



The Episcopal
Diocese *of* Vermont

2021 Pre-Convention Journal

Reports from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

**188th Annual Convention
November 4th & 6th, 2021**

The Journal of the
231st Annual Convention of the Episcopal
Church in Vermont
being the 188th Annual Convention
Since the Full Organization of the
Diocese of Vermont being held virtually
on November 4th and 6th, 2021

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Annual Report of Official Acts, The Right Reverend Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Eleventh Bishop of Vermont

This report covers the time period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. 11 visits were made to congregations in Vermont. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic many visitations were cancelled, and some were held by Zoom. The following congregations were visited during this time:

7/5/2020	Zion Church, Manchester (Virtual Visitation)
7/12/2020	St. Luke's Church, St. Albans (Virtual Visitation)
7/19/2020	St. Mark's Church, Newport (Virtual Visitation)
7/26/2020	Trinity Church, Rutland (Virtual Visitation)
8/2/2020	Church of the Good Shepherd, Barre (Virtual Visitation)
9/13/2020	All Saints Church, South Burlington Virtual Visitation)
9/20/2020	Church of Our Saviour, Killington (Bishop in person, service zoomed)
10/4/2020	St. Mark's Church, Springfield (Virtual Visitation)
10/11/2020	St. John's Church, Randolph (Virtual)
10/18/2020	St. Peter's Church, Bennington (in-person and virtual)
11/8/2020	Christ Church, Montpelier (Virtual)
6/19/2021	Diocesan Confirmation Service, Mission Farm (in person)

During these visitations 8 people were confirmed and 2 people were received.

During this 12-month period, Bishop MacVean-Brown consented to several episcopal elections, requests for permission to officiate, and requests for permission for marriage after divorce.

On July 9, 2020, the Rev. Greta Getlein was received from the Diocese of Rhode Island.

On July 16, 2020, the Rev. Kathleen A. Moore was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania by Bishop Sean Rowe, on behalf of Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown.

On July 17, 2020, the Rev. Kathleen A. Moore was released to Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

On August 19, 2020, the Rev. Duncan L. Hilton was released to the Diocese of New Hampshire.

On September 9, 2020, the Rev. Deacon Mary H. Taggart was received from the Diocese of Northern California.

On September 12, 2020, the Rev. Thomas A. Rock was ordained a priest at the outdoor Chapel of Transfiguration at Rock Point by Bishop MacVean-Brown.

On September 12, 2020, the Rev. Jonathan Ross was ordained to the Diaconate at the outdoor Chapel of Transfiguration at Rock Point by Bishop MacVean-Brown.

On February 4, 2021, the Rev. William Muller was released to the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

On March 12, 2021, the Rev. Paul V. Olsson was received from the Diocese of Newark.

On April 8, 2021, the Rev. Norman M. McLeod III was released to the Diocese of Rhode Island.

On June 9, 2021, the Rev. Sarah Ginolfi was received from the Diocese of Olympia.

On June 26, 2021 Jack Mann Karn was ordained to the Diaconate in the Diocese of Texas by Bishop Kathryn Ryan, on behalf of Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown.

The following canonically resident clergy died during this time.

The Rev. Stanley H. Irving died on August 26, 2020.

The Rev. Alfred A. Cramer died on November 23, 2020.

The Rev. Donald R. Morris died on December 4, 2020.

The Rev. William H. Atkinson died on January 7, 2021.

The Rev. John M. Miller, Jr. died on May 2, 2021.

(The Rev. John S. Mitchell died on August 14, 2021.)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannon MacVean-Brown".

The Right Reverend Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown
Eleventh Bishop of Vermont

Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center Annual Diocese Convention Report (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

Overview

Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center was established in 1952 in historic Chelsea, Vermont on over 120 acres of beautiful land and woods. At Brookhaven, we are committed to providing quality clinical and educational programming for male youth ages 6 - 13 with emotional/behavioral disturbances and learning difficulties. Trauma informed services offered at Brookhaven include therapeutic residential care, individual, group, and family therapy, case management services, psychopharmacological support, and specialized education. Brookhaven's campus is made up of a main building, learning center, family retreat, a sports pavilion, and a number of outdoor areas that include playgrounds as well as options for hiking and swimming. The main building houses both administrative and clinical offices, kitchen and cafeteria, a dormitory that accommodates up to 8 youth, staff quarters, and a day room for TV watching, staff training, and other group activity. The Learning Center contains multiple rooms for classes, sensory activities, and individual quiet time, and serves the educational needs of both residents and day students. The Family Retreat provides an opportunity for parents of residents to have overnight and extended visits with their child in a home-like environment as well as to receive education and guided practice in building parenting skills. Brookhaven is committed to providing the services and support needed to help children and families achieve success both during and after treatment.

Residential Program

As a Vermont licensed residential treatment center, Brookhaven specializes in providing therapeutic residential based services for male youth ages 6 - 13. This level of care is intensive and is often the result of chronic difficulty that has created impairment for the child and prevented success within the home, at school, and in the community. Most children who enter Brookhaven present with significant mental health issues and behavioral concerns for which placement into congregate care and clinical services becomes essential.

At Brookhaven, residents are provided with a comprehensive, collaborative, and clinically informed opportunity to heal and correct patterