese of Albany. The following congregations were visited during this 12-month period from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019:

7/1/18 St. Matthew’s Church, Enosburg Falls
7/17/18 Grace Church, Sheldon
7/22/18 St. James’ Church, Arlington
7/25/18 St. Martin’s Church, Fairlee
7/26/18 St. Paul’s Church, Canaan
7/29/18 St. Paul’s Church, Wells
8/1/18 St. John’s Church, Essex, NY
9/16/18 Christ Church, Bethel
9/23/18 Christ Church, Island Pond
9/30/18 St. Luke’s Church, St. Albans
10/7/18 Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington
10/14/18 St. Luke’s Church, Fair Haven
10/21/18 St. Andrew’s Church, Colchester
10/28/18 St. Mark’s Church, Springfield
11/11/18 St. Mary’s Parish, Northfield
11/18/18 St. John’s Church, Randolph
12/2/18 St. John’s Church, Hardwick
12/9/18 Zion Church, Manchester Center
12/16/18 St. Paul’s Church, Wells
1/6/19 St. Michael’s Church, Brattleboro
1/13/19 St. James’ Church, Woodstock
1/15/19 Calvary Church, Underhill
1/27/19 St. Peter’s Church, Bennington
2/3/19 St. James’ Church, Essex Junction
2/10/19 St. Paul’s Church, White River Junction
2/24/19 St. Mary’s in the Mountains Church, Wilmington
3/3/19 St. Thomas and Grace Church, Brandon
3/10/19 Christ Church, Montpelier
3/31/19 Trinity Church, Rutland
4/7/19 St. Stephen’s Church, Middlebury
4/14/19 St. Matthew’s Church, Enosburg Falls
4/28/19 St. Luke’s Church, Chester
5/1/19 Church of Our Saviour, Killington
5/5/19 Church of St. Luke the Beloved Physician, Saranac Lake
5/8/19 All Saints Church, South Burlington
5/12/19 St. Andrew’s Church, St. Johnsbury
5/15/19 St. Luke’s Church, Alburgh
5/19/19 St. Martin’s Church, Fairlee
5/22/19 St. Mark’s Church, Newport
5/26/19 Trinity Church, Shelburne
5/30/19 St. John’s in the Mountains Church, Stowe
5/31/19 St. Peter’s Church, Lyndonville
6/2/19 Holy Trinity Church, Swanton
6/9/19 Grace Church, Sheldon
6/11/19 St. Barnabas Church, Norwich
6/16/19 St. Paul’s Church, Canaan
6/19/19 Gethsemane Church, Proctorsville
6/26/19 Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls
6/28/19 St. James’ Church, Arlington
6/30/19 St. John’s Church, Essex, NY

During these visitations 28 people were confirmed, 14 people were received, and 4 people plus the congregation present at Grace Church in Sheldon reaffirmed their baptismal vows.

During this 12-month period, consents were given to the elections of nine Bishops Diocesan in the dioceses of Kansas, Arizona, West Tennessee, San Diego, Northern California, Maine, South Dakota, Vermont, and El Camino Real. In this same 12-month period consents were given to the elections of 2 Bishops Suffragan in the dioceses of Texas and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. One consent for Bishop Coadjutor was denied in the Diocese of Haiti. Consents were given for the resignations of Bishops Diocesan in the dioceses of Virginia, Southern Virginia, and Haiti. Consent was given for the election of a Bishop Suffragan in the diocese of Texas.

On July 13, 2018 the Reverend Paul Moberly was released to the Diocese of Virginia.

On September 26, 2018 Veronika Travis (Trinity Church, Shelburne) was ordained a priest at St. Luke’s Church in Alexandria, Virginia.
On February 26, 2019 the Reverend Duncan Hilton was received from the Diocese of Massachusetts.

On February 27, 2019 the Reverend Dr. Robert Leopold was received form the Diocese of East Tennessee.

On March 7, 2019 Thom Rock (St. Mark’s Church, Newport) was admitted as a Candidate for Holy Orders.

On March 7, 2019 Bram Kranichfeld (Cathedral Church of St. Paul) and Katie Runde (Christ Church, Bethel) were admitted as Postulants for Holy Orders.

On May 13, 2019 the Reverend Bob Stuhlmann was received from the Diocese of Connecticut.

During this 12-month period new Lay Participant Licenses were issued for the three-year period beginning November 23, 2018 and ending November 28, 2021, the last Sunday before Advent: 223 Eucharistic Minister licenses, 47 Lay Preacher licenses, 76 Worship Leader licenses, and 36 Eucharistic Visitor licenses.

Respectfully submitted,

The Right Reverend Thomas C. Ely
Tenth Bishop of Vermont

THE TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE OF VERMONT

The Board of Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont operates according to Canon 11 of the Constitutions and Canons of the Diocese of Vermont. The Trustees meet quarterly. In the 2018-19 period covered by this report, those meetings were held on September 6 and December 6, 2018 (Annual and Regular Meeting) and on February 26 and May 30, 2019.

Report of the Real Estate Committee: According to Canon 10.1(b), title to real property of the Diocese shall be held by the Trustees, except otherwise directed by the Bishop and Standing Committee. The Real Estate Committee oversees all matters related to such property that are to come before the Trustees. Quitclaim deeds were approved for properties in Arlington, Essex, Ferrisburg, Hinesburg, Jericho, Manchester and Shoreham. Various matters relating to the following properties were also addressed by the Committee during the year: St. Peter’s, Bennington; St. Thomas and Grace, Brandon; St. Stephen’s, Middlebury; Trinity, Poultney; St. Ann’s, Richford; St. Luke’s, St. Albans; and Holy Trinity, Swanton.
The Campaign for Rock Point exceeded its $1.7M fund-raising goal. Quarterly reports were received from the Rock Point Board regarding ongoing matters pertaining to the management of the property. The Trustees endorsed a staffing plan for Rock Point Commons that removes the Bishop from needing to provide day-to-day supervision of the property. On recommendation of the Committee and the Rock Point Board, the Trustees also approved a 93.5-acre conservation easement and interim and long-term management plans submitted by the Lake Champlain Land Trust for Rock Point.

**Report of the Investment Committee:** According to Canon 10.2(b), all funds other than operating funds unless otherwise directed shall be invested in the Diocesan Unit Trust Fund (DUT). The Investment Committee of the Trustees oversees the management of the Unit Fund, which includes accounts of the Diocese and many of its congregations, and amounted to $28,646,297 as of June 30, 2019, a 10.5% gain over the year, exceeding all our benchmarks and goals.

In 2018-19, the Trustees approved quarterly distributions from the DUT to investors at the rate of 1.25% of the average value of the Unit Fund for the preceding 12 calendar quarters, being an annual rate of 5% of these average unit values. Each distribution has increased in value for the last 8 quarters. The distribution payment dates are the 20th day of the last month in each calendar quarter of the year. The Committee met with its professional investment management advisors every quarter. Fund performance continued to improve following the adoption of the revised socially responsive (ESG) Investment Policy in the spring of 2016.

In order to clarify our Socially Responsive aspirations to our financial advisors, the Investment Committee consulted this year with members of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of the TEC Executive Committee and with The Church Pension Fund. This resulted in the addition of a new appendix (C) to our Investment Policies Statement (ISP). It aligns our policies with those of The Episcopal Church with regard not only to investing but also to voting of proxies. The full ISP and the Quarterly Investment Reviews are available at the Trustees pages on the Diocesan website at [www.diovermont.org/trustees/](http://www.diovermont.org/trustees/). On July 11, 2019, the Trustees conducted a third annual diocesan-wide zoom video-conference briefing for Unit Fund investors and stakeholders. This was recorded and is also available on the Diocesan website, at [https://diovermont.org/2018/02/11/diocesan-unit-trust-fund/](https://diovermont.org/2018/02/11/diocesan-unit-trust-fund/).

Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, Christ Church, Montpelier, was elected Trustee for a seven-year term at Convention in November 2018. She replaced Amy Hastings, who completed her term and who had served as President of the Trustees for several years.

Steve Smith, President of the Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont

**Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont 2018-2019:**
DIOCESAN COUNCIL – THE VERMONT BRANCH OF THE JESUS MOVEMENT

Diocesan Council met ten times during the reporting period. Five meetings were via Zoom, one meeting was an overnight organizing and planning meeting, the other four were in person held at St. Paul’s, White River Junction or Trinity, Rutland.

All meetings began with prayer and reflection and ended with prayer. Council members took responsibility for these parts of each meeting. Council members also took turns summarizing meetings for publication in The Mountain.

Council members were:

Mission District #1
- Rob Spainhour term expires 2019
- Edith Hawksworth term expires 2020
- Alice Daley term expires 2021

Mission District #2
- Paul Habersang unexpired term to 2019
- Marjorie Strong term expires 2020
- Jean Wilson term expires 2021

Mission District #3
- Barbara Johnson term expires 2019
- Kathy Hartman term expires 2020
- Mark Preece term expires 2021

Mission District #4
- Fred Moser term expires 2019
- Lisa Newton term expires 2020
- Liam Muller term expires 2021

Mission District #5
- Heidi Edson term expires 2019
- Paul Gratz term expires 2020
- Colleen Gates term expires 2021

At the overnight organizing and planning meeting in January, Council members spent time building community, orientation, looking back at 2018 priorities and conversation with the diocesan Chancellor, Tom Little, Rock Point Director of Administration and Finance, David McKay, and diocesan Treasurer, Gerry Davis. Bishop Ely reviewed the structure of the diocese, communication norms for Council and introduced The Presiding Bishop’s initiative – The Way of Love. This meeting ended with Eucharist and the Commissioning of all Council members.
Ultimately, Council approved the following list of 2019 Council Priorities. Members noted agreed to take responsibility for that area.

Final 2019 Priorities and Goals were determined to be:

- **Way of Love** – The Way of Love to undergird Council priorities and goals (all).
- **Re-Imagining and Re-Engaging the Future of the Episcopal Church** (Kathy, Paul G., Colleen) – Marketing/Branding priority is part of this group.
- **Evangelism** (Dinny)
- **Ecumenical/Interreligious Relations** (Fred)
- **Racial Reconciliation and Immigration and Refugees** ((Rob, Lisa, Maurice, Mark, Heidi)
  Anti-racism training is mandated by Episcopal Church Canon for people who will be ordained, yet there is not a set program that people can use to fulfill this requirement. A decision needs to be made about what counts as training so that there can be a recording piece around certification.
- **Welcoming Bishop #11** (Kathy, Jean)

Council members expressed interest in the following categories for extended discussion at in-person meetings: Israel-Palestine and Racial Reconciliation.

The following areas were noted as areas Council would like to be updated at each meeting:

- Re-evaluating priorities
- Racial Reconciliation
- Ecumenical/Interreligious Relations
- Rock Point
- Commission on Ministry
- Green Mountain Witness
- Grants & Loans Committee
- Clergy Compensation Guidelines
- Budget & Finance
- Alleluia!Fund
- Episcopal Transition

Council agreed that the foundation for the above is the “Way of Love.”

The meeting ended with Eucharist and commissioning of Council members.

Reports received at most regular Council meetings were: Bishop’s, Canon to the Ordinary’s, Communications Minister’s, Diocesan Treasurer’s (all Treasurer’s reports accepted subject to audit), and the Standing Reports regarding: Episcopal Transition, Racial Reconciliation, Rock Point, Vermont Ecumenical Council/Vermont Interfaith Agency, Commission on Ministry, Grants and Loans Committee, Evangelism and Green Mountain Witness. Alleluia!Fund,
Other Highlights and Actions during the Reporting Period:

The 2019 proposed balanced budget of $1,009,961 was approved for Diocesan Convention’s action on October 26, 2018. This represented less than a 1% increase over the 2018 budget, without inflation and/or a reduction in parish funding factored in. The proposed budget used the current formula for Mission Support.

Two additional line items were added: Ecumenical Interfaith Officer and Global Mission Network Coordinator. Both items had been funded by the Bishop. An additional budget line for the Episcopal Transition, approximately $17,000, was been incorporated into the 2019 budget. The salary and benefits for the next Bishop for 6 months were expected to be similar or less than current expenses, and thus were budgeted at current levels.

Council approved a resolution establishing minimum clergy compensation for 2019 and a resolution to update rates for clergy providing Sunday supply, both for action at the October 26, 2018 Convention.

A revised Episcopal Election budget of $120,500 was provisionally approved with suggestions. Subsequently, Council endorsed the revised budget as presented by the Standing Committee.

Council approved moving $7,500 from the Bishop Butterfield Grant Fund to provide live streaming of the consecration.

Council accepted the consolidated audit for 2016 and 2017.

Council approved a proposal from Church Insurance Agency Corporation for 2019 and to include all parishes in the Diocese in the Alacrity Program, with the option for each one of them to opt out of Alacrity independently.

Changes to the guiding principles and guidelines for the Grants and Loans Committee were accepted as follows:

1. Consider grant and loan requests from Episcopal congregations and diocesan entities within Vermont. In the case of Alleluia!Fund, other ministries with a strong association with the Episcopal Church in Vermont may apply.
2. Consider “pass through” grants to other organizations where there is a clear connection to an actively engaged ministry that enhances congregational vitality and the requesting Vermont congregation or diocesan entity is also providing funds to the ultimate recipient organization.

Council discussed ways it might encourage congregations in promoting ecumenical and interfaith programs and events, including sharing facilities, combined events, and interfaith and
ecumenical education. It was proposed that the Diocese conduct a survey to gather information that could be used to stimulate conversations and collect data for stories, to identify and celebrate the activities of local parishes.

A presentation by Mark Hughes of Justice for All prompted Council to offer its full support of elimination of the language in Article 1, Section 2 of the Vermont Constitution referencing slavery.

On behalf of Council, a gift was presented to Bishop Ely to honor his service and to congratulate him on his retirement while recognizing that he will still be ministering in the way he feels called.

Lynn Bates, Canon to the Ordinary

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY REPORT

IT Infrastructure

The health of the information technology infrastructure at the Diocesan Office is essential to every function performed there and has explicit implications on the Ministry Support Team’s ability to facilitate communications between the people of the diocese. In an effort to tune up our IT systems, improve information security, establish preventive maintenance procedures, and investigate other opportunities to use our IT resources more efficiently, the Diocese contracted earlier this year with Capes & Powers, a Burlington-based IT firm, following a competitive bid process. I had the pleasure of leading the vendor search and onboarding processes and have been working closely with the diocesan Financial Administrator to maximize the value of our IT support budget.

In addition to providing routine technical support, Capes & Powers has upgraded the Diocesan Office Virtual Private Network (VPN), enabling staff to access data securely away from the office. They have also upgraded the office WiFi, enabling staff and guests to access online information more quickly and host high-quality web conferences more reliably than in the past. In the months to come, Capes & Powers will be working with the Ministry Support Team and members of the Rock Point Board to identify and implement a comprehensive enterprise management system (EMS) which could potentially replace the existing diocesan database. One significant requirement of the EMS will be the ability to store and analyze the robust sets of data that Rock Point and the Diocese gather on members, donors, visitors, and parishes in order to improve our strategic planning processes.

Diocesan Website
Only two years ago, I had the pleasure of unveiling a redesigned website at https://diovermont.org. And just last year, I announced a series of updates to the website aimed at enhancing the Diocese’s visual brand and increasing web traffic. This year, building on the work of the past two years, I introduced numerous improvements to the site’s stability, availability, searchability, and mobile compatibility. Additionally, a few cosmetic changes were made to improve the site’s readability. Not only has the result been a “fresher” looking design, but the costs associated with web hosting and security have been significantly reduced as a result of the changes.

The Diocesan Website receives an average of 110 unique visitors and 235 page views each day. The highest traffic occurs on The Mountain publication days—around 250 unique visitors and over 600 page views—from subscribers who prefer to read the articles on the website rather than accessing them through the digital magazine.

**The Mountain**

In recent years, a strategic effort has been made to expand The Mountain, the digital magazine of The Episcopal Church in Vermont, from a news and events publication to a conduit for Christian formation and Episcopal evangelism. To that end, the magazine has regularly featured spiritual reflections by church members across the Diocese and articles about evangelism by members of the Green Mountain Witness Team.

As of this writing, there were 1,949 subscribers to The Mountain, an increase of 60 subscribers over last year. This is especially noteworthy given our Average Sunday Attendance of just over 2,000 individuals. There has also been a notable surge year-to-date in the percentage of people opening The Mountain in their email. Constant Contact reports a mean average “open rate” ranging between 42-55% this past year. The highest open rates have occurred on March 24 when the slate of Bishop candidates was announced (55%), on May 15 just prior to the Electing Convention (47%), and on June 4 just after the Electing Convention (47%). The current open rates supersede our mean average of 42% last year and handily beat the industry average of 27.6%.

While the Diocese of Vermont continues to experience extraordinarily high subscription and open rates, it is important to note that reader engagement is still well below 100%. Feedback that I have received during my visits to congregations over the past few years suggests that many church attendees are unaware that The Mountain is the official communication vehicle for all people of the Diocese. There is a common assumption that messages intended for all people of the Diocese will be announced at Sunday services or printed in the service bulletin. While this is true in many cases, problems arise when the messages are time sensitive or require an online response (event registration, ticket reservation, etc.). So, I continue to urge all congregational leaders and parish communicators to remind attendees to subscribe to The Mountain and read it. A link to the subscription form can be found on the Diocesan Website at https://diovermont.org.
Subscription is free. *The Mountain* usually publishes on or around the first and fifteenth day of each month.

**Social Media**

Facebook and Twitter continue to be the primary social media vehicles for The Episcopal Church in Vermont. I post to each channel at least once per day on average. As of this writing, the Diocese has 1,508 Facebook followers and 881 Twitter followers. I have found social media to be a useful tool for generating awareness about timely announcements and have encouraged our congregations, many of whom utilize one or more social media platforms, to connect with each other and the Diocese. To assist in this effort, I published in July an updated list of Episcopal Vermont Social Media Connections, which was mentioned in *The Mountain* as part of an article on digital evangelism written by communications intern Alaina Knowles. This list remains accessible from the communications toolkit on my Ministry Support page.

New this year, our Diocese is now among the more than 1 billion active users of the social media platform Instagram. The diocese joins the company of Bishop-elect Shannon MacVean-Brown, The Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Rock Point School, and a few Vermont congregations, including St. Michael’s, Brattleboro, St. James, Essex Junction, and St. Stephen’s, Middlebury on the nation’s most popular social networking app for sharing photos and videos from a smartphone.

**Rock Point**

Self-sufficiency has been an important part of the communications strategy with regard to Rock Point and has enabled Rock Point to share its messages widely and consistently, while benefitting from the guidance and support of the Diocese.

I continue to provide coaching and oversight for Rock Point communications, but the editing and timely distribution of the Rock Point Partners & Friends newsletter has mostly been the work of Administrative Assistant Ann Carroll. At the time of this writing, Rock Point had 1,489 subscribers and an open rate in line with the industry average. I also continue to oversee the maintenance of the Rock Point website, although much of the implementation has been handled by Rock Point designees that I have trained. Additionally, I have maintained responsibility for Rock Point’s proactive media efforts, although Rock Point designees have also taken a lead role in generating positive press in the past year.

**Bishop Transition**

The Bishop Transition was the source of myriad communications projects over the past several months—projects that took me, quite literally, to every corner of the diocese. All of the work was done in consultation with the Standing Committee, Bishop Discernment and Nominating Committee (BDNC), and Transition Committee and included the design, launch, and
maintenance of the Bishop Search Website at https://bishopsearchvt.org. It also included meetings with the bishop candidates early in the process (for headshots and videos), video recordings of the Walkabouts on April 28-30, assistance in the planning and execution of the Electing Convention on May 18 (A/V, graphic design, and videography), assistance in the planning and execution of the Consecration Press Conference (September 27), Consecration service (September 28), and Seating service (September 29). Additionally, the work included publication of The Mountain articles about the transition process that were provided on an impressively consistent basis by representatives of the Standing Committee, BDNC, and Transition Committee. My sincere thanks to the authors for their diligence!

**Around the Diocese**

In the midst of the projects mentioned earlier in this report, I have continued to provide communication support for congregations and diocesan committees. This year, my support work around the diocese has included the development of a new Legacy Giving website, video series, and brochure on behalf of the Trustees of the Diocese. The Trustees will provide more details about the Legacy Giving program in their Diocesan Convention presentation. Special thanks to trustees Amy Hastings and Chris Chapman for providing content, direction, and vision, and special thanks to communications intern Alaina Knowles for helping design the legacy giving brochure.

Additionally, my travels around the Diocese have taken me to Zion Episcopal Church in Manchester, where I have been busy with the re-design of the church’s website. The project, which is being funded by Zion and led by the church’s communication committee, will provide Zion with a customized (and fully customizable) website that can be managed and maintained in-house.

Throughout the year, representatives of various congregations reach out to me for consultations on communication issues ranging from social media strategy to web design to email marketing. I always welcome requests for support and often share useful learning in the communications toolkit on my Ministry Support page.

**Media Highlights**

The Episcopal Church in Vermont does not pay for media coverage, which means that articles mentioning the Diocese and our congregations are the result of genuine outside interest. Our stories reach the media in three ways: (1) press releases issued by the Diocese, (2) press releases issued by local congregations, (3) the leadership of Vermont Episcopalians within their communities and on statewide and national stages.

A sampling of media highlights since the last Diocesan Convention is below. The list has been edited for brevity. Our congregations are regularly mentioned in conjunction with civic, social, and religious activities and organizations with whom they partner or support, such as Jerusalem

Peacebuilders, Stone Church Center (Bellows Falls), Summer Music at Grace (Sheldon), Summer Concert Series (Montpelier), and St. Mary’s Red Door Concert Series (Wilmington) among many other examples.

September 2019

- Bishop Tom Ely Recognized with Voices of Witness Award (Claiming the Blessing)
- Shannon MacVean-Brown Is the First Black Woman to Lead Vermont’s Episcopal Church (Seven Days)

August 2019

- Diocese awards nearly $18,000 in grants during first half of 2019 (Vermontbiz.com)

July 2019

- Prosecutor, Politician ... Priest? Bram Kranichfeld Pursues a Higher Calling (Seven Days)

June 2019

- Group aims to keep Central Americans safe at home (Stowe Today)
- 7 Reasons to Head to Burlington’s Waterfront (VT Ski & Ride)

May 2019

- First African-American Bishop of The Episcopal Church in Vermont elected (WCAX-TV)
- Artist Katie Runde Embraces the Holy and the Cow (Seven Days)

April 2019

- Vermonters Marched 65 Miles for Climate Justice (In These Times)
- Vermont Bishop calls special service after Easter Sunday bombings (myChamplainValley.com)
- Gun rights debated in State House (Rutland Herald)

March 2019

- Skiers receive ashes atop Vermont mountain (WPTZ-TV)

November 2018

- Art Review: ‘I AM: Contemporary Middle Eastern women artists and the quest to build peace,’ Cathedral of St. Paul (Seven Days)

For More Information

Regular reports on the Communications Ministry are provided courtesy of Diocesan Council and can be found online at https://diovermont.org/2018/04/15/edov-diocesan-council/. The people of the Diocese are encouraged to read these updates, which are made publicly available in the days
following each Diocesan Council meeting. For answers to any questions about this Convention Journal report, feel free to contact me at mharris@diovermont.org.

Maurice L. Harris, Ph.D.
Diocesan Communications Minister

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

This report covers the activities of the Financial Oversight and Audit Committee for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

The Oversight and Audit Committee meets bi-monthly, in January, March, May, July, September, and November, with an occasional additional special meeting. We meet in the conference room of the Diocesan offices. The Committee consists of 6 members, of which at least two must be lay and two must be clergy. The current members are Frances Huessy, Laura Buel, The Rev. Earl Kooperkamp, The Rev. Dr. Susan McGarry, and two open positions. Three others who attend the meetings are ex-officio member Treasurer Gerry Davis, Assistant Treasurer Dave Ganter, and Financial Administrator Rich Sagui.

Each year it is the responsibility of the Financial Oversight and Audit Committee to choose an accounting firm to audit the financial statements of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, including Rock Point Commons, and the Unit Fund of the Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont. When the audit statements are received, the Committee holds a joint meeting with the Trustees and representatives of the accounting firm to discuss the findings. The Committee then recommends its acceptance by the Trustees and Diocesan Council.

Another responsibility of the Committee to ensure that all of the parishes and missions of the Diocese conduct an annual audit of their financial statements and procedures, either by an accounting firm or by a committee of parishioners. To this end, the Committee oversees the content of the audit materials sent to the parishes in February of each year for the purpose of conducting an audit. It then reviews the completed audit documents submitted by the parishes and issues an acceptance letter back to the parishes.

This year the Committee continued to revise the binder of forms and reference materials for the parish audits. The 74-question Internal Control Checklist was again revised. It was reformatted for ease of use and many questions were reworded for better understanding and to reflect current practices. The Committee also developed a general audit response letter to streamline the review process of submitted parish audits. With the assistance of Ministry Support Team member Ann Carroll, this has greatly improved our turnaround time.

The Oversight and Audit Committee and Financial Administrator Rich Saqui held ongoing discussions this year about the need for a redesign of the Diocesan financial accounts. It is
becoming clear that a reorganization of the accounting system would be easier to administer and also to audit, and therefore would likely lower the cost of the annual audit. Work on this project will continue this year.

Other responsibilities of the Financial Oversight and Audit Committee relating to financial reporting and funds management can be found in Canon 10 of the Diocese of Vermont. The Committee is available to provide advice and guidance to parish treasurers and audit committees.

Laura Buel. Chair, Financial Oversight and Audit Committee

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee, an elected body by Diocesan Convention, comprised of four laypersons and four clergy persons, meets by teleconference or in person on a monthly basis, or as needed. This body acts in concert with the Board of Trustees regarding diocesan property matters, it works with the Bishop and the Diocesan Commission on Ministry with persons seeking Candidacy and Ordination to the Diaconate and Priesthood, it consents to episcopal elections throughout The Episcopal Church, and it serves as a council of advice to the Bishop.

The Standing Committee met to conduct business on these dates between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019:

July 16, 2018; July 30, 2018; August 13, 2018; September 24, 2018; October 8, 2018; November 12, 2018; January 3, 2019; February 7, 2019; March 7, 2019; March 23, 2019 (joint meeting with the Bishop Discernment and Nominating Committee [BDNC]); April 4, 2019; May 2, 2019; June 13, 2019.

The Standing Committee acted on the following items between July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019:

**Property Matters**

- Agreed to the sale of the St. Luke’s, St. Albans rectory at a lower price of $140,000
- Approved installation of Solar Panels at St. Peter’s in Bennington
- Approved an easement for VTrans at St. Stephen’s in Middlebury
- Approved a Quitclaim deed for the Goss property in Jericho
- Approved a Quitclaim deed for the Eichler property in Essex

**The Ordination Process**

- Approved Thom Rock to be a Candidate for Holy Orders to the Priesthood
- Consented to Kathleen Moore’s ordination to the (transitional) diaconate, pending completion of one unit of CPE
- Approved Linda Moore to be a Candidate for Holy Orders to the Priesthood
Consents to Episcopal Elections

- The Rev. Carlye J. Hughes as Bishop of the Diocese of Newark
- The Rev. Mark Cowell as the Bishop of the Diocese of West Kansas
- The Rev. Dr. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom as Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas.
- The Rev. Canon Cristobal Olmedo Leon Lozano as Bishop of the Diocese of Ecuador Litoral.
- The Rev. Canon Kathryn McRosen Ryan as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Texas
- The Rev. Canon Susan Brown Snook as Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego
- The Rev. Canon Megan Traquair as Bishop of the Diocese of Northern California
- The Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf as the Bishop of the Diocese of West Tennessee
- The Rev. Mark D.W. Edington as the Bishop in charge of the Convocation of Episcopal churches in Europe
- The Rev. Kimberly D. Lucas as the Bishop of the Diocese of Colorado
- The Rev. Jennifer Anne Reddall as the Bishop of the Diocese of Arizona
- The Rev. Dr. Jonathan H. Folts as the Bishop of the Diocese of South Dakota
- The Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry as the Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan
- The Rev. Thomas James Brown as the Bishop of the Diocese of Maine

Other Actions

- Received the appointment of The Rev. Kim Hardy to fulfill the term of The Very Rev. Jeanne Finan (2021) by Bishop Ely
- Consented to allow the Diocese of Texas to elect a bishop suffragan
- Abstained from the consent for the Bishop-elect of Haiti, The Rev. Joseph Delicat
- Elected the Rev. Richard R. Swanson to serve as President of the Standing Committee for one year
- Elected Scottie Emery-Ginn to serve as Secretary of the Standing Committee for one year
- Authorized the President of the Standing Committee, the Secretary of the Standing Committee and the Canon to the Ordinary to approve quitclaim deeds on behalf of the Standing Committee
- Endorsed the March 2019 action of the House of Bishops responding to concerns about clergy misconduct

Bishop Search

Recommended to Diocesan Council the compensation for new Bishop with the intent that the new Bishop reside in the Episcopal residence at Rock Point

Met with the BDNC to discuss the profile for the 11th Bishop of Vermont on September 8. This was not a formal meeting the of the Standing Committee and no minutes were recorded

Recommended that Bishop Ely should cancel the special convention called for September 29, 2018

Set the electing convention date of Saturday, May 18, 2019 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington

Approved the Profile for the 11th Bishop of Vermont on October 8, 2018

Approved the petition process for candidates not nominated as Bishop candidates by the BDNC, as well as a Petition Nomination form, a Petition Candidate Consent to Nomination form, and a Petition Candidate Background Check authorization form

Developed and accepted the Letter of Agreement for the 11th Bishop of Vermont

Accepted the slate of candidates for the 11th Bishop of Vermont from the BDNC: The Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown, The Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining, and The Rev. Dr. Hilary Smith

Authorized the Secretary of Standing Committee and the Chancellor (Thomas Little) to complete all actions required by canon law to certify the election results and the consent process following the election

Certified the election of The Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown as the 11th Bishop of Vermont on May 18, 2019

(Signed the Letter of Agreement with The Rev. Dr Shannon MacVean-Brown July 1, 2019 as Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Vermont)

Standing Committee members for 2018-2019 were: (Clergy) The Rev. Thaddeus Bennett (2019), The Rev. Dr. Richard R. Swanson (President 2017-2019, term expires 2020), The Rev. Kim Hardy (2021), and The Rev. Jennie Anderson (2022); (Lay members) Brett Murphy (2019), Paul Harrington (2020), Lars Hunter (2021), Scottie Emery-Ginn (Secretary 2018-2019, term expires 2022). The President is honored to work along side a talented, dedicated, and faithful committee, offering their work to the glory of God and in service to the Episcopal Church in Vermont.

The Rev. Dr. Richard R. Swanson, President, 2018-2019

THE GRANTS & LOANS COMMITTEE

The Grants and Loans Committee, established by Diocesan Council in 2016, distributes available funds to enhance the vitality of congregations and organizations of the Episcopal Church in Vermont in order to increase engagement in the Mission of God.
Committee Members during this year were: The Rev. Liam Muller (Trinity, Rutland), Ben Anderson-Ray (St. Stephen’s, Middlebury), Laurie Chiperfield (St. Michael’s, Brattleboro), Nanci Gordon (Trinity, Rutland), John Hartman (Christ Church, Bethel), The Rev. Todd McKee (St. Paul’s, White River Junction), The Rev. Empy Schneider (St. Mary’s, Northfield), Steve Smith (St. James, Arlington), The Rev. Bob Wilson (St. Mark’s, Newport), Canon Lynn Bates (ex officio).

**Guiding Principles**

We understand **congregational vitality** to be marked especially by:

- Members who are passionate followers of Jesus Christ
- An ongoing process of discerning, planning, acting and reflecting
- Opportunities for personal and community transformation
- Leadership, labor, and financial support being shared generously by most members
- Members who are equipped and empowered to be ministers in their daily life and work
- A clear sense of vision and active participation in the Mission of God beyond the congregation

We embrace the **Five Marks of Mission** and affirm that the Mission of the Church Is the Mission of Christ

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

To this end, and within the guidelines of the various funds available to us, we will prayerfully and flexibly:

1. Consider grant and loan requests only from an Episcopal entity within Vermont. The Committee will not consider requests from non-Episcopal entities or requests from outside Vermont.
2. Give priority to requests that show promise for enhancing local mission approaches.
3. Give priority to requests that support discernment, planning, promoting, training for, implementing, and evaluating mission (rather than funding the actual mission).
4. Give priority to requests that show sustainability.
5. Give priority to requests that support discerning, planning, promoting, and training of lay people.
6. Give at least 50% to support local mission and give no more than 50% to [non-mission] requests related to buildings.
7. Attempt to distribute funds as widely as possible.
8. Discourage “pass through” grants to other organizations unless there is a clear connection to an actively engaged ministry that enhances congregational vitality and the requesting parish is also providing funds to the ultimate recipient organization.
9. Discourage the use of funds to solve emergencies or to postpone dealing with a long-term problem.
10. Discourage the use of funds strictly for the purpose of historical preservation of buildings.

**Grants and Loans Distributed**

**Alleluia Funds Granted:**

- St. James, Essex New York $2,500.00
- Mission Traveling Team, Dominican Republic
- St. Barnabas, Norwich $2,500.00
- Upper Valley Interfaith Project
- Rock Point Commons $4,050.00
- Pollinator’s Project

**Butterfield Grant Funds Granted:**

- Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington $5,000.00
  - I AM Exhibit
- Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington $3,200.00
  - Rock Point Camp Scholarships of Sudanese Community
- Transition Committee of the Diocese of Vermont $7,500.00
  - Live Streaming of Consecration
- St. Andrew’s, St. Johnsbury $1,200.00
  - Expand Convivia, a community to practice and share what is believed

**Irish Bequest Grants:**

- Christ Church, Bethel $6,000.00
  - Community Meal Program
- St. Paul’s, Vergennes $22,500.00
  - Improving outdoor space, window repair, new porch
- St. Peter’s, Wilmington $3,370.00
  - Matching Grant for local charities

**Local Mission Approach Grants:**

- St. Michael’s, Brattleboro $15,000.00
  - Year Two-Experimental Initiatives in Discipleship
- Grace Church, Sheldon $20,835.00
  - Support for new Sheldon Food Shelf building

**McClure Grants:**

- St. Peter’s, Bennington $7,200.00
Solar array on parish hall roof
St. Peter’s, Bennington $ 2,000.00
Seedlings Program
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington $ 11,000.00
Annual St. Paul’s Youth Trip (Guatemala)
Christ Church, Montpelier $ 25,000.00
Restoration of bell tower and sanctuary roof
Trinity Church, Shelburne $ 10,000.00
Episcopal Church Foundation planning assistance
St. Paul’s, White River Junction $ 2,400.00
Toward Racial Healing
Diocese of Vermont (Bishop Ely) $ 12,000.00
Cristosal Global School Program in Central America (10 people)
St. Mary’s in the Mountains, Wilmington $ 7,500.00
Jerusalem Peacebuilders Scholarship

Total Funds Granted: $172,355.00

Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Approved:
Christ Church, Montpelier $ 75,000.00

Total Loans Approved: $ 75,000.00

GLOBAL EPISCOPAL MISSION NETWORK: A FORUM FOR ENGAGING THE WORLD

The Diocese of Vermont has for a number of years been a Member Diocese of the Global Episcopal Mission Network (GEMN), a voluntary association of dioceses, congregations, agencies, seminaries and individuals whose purpose is to “proclaim, inspire and ignite the joy of God’s mission” throughout the Episcopal Church. Vermont thus adds its voice to those of others who are committed to global engagement through Christ.

• 2019 Global Mission Conference – This was a major initiative of GEMN this year as about 120 Episcopalians from all over the church gathered in the Dominican Republic with the theme “Sharing Jesus: Evangelism in Global Mission.” Keynoting the gathering was Canon Stephanie Spellers, well known to Vermonters from the 2018 Diocesan Convention, who helped conferees recover the importance of witnessing to Christ amid the healthcare, educational and economic dimensions of global mission. Bishop Griselda Delgado del Carpio of Cuba, Bishop Moisés Quezada Mota of the Dominican Republic, and the Rev. Anthony Guillén, ethnic ministries director for the Episcopal Church, were among other major speakers.
• “Jerusalem and Beyond: Interfaith Reconciliation on the Ground with Youth” – This well-received workshop, an important contribution from Vermont at this year’s mission conference, was offered by Jack Karn, a candidate for diaconal ordination in Vermont, and Canon Nicholas Porter of St. Mary’s in Wilmington, both of them leaders of Jerusalem Peacebuilders, which is a member organization of GEMN. I offered a workshop on the history of evangelism in the Anglican Communion.

• “Questing: The Way of Love in Global Mission” – GEMN is about to issue this global ministry study guide modeled on Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s Way of Love initiative. The guide will be a helpful way for Vermont congregations to reflect on how they can reach beyond themselves to form community with people in other parts of the world. It includes biblical reflections, personal narratives and other resources for congregational discussion.

• Global Mission Prayer Cycle – This is being prepared for use by Episcopalians to lift up before God the many entities involved in global mission, and the Diocese of Vermont is included in that. Episcopal Relief and Development, to which many Vermont congregations contribute, is also an important member of GEMN.

• “Global Episcopal Mission Communion” Facebook Group – This was inaugurated this year as a forum for people to share questions, experiences and insights into global mission. It is open to all interested persons – go to “Global Episcopal Mission Community” on Facebook to join. And check out the GEMN website while you’re at it: www.gemn.org.

Currently the president of GEMN, I invite Vermont Episcopalians to be in touch with me (tituspresler@post.harvard.edu) about questions and hopes you may have for engaging in God’s mission globally. One hope for the coming year is to form a network of Vermont folk who would like to support one another in global mission. As global missioners visit the diocese we will make their presence known for possible parish invitations. For instance, this fall the founders of Health Tanzania, a GEMN Member Organization, were invited to speak at Trinity in Shelburne.

• “Earthkeeping: Creation Care in Global Mission” – This is the theme of the 2020 Global Mission Conference, to be held April 28-May 1 at Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis. Plenary speakers addressing the ecological crisis will be Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, an oceanographer and former presiding bishop; the Rev. Rachel Mash, director of Green Anglicans in South Africa; the Rev. Leon Sampson, who will bring Native American insights from Navajoland; and Bishop Orlando Gomez and a team from Costa Rica, which is a leader in creation care.

• GEMN’s Mission Formation Program – Held the day before the annual Global Mission Conference, this offers education in the biblical basis, theology, history and practice of Anglican mission that is undertaken as a reciprocal companionship with people across boundaries of
religious, cultural, linguistic and economic difference. Registration for the conference and the formation program will open in early 2020.

GEMN is grateful for the participation of the Diocese of Vermont and for the support that Bishop Tom Ely has offered over the years.

The Rev. Dr. Titus Presler, Diocesan Representative to GEMN
COOPERATIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

The Cooperative Christian Ministry at the University of Vermont (CCM at UVM) is an ecumenical and progressive ministry supported by six Protestant denominations: The Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church, USA, the American Baptist church and the United Methodist Church.

Our vision is to explore higher meaning in higher education at UVM. Our mission is to create a community that engages the mind, nurtures the spirit, inspires service, advances justice, and cares for creation.

This past academic year we completed our second year operating from the Interfaith Center on campus and have started our third year there. The building is the former home of Christ Church Presbyterian and is more centrally located for the student foot traffic. Our minister, Rev. Joe Cotner finds this a dedicated place for spiritual/religious life on campus, and where a spiritual atmosphere permeates the Center. There is a definite increase in student activity in the building. Here we can more easily reach interested students with information about our activities, and programs.

We continued our program of providing meals each month for students. Members from one of our supporting denominations prepare and bring home cooked meals for the students at the Interfaith Center. There continues to be a gradual increase in the numbers of students who came to the dinners, and there is always a welcoming atmosphere with interesting conversations and delicious dinners. About half of the students each month are students who have come to other meals with CCM. Members from Trinity Shelburne, with support from other Episcopal board members from the Cathedral and St. James, Essex Junction provided the two Episcopal dinners, one in the fall and one in the spring.

From conversations with the students and experience of one of our board members, Rev. Cotner and a board member offered a new program called Spirituality on Tap in the spring semester of 2019. Signs were posted about the building and email invitations were sent to the two events held at a restaurant at the Davis Center, our main student center. The first group discussed LGBTQ+ and Christian? YES! The topic for the second event was the peaceful coexistence of science and religious belief led by Dr. Donna Toufexis from the Cathedral of St. Paul and Rev. Cotner.

Students from the Spirituality on Tap and monthly dinners, as well as other students who have met with Rev. Cotner, have requested two other new programs, a Bible Study program and a Lyceum program where people of different religious faiths can engage in dialogue.

The Bible Study group has grown to a group of 8 - 10 students who meet every Thursday at either a restaurant downtown or at the apartment of a student in the group. This group was so eager to begin that they started meeting over the summer.
The idea for the Lyceum came from a graduate student who has attended dinners and Spirituality on Tap. Fourteen students have asked to be put on the mailing list for this program which should begin this fall.

Our minister supports other groups on campus and is present for conversation and planning for programs. In May he attended Rainbow Awards and Graduation. Staff members there spoke of their appreciation for his and CCM’s support for the LGBTQ+ students. He attends other programs and speakers on campus, when possible. He participates in Activities Fest each year, informing students of our upcoming activities. This presence, as well as his presence at the Interfaith Center and the Davis Center provides a spiritual support and opportunity for informal discussion regarding personal matters and questions about religion for students and others in the University community.

A student leader in our ministry is now in the discernment process for the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. Rev. Cotner, Rev. Fred Moser, our board chair, and Lindsey Huddle, a board member of CCM, are on his discernment committee. CCM sponsored this student to attend “Uncharted,” a national conference of Episcopal and ELCA Lutherans which met in Boston in June of 2019. He returned to us excited and inspired to offer opportunities for discussion and possible worship at UVM. This student also serves on the Diocese of Vermont Evangelism Team. He was active at Convention last fall and continues to support the mission in Vermont.

For the second year, we joined the Roman Catholic ministry on campus to co-sponsor an Easter dinner at the Catholic Center. Our board members and students joined with the Roman Catholic students and leaders to put on a delicious dinner and joyous Easter celebration.

CCM continues its work on the Food Insecurity Working Group on campus. We are the only faith based group represented on the Committee. This work is really taking off. Of particular note are the Swipe Out Hunger program that provides meal cards for students in need, and the plans by Student Affairs to open a Food Pantry on campus.

We are most grateful to the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont for its faith in our ministry and for its generous support.

**UNITED THANK OFFERING**

In the reporting year of 2018, there were 5 parishes who sent UTO ingathering contributions to the Diocesan offices for a total of $3,837.80. Others have sent contributions directly to United Thank Offering, and individuals have given through the downloadable app on their devices. These contributions have been recorded by the UTO even though our Diocese won’t know the collective contributions until the next General Convention. However, that said, the 2018 annual report of the United Thank Offering lists the Diocese of Vermont as one 53 Diocese who have increased its giving from the previous year. Well done, Vermont!
The United Thank Offering is a mission of the Episcopal Church and provides grants to missions around the world, young adults establishing new missions, and seminarians. Money funding these grants comes from contributions of individuals who live a practice of daily thanksgiving. Please feel free to contact Diocesan UTO Coordinator Wendy Grace (office@trinitychurchrutland.org) for any supplies needed for your congregation. Please encourage your congregation to schedule ingatherings at least twice a year—Thanksgiving is a great time to share thanks with United Thank Offering. It’s never too late to encourage individuals to begin filling their blue boxes with tokens of thanksgiving!

Wendy Grace, Diocesan Coordinator for UTO

REPORT OF THE ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS OFFICER

As Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer I represent The Episcopal Church in Vermont as President of the Vermont Ecumenical Council (VEC) and Moderator of its Executive Committee, a participant in the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU) and Annual Meeting of Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO), and through various other ecumenical relationships.

The Vermont Ecumenical Council observed of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25) with a service and ecumenical supper on Sunday afternoon/evening February 3, 2019 (postponed from January 20 due to a snowstorm). Bishop Ely was the preacher at the service held at Trinity Church, Shelburne. The 2020 observance is planned for Sunday afternoon/evening January 19 (location TBA). As a Network for Christian Cooperation, the VEC seeks to offer ways for Christians and Christian churches of many backgrounds to come together around matters of common interest and concern. In addition to the Episcopal and Roman Catholic dioceses, members include the Sisters of Providence, Vermont Justice for All, the Society of St. Edmund, Cooperative Christian Ministry at UVM, Burlington Religious Society of Friends, and some thirty-five other organizations and individual members. By way of programs in 2020, the VEC anticipates bringing the St. John’s Bible to Vermont, and planning a Taize pilgrimage.

The National Workshop on Christian Unity and Annual Meeting of Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers gathers ecumenical representatives from mainline Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Evangelical Christian bodies around major issues of theological and social concern, and seeks to foster deeper working relationships among Christian bodies. April 1-4, 2019 I represented the Episcopal Church in Vermont at this year’s National Workshop and EDEIO Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Approximately 300 representatives from a wide range of Christian traditions participated in this year’s NWCU. In addition to Episcopal Church ecumenical and interreligious officers, this year’s NWCU included many Roman Catholic, Lutheran (ELCA), United Methodist, Presbyterian, United Church of
Christ, Moravian, Greek Orthodox, and Evangelical/Pentecostal officers and representatives. Members of several ecumenical advocacy organizations also participated, including Interfaith Power and Light, the Franciscan Action Network, Catholic Climate Covenant, and a number of seminary faculty.

The theme of this year’s NWCU was “Building a Beloved Community – a Call to Holiness.” The theme took on particular poignancy in view of the United Methodist Church Conference, which had taken place just a few weeks prior at the same location – the Conference at which the UMC reaffirmed its traditional position opposing same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBTQ persons. The theme was movingly reinforced through extended periods of prayer in Taizé tradition three times each day. Among many topics addressed in plenary and seminar sessions were the current (and notably vibrant) Catholic-Pentecostal international dialogue, creation care, ecumenical ministry in a time of fear, Christian persecution in the 21st century, Christianity and the media, slavery and sex trafficking, ecumenical approaches to interreligious relations, and changing understandings of Full Communion. Details of the NWCU program can be found at www.nwcu.org. Many resources are available on the websites of Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (www.edeio.org) and the Episcopal Church’s Office of Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations (https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ecumenical-and-inter-religious-relations), as well as the Facebook page of Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers.

A significant amount of time at the NWCU was spent on the UMC Conference, its decision concerning LGBTQ persons, and possible implications of that decision for Episcopal-United Methodist work toward a Full Communion agreement. The Rev. Dr. Jean Hawxhurst, Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer for the UMC, and UMC Bishops Robert Farr and Gregory Palmer were present, as well as many UMC delegates. Great pain over the Conference’s vote, which was a worldwide vote according to UMC polity, was expressed. The possibility of division within the UMC was discussed, as well as the suggestion that some form of division might permit parts of the UMC to make a different decision regarding LGBTQ persons. About relations with the Episcopal Church, all the UMC representatives present expressed hope that movement toward Full Communion would continue, and that the Episcopal Church would also continue toward this goal in spite of this apparent setback. Representatives reported ongoing plans to present the Full Communion proposal to the UMC Conference in 2020. Articles in The Christian Century from March 27 and April 10 provide good summaries of these issues.

During the NWCU I had the opportunity for extended conversation with Margaret Rose, our Episcopal Church Deputy for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, about the concept of Full Communion. Specifically, we talked about the extent to which the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral, 1886, 1888, our Church’s historic guide for Full Communion agreements, may or may not still be a sufficient guide as we develop relations with other churches. We talked about the importance of changing social/cultural understandings for these dialogues and relationships, and whether Full Communion agreements may or may not always be a necessary goal of
ecumenical relationships. Margaret Rose offered to come to Vermont to convene a seminar on this topic with clergy and lay leaders, if there is interest.

Taizé prayer was a significant aspect of this year’s NWCU with music was provided by musicians from several St. Louis churches. Daily prayer was led by Brother Emile from the Taizé community in France, who also gave one of the Workshop seminars on Taizé prayer and the role the Taizé Community has played in the ecumenical formation of thousands of people since its founding in 1940. In conversation Br. Emile offered to consider including Vermont in a future US Taize pilgrimage.

Other sessions of special interest to Episcopalians at this year’s NWCU dealt with our Office of Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations’ ongoing participation in dialogues with Lutherans in Canada; moving deeper into our relationship with the Moravian Church; continuing relationship with the Church of Sweden, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bavaria, the Old Catholic Church of Utrecht, and the Philippine Independent Church; many conciliar and ecumenical bodies; and such interreligious engagement as the Parliament of World Religions.

I am grateful for the Episcopal Church in Vermont’s continuing support of ecumenical and interreligious ministry, its support of the VEC, and the opportunity to represent Vermont at the NWCU, which is singularly important for this ministry. At this year’s meeting of EDEIO I was elected to serve a second term as Provincial Coordinator of Episcopal Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers for Province 1. (Province 1 was well-represented at this year’s NWCU – only New Hampshire’s Officer, recently appointed – was unable to attend.) Our Diocese’s support of the Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer’s presence at the NWCU, and its faithful payment of modest annual dues to EDEIO ($300) as requested by the Presiding Bishop is vital. As Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer, I am happy to offer teaching, resources, and any other support to all congregations or organizations wishing it.

The Rev. Dr. Frederick P. Moser. Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Shelburne

**GREEN MOUNTAIN WITNESS: AN INITIATIVE IN EVANGELISM**

At the close of the 2017 Diocesan Convention, Bishop Tom Ely mentioned the possibility of focusing on evangelism at the 2018 Diocesan Convention. That was the seed of an initiative that took root and grew as Green Mountain Witness, the evangelism initiative of the Episcopal Church in Vermont.

Focusing on evangelism is unusual for Episcopalians in general and for Episcopalians in Vermont, but it is an important mandate in an increasingly secular society and in this state, which is the least religiously affiliated state in the country. Green Mountain Witness is inspired by the evangelistic leadership of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and by the fact that evangelism is one of the three current priorities of the Episcopal Church as established by him and by General Convention, the others being reconciliation and creation care.
The signal event in the effort in 2018 was the Diocesan Convention in October, which gathered under the theme of “Go, Tell It On the Mountains: Evangelism Vermont-Style.” The teaching and preaching ministry of Canon Stephanie Spellers was enthusiastically received, as were the fourteen workshops on evangelism organized by the Green Mountain Witness Team.

Guiding the effort has been the Episcopal Church’s understanding of evangelism as “the spiritual practice of seeking, naming and celebrating Jesus’ loving presence in the lives of all people, and then inviting them to more.” The emphasis on listening rather than telling, discovering before sharing, celebrating rather than disrespecting was persuasive for many at convention. About thirty members of the diocese came forward at the closing eucharist to be commissioned as “evangelism catalysts” to stimulate engagement in their congregations and beyond.

Convention was always envisioned to be simply the kickoff for an ongoing initiative, which is the hard work of reaching out to the congregations of the diocese to have conversations with lay and clergy leaders and conduct workshops to help people strengthen their witness to Christ with friends, neighbors and strangers. The team divided up the diocese, with individual team members taking responsibility for contacting particular congregations. Developments we celebrate thus far include:

- A Green Mountain Witness section of evangelism resources on the diocesan website.
- Monthly and semi-monthly columns by team members on evangelism in The Mountain.
- Two parish events at Good Shepherd Church in Barre.
- Evangelism discussions at Trinity Church, Shelburne.
- Workshops shared by St. Matthew’s, Enosburg, and Grace Church, Sheldon.
- A Seven Days interview with a team member who shared her Christian witness.
- A parish discussion of evangelism at St. Stephen’s Church, Middlebury.
- Planning underway by St. Mary’s in Wilmington for an evangelism conference in 2020.
- Contacts with numerous congregations to initiate evangelism discussion.
- An evangelism discussion at the Province I Synod that included several dioceses.

A grant from the Evangelism Initiative of the Episcopal Church provides funds for materials and mileage for team members. We are grateful to Bishop Tom Ely for his support during the first two years of Green Mountain Witness. Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown has expressed support, and we look forward to working with her as we hope for a retreat in the fall of 2019 and ongoing work in 2020.

The Green Mountain Witness Team includes: Jamison Dunne of Trinity, Shelburne, an undergraduate student; Joe Fortner of St. Mary’s, Wilmington, an attorney and musician; Lindsey Huddle of St. James, Essex, an attorney; the Rev. Kathleen Moore of St. James, Wilmington, a church communicator; Jenny Ogleby of St. James, Essex, a bookstore manager; and Katie Runde of Christ Church, Bethel, an artist and musician. We are grateful for the past participation of Robert Barton, previously of St. Mark’s, Springfield, and the Rev. Liam Muller of Trinity, Rutland. It has been a joy and privilege to convene such a gifted group of evangelists.
REPORT FROM THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL

Three major things dominated the life of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul from July 2018 to July 2019. Two of them are still in process, and one of them came to a glorious resolution in May of 2019.

In January of 2018, the Urban Cathedral Study Group presented its report to the parish at the 2018 Annual Meeting. For the entire year previous, that group had met weekly and explored, in depth, what it would mean for St. Paul’s to function as a truly urban cathedral in Burlington—a Cathedral for the Diocese, but also for the City of Burlington.

In the months following, the Vestry began a process of discern which parts of the Report seemed ripest for deeper consideration and eventual action. Shortly after the June 2018 Vestry Retreat at which some preliminary decisions were made to further explore the possibilities of both an enlarged arts ministry and the enhanced use of the building, particularly during the week, our Dean and Rector, Jeanne Finan, announced her retirement.

Jeanne’s last day at the Cathedral was September 30, and, though the Cathedral hosted a very successful art exhibit—the I AM exhibit—in the November of 2018 which provided us with an intimation of what an expanded, city-facing arts ministry might look like, much of the Vestry’s—and parish’s—attention since July of 2018 has been focused on the prayerful work of transition.

Just as we were with Jeanne, the Cathedral has been blessed with its transitional ministers. Throughout the month of October 2018, we were pleased to welcome as our Bridge Priest Dr. Barry Morgan, the former Archbishop of Wales; from November until the middle of December, the Rev. Nancy Gossling, formerly of the Diocese of Connecticut, was with us. In January, of 2019, the Rev. Laura Bryant arrived at the Cathedral from Atlanta, GA to serve as our Interim Rector. We have been blessed beyond measure with Laura’s presence as a pastor and preacher. One sign of the warmth and Godly energy she has brought to the community is reflected in the large number of newcomers to the Cathedral.

As I write this, the Ministry Discernment Committee that the Cathedral commissioned in January of 2019 is reading through the Ministry Portfolios of the many priests who have expressed their desire to be considered as the next Dean and Rector. Figuring highly in the Cathedral’s own Ministry Portfolio was our desire to live more fully into our identity as an urban cathedral.

The Vestry hopes to be able to call the priest who will lead us into that work in the winter or early spring of 2020.
In addition to these two on-going journeys, the Cathedral was deeply involved in the events that led to the Consecration of Shannon MacVean-Brown as the 11th Bishop of Vermont. In late April of 2019, the Cathedral hosted a very well-attended Bishop Walk-about; in May, we hosted the Electing Convention.

Lisa Schnell, Senior Warden

Even as we continue to grow as a community under the gifted Interim leadership of the Rev. Laura Bryant, we look forward to a period of stability with a new Dean and Rector, and to our continued relationship with the Diocese as the seat of our new Bishop Shannon.

REPORT OF THE EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

The Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy (EHC) at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) is a partnership ministry of the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire and Vermont. The mission of the Chaplaincy is to “provide the services of an Episcopal Chaplain to hospitalized patients and their families, to provide the presence of the Episcopal Church in medical facilities, and to increase public awareness of the importance and usefulness of chaplaincy work.” EHC carries out its mission by providing ordained and experienced Episcopal priests as Chaplains at DHMC. The Rev. James C. Ransom is the current Chaplain, serving since December, 2016. In 2018, the Rev. Lisa M. Ransom, a priest of the Diocese of Vermont, was called to be Associate Chaplain, making pastoral visits when the Chaplain is unable to do so. The Chaplains devote approximately eight hours a week to the ministry.

The Chaplain provided the following ministry statistics for 2018. The Chaplains visited patients at DHMC on 135 days, giving 430 hours to the ministry. The Chaplains visited 423 individuals, making 736 visits. Episcopal patients came from 71 towns and villages in Vermont, and 70 in New Hampshire, as well as from eight other states. Anglicans from Canada, the Caribbean, and African nations are patients at DHMC from time to time. As part of their pastoral ministry, the Chaplains extend to patients the Sacramental Ministry of the Church: Holy Communion, the Laying on of Hands and Anointing of the Sick, the Reconciliation of a Penitent, as well as Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child and Ministry at the Time of Death. If you become a patient at DHMC, please register at admission as an Episcopalian. You may contact the Chaplain, the Rev. James C. Ransom, directly by telephone (603-526-4869) or email (ransom.james.c@gmail.com). The Chaplains minister as colleagues with the bishops and clergy of the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire and Vermont and beyond, enhancing their ministries of pastoral care as a sign and instrument of God’s healing compassion and grace.

The Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy was incorporated in 1995 and is exempt under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. The Board of Directors is currently composed of six clergy and lay Directors from
parishes in New Hampshire and Vermont. Laura Kent, a parishioner of St. James’ Church in Woodstock, VT, is the President of the Board, and can be contacted at the Chaplaincy’s address: c/o St. Thomas’ Church, 9 Wheelock Street, Hanover, NH 03755. Other members include John S. Barrett, MD, of St. Barnabas’ Church, Norwich, VT, Elizabeth Lowell of St. Andrew’s Church in New London, NH, Timothy Martin of St. Thomas’ Church, Hanover, NH, the Rev. Mark Preece, Rector of the Church of St. Martin of Tours in Fairlee, VT, and Paul Glover of St. Thomas’ Church, Hanover, NH.

The Chaplaincy has a budget of $20,000, and is financially dependent on the generous gifts of the bishops, clergy, and congregations of the two dioceses, and from individuals who value the ministry. Your contributions are welcome and appreciated, and may be sent to Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy, 9 Wheelock Street, Hanover, NH 03755. Checks should be made out to “Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy”.

The Rev. James C. Ransom, Episcopal Hospital Chaplain

GENERAL CONVENTION

What is the General Convention? The General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church. It is a bicameral legislature that includes the House of Deputies, with more than 800 members (up to four clergy and four lay persons from each diocese), and the House of Bishops, with over 300 active and resigned bishops.

General Convention gathers every three years. The last one was held in 2018, in Austin, Texas for a nine-day legislative session (July 5 –July 13, 2018), and was the 79th General Convention of the Church. The next General Convention will be in the summer of 2021, in Baltimore, MD.

The work of General Convention includes adopting legislation of concern to the Church; amending the Book of Common Prayer, the Constitution, and the Canons of the Church; adopting a triennial budget for The Episcopal Church; and electing candidates to offices, boards and other committees. This work is undertaken in support of the mission and ministry of the Church, and with prayerful gratitude and spiritual discernment.

Deputies, Bishops, Dioceses and Provinces may submit Resolutions (proposed legislative) to General Convention. In addition, “interim bodies” (study committees, task forces and standing commissions established by General Convention (or the Executive Council, the churchwide version of Diocesan Council)) may submit resolutions and reports to General Convention. Often the “big issues” debated and voted at General Convention come from these interim bodies. In 2018, significant proposals were filed by interim bodies on which Bishop Ely and Stan Baker (Task Force on the Study of Marriage) and Tom Little (Task Force on the Episcopacy) served over the preceding three years. The reports and proposed Resolutions of all interim bodies are available here: https://www.generalconvention.org/bluebook2018/#bbreports. A summary of the
Resolutions are referred to legislative committees comprised of Deputies and Bishops (although the Bishops and Deputies vote separately). These committees hold hearings, discuss, debate and revise Resolutions, and then vote them out for action on the floor of the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. In 2018, each Vermont Deputy was appointed to a committee, a distinction not shared by many diocesan deputations. See below for the committee assignments.

Additional information from 2018, including Deputy and Bishop orientation materials and videos, are here: https://www.generalconvention.org/orientation-materials-gc2018.

Contact Tom Little for more information on General Convention. tlittle@vsac.org.

DIOCESE OF VERMONT - 2018 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTATION

Committee Assignments

Lay Deputies

Thomas A. Little, Esq. (Deputation Chair)
Committee 4, Governance & Structure (Chair)

Anne Clarke Brown
Committee 7, Social Justice & International Policy

Nanci Gordon
Committee 24, Privilege & Courtesy

Jennifer Ogelby
Committee 14, Christian Formation and Discipleship

Clergy Deputies

The Rev. Canon Lee Alison Crawford, Ph.D
Committee 6, The Episcopal Church in Cuba (Vice Chair)

The Rev. J. Stannard Baker, Cathedral Deacon
Committee 13, Committee to Receive the Report on Resolution A169

The Rev. Scott B. Neal
Committee 25, Credentials

The Rev. Canon Titus Presler, Th.D., D.D.
Committee 5, World Mission
Lay Alternate Deputies (Alternate Deputies are not assigned to committees)

Jonathan Brennan  
Ann Cooper  

Clergy Alternate Deputies

The Rev. John Robert (Rob) Spainhour  
The Rev. Jennie Anderson  

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely  
Committee 13, Committee to Receive the Report on Resolution A169  

Episcopal Church Women Representative  
Wendy Grace  

Legislative Committees

- Rules of Order. Reviews and proposes Resolutions to revise the rules that govern the House. 
- Constitution & Canons. Receives and proposes Resolutions that propose amendments to the Constitution or Canons. 
- Governance & Structure. Receives and proposes Resolutions that address the governance and structure of the Church including General Convention, Executive Council, and the Anglican Communion. 
- World Mission. Receives and proposes Resolutions on mission personnel, world mission strategy, and covenant relationships with other Anglican Provinces or bodies. 
- Social Justice & International Policy. Receives and proposes Resolutions on social justice issues in the Church’s extra-US dioceses and the international peace and justice work of the Church, including engagement with the Anglican Communion. 
- Social Justice & United States Policy. Receives and proposes Resolutions on social justice issues facing the United States, including its international engagement. 
- Congregational Vitality. Receives and proposes Resolutions on the health, development, and redevelopment of congregations and faith communities including church planting, college and university communities, and new and non-traditional contexts. 
- Evangelism & Communications. Receives and proposes Resolutions on evangelism within the Church’s jurisdictions; receives and proposes Resolutions on communication strategies and technologies to strengthen the Church’s communication of the Gospel and opportunities for information management and exchange within the Church.
• Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music. Receives and proposes Resolutions on the Book of Common Prayer, liturgy, and music of this Church.
• Formation & Education for Ministry. Receives and proposes Resolutions on Christian formation and education for all the baptized, and all matters related to ordained ministry.
• Church Pension Fund. Receives and proposes Resolutions on the purpose, scope, structure, and work of the Church Pension Fund including, but not limited to, pensions, disability, health insurance, other insurance and products for lay and ordained employees of the Church, insurance for Church institutions, and publishing.
• Stewardship & Development. Receives and proposes Resolutions on stewardship, stewardship education, development, and planned giving.
• Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations. Receives and proposes Resolutions on relations between the Church and other Churches, the Church and other religions, interchurch cooperation and unity, and interreligious dialogue and action.
• Environmental Stewardship & Care of Creation. Receives and proposes Resolutions on environmental stewardship and the care of creation.
• Dispatch of Business. Proposes the agenda for the House, determines the Calendar of the Day, proposes Special Orders of Business, and schedules elections.
• Certification of Minutes. Reviews the Minutes of the previous legislative day, corrects the Minutes and reports on their completion to the House.
• Privilege & Courtesy. Receives and proposes Resolutions that commend individuals or organizations and proposes Resolutions that express the House’s appreciation for groups or persons.
• Credentials. Registers Deputies and reports on the number of voting members in the ties at each session and acts as tellers for elections.

Thomas A. Little, Deputation Chair

ROCK POINT BOARD

Rock Point Vision: to be a welcoming sanctuary of spirituality, creativity, community, education, training and environmental stewardship.

Much of the Board’s time this year has been spent discerning the proper management structure for the Rock Point Commons. After much review and discussion, it was agreed that the Commons would need a full-time executive director to focus on creating a sustainable future for Rock Point.

The Board reviewed and approved in concept a plan to conserve 94 acres for $180,000 to the Lake Champlain Land Trust and the City of Burlington, as partners, as a way of preserving this portion of the property in perpetuity.
Proceeds from this sale will be used to help fund future maintenance and restoration work on the property. The details of the sale are still in negotiation.

The partnership campaign raised funds in excess of the $1.7 million goal. As a result of this generosity we have been able to make substantial, and long overdue, renovations to the bishop’s residence. We also secured new lodging for the property manager and his family because the old farmhouse was found to be full of mold and in need of more repair than warranted by the structure.

Many of the trails on Rock Point have been improved and new signage has been installed to improve way finding on the point. New signs have also been installed at the entrance to Rock Point and along the entrance road to help visitors locate our various facilities.

A new website for Rock Point highlights the facilities and programs that are available at the point.

A new financial and accounting structure has been developed that will allow managers and the board to assess how well we are meeting our financial and operational goals.

Looking to the future, the board will be faced with both management and financial challenges as the new management structure is implemented and as we discover new ways to reach out to the wider community. Adding to the Rock Point endowment over the coming years will be a crucial part of making the property sustainable.

In closing, we give thanks to all who have chosen to support our vision with their time and treasure.

REPORT FROM THE ROCK POINT OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS MANAGER

Rock Point Vision: *To be a welcoming community of spirituality, community, creativity, education, training and environmental care*

This past year has been an important year in which we have used funds generated through Partnership Campaign and The Coalition for Rock Point and Arms Forest Campaign to accomplish many projects. Also, we have taken some very positive steps toward the long-term sustainability of Rock Point through focused strategies of a business plan.

This report complements the separate report from the Rock Point Board. The first section names some highlights of the year; and the second lists ongoing work and some next steps in our long-term goal of creating a sustainable future for Rock Point.

September-October 2018
1. **Business Plans:** Four task groups submitted plans and benchmarks based on a study with recommendations from Crane Associates: a) Camp; b) Conference Center; c) Staffing; and d) Facilities. These plans are year one in a three-year effort to boost programs and revenues.

2. **Coalition Campaign** Trail Renovations of Marsh Beach and North Beach Access Trails by Timber and Stone

3. **Partnership Campaign**
   a. New house for Property Manager finished.
   b. Front entrance gate renovations underway.

November-December 2018

1. **Partnership Campaign:** New energy efficient window wall for Conference Center dining hall installed.

2. **Program:**
   b. Solar Pollinator Meadow Grant of $11,000 from the Davis Foundation. Written by Jackie Arbuckle, Deacon and volunteer coordinator.
   c. Advent Retreat: Led by Valerie Abrahmsen: “Contemplating Mary”

January-February 2019

1. **Program:**
   a. Rock Point Camp: Sherry Osborn resigned after five years as Director. led 40% growth and creation of a focus on creation care, care of self and care of neighbor. Julie Garwood was called as our new director.

2. **Partners:** Hosted Burlington Wildways Summit meeting. Wildways is an initiative to connect open spaces in Burlington, guide public access and conserve the land. Many groups. Includes Rock Point’s trails.

3. **Business Plan:**
   a. Add commission-based marketer for center, Carrie Williams Howe;
   b. Add new temporary RP Camp Registrar position, Mary Ronner-Behrendt.
   c. Name change: The Bishop Booth Conference Center becomes Rock Point Center, as we unite the functions of conference center, camp, retreats and environmental education under one operation and home.

4. **Coalition Campaign:** Archeological assessment for trails completed

March-April

1. **Program:**
   a. The Third Rock Point Wisdom School/
   b. Solar Pollinator Meadow: Plans for planting demonstration garden and installing protective deer fence.

2. **Business Plan:** Staffing Task Group leads board in identifying staffing needs and positions for fall of 2019 or early 2020 start date, as income allows.
3. **Partnership Campaign:** After six months study, decision to demolish former care taker’s house to severe mold issues and remediation costs.

4. **Coalition Campaign:** settled final details of what portion of trail work and public access expenditures will be covered by this partnership with Burlington Parks Foundation, the City of Burlington and Lake Champlain Land Trust.

**May-June**

1. **Programs:**
   a. Rock Point Camp starts 87th year.
   b. Planting of first part of Solar Pollinator Meadow with 30 volunteers.

2. **Partnership and Coalition Campaign work**
   a. Signage: Kiosk welcome signs along with and place name and directional signs installed;
   b. Bishop’s House: Major work needed on Bishop’s Porch and foundation, need greater than anticipated, leading to change in campaign priorities.
   c. Trail work: Timber and Stone finishes North Beach Access Trail and begins work on Parade Ground-Thrust Fault section.
   d. Assembling of new maintenance storage behind Rock Point School.

3. **Business Plan:**
   a. Michelle Sandul leaves bookkeeping position; Karen Robinson is hired on an interim basis to do the work for Rock Point Commons.
   b. Rock Point Camp sees 9% increase in registration of campers
   c. RP Board continues discussion of Staffing Task Group recommendations

4. **Bishop’s Transition:** Renovations to house from funds specially devoted for this purpose.

**July-August**

1. **Programs:**
   a. Camps: Rock Point Camp, Crow’s Path, YMCA Camp Ignite share the use of the property along with Girls Rock at Rock Point School.

2. **Partners:** (see below in list of ongoing work)
   a. Alleluia Open Golf tournament organization: benefits Alleluia Fund, which benefits both the Rock Point property and Rock Point Camp.

3. **Partnership and Coalition Campaign work**
   a. Design underway for trail signs and artwork for interpretive signs.
   b. Preparation for sale of conservation easement with Lake Champlain Land Trust nears completion; will yield $180,000 to be invested for upkeep and some additional partners in caring for the property.
   c. Parade Ground-Thrust Fault Trail complete: next section start September
   d. Plan for demolition of farmhouse in fall of 2019 underway.
4. **Business Plan**
   a. Board reviews progress on goals after first year and identifies adjustments.
   b. Board interviews candidates for first Executive Director for Rock Point

Ongoing work: This work goes on throughout the year and includes such important areas as:
- partnership relations and letters of agreement
- passes for individuals and groups, yearly passes
- the work of the Rock Point Intentional Community, including monthly Eucharists, Retreats, Wisdom Schools, and Wisdom Practices Circles volunteer programs for Trail Stewards, Pollinator Meadow Docents and Rock Point Center Hosts
- regular meetings of the Rock Point Management Committee
- support of the Rock Point Board and staff
- fund-raising efforts for Camp
- quarterly seasonal newsletter: Rock Point Partners and Friends News

**Next Steps**: At this writing, the Reverend Paul Habersang has accepted the call to serve as our first Executive Director of Rock Point. David McKay, who has served as the Director of Finance and Administration and Craig Smith, who is the Operations and Program Director, will help with the transition to having an executive director as they complete the work they have been doing in connection with Partnership Campaign and Coalition Campaign projects.

In gratitude for the privilege of being part of the work of the Rock Point Community, Craig Smith

**ROCK POINT CAMP**

**Overview**

The 2019 Camp season was a great summer, full of growth and excitement. The first season for myself as director, but also an entirely new camp staff team. Counselors came from across the United States and around the globe, including Ireland, South Africa, Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Rhode Island and Vermont. Our goal for this summer was to adopt the theme of vulnerability, embracing both our strengths and weaknesses and the willingness to step outside of our comfort zones. In doing so, we bonded that much more, leaned on each other during the long overnight weeks, and were able to model that bravery for our campers. It was great to see campers of all ages try new things, whether that was shooting an arrow or sleeping away from home for the very first time.

In keeping with Rock Point Camp tradition, campers were able to retreat from the outside world, enjoying that small camp atmosphere where they could connect with nature and each other. Morning mindfulness and meditation was a staple of each morning, allowing students to begin their day in a calm and centered fashion. Favorite activities included daily swimming in Lake Champlain, hiking, and archery. We also incorporated several new activities, including Shark
Tank, a two/three-day activity that challenged students to take on the role of an entrepreneur and come up with their own camp invention or innovation. Perhaps the best part of the week, though, was the way in which we ended it. Not only did we get to dunk a counselor with a bucket full of water, but we also reflected on the week with a grateful circle. The grateful circle was an opportunity for students to share something they were thankful for. It was rewarding for everyone to hear how campers and counselors made a new friend, surprised themselves by trying something new, or even liked being away from their cellphone all week.

For more snapshots of this season, I encourage you to keep reading but also visit us on our Facebook and Instagram. To share just how much fun we had, pictures from each week were uploaded onto our Facebook Album. Please take a look!

Highlights

- Total of 152 campers this season. (141 Campers in 2018)
- 40% new campers, 60% returning campers
- Adventurers week was new to 2019 and included sailing around Lake Champlain and a walking trip to ECHO, in downtown Burlington.
- Third year of successful partnership with United Church of Christ "Horton Center Goes to Rock Point" camp. They run an overnight camp program while Rock Point runs our Day Camp II program.
- Instagram account was launched as a way of connecting with current and future campers.
- Over $4,700 was awarded in scholarships to Rock Point Campers.
- Second year of partnership between St. Paul's Cathedral, Chol Dhoor, Exec Dir, of the Sudanese Foundation of VT and Rock Point Camp. Scholarships were provided for 14 youth of the Sudanese community to attend summer camp at Rock Point.
- HUGE growth in our Facebook page, with posts made at least twice weekly.
- Introduction of a Camp Registrar, who helped with camper registration and ensuring parents were communicated with in a timely manner.
- Trends indicate a growing need for more day camps!

Message of Thanks

Thank you to all those who supported Rock Point Camp this season! Whether it was following along online, visiting us on property, or sending a generous donation, know that it went a long way. We cannot do any of this great work with the support of many volunteers, alumni, and donors who believe in the Rock Point mission and wish to see it continue.

As we continue to grow and expand, I encourage you to reach out to me to learn how you can get involved. Our goal is to help bridge Rock Point traditions with new and innovative ideas, ensuring that campers feel both comforted and surprised when coming on to property! There is a lot more work we hope to accomplish, and we need your prayers and support to make this
happen. There is nothing more rewarding then sending a camper home at the end of the week, knowing that we were able to provide the attention and care they so badly need today.

Julie Garwood, Rock Point Camp Director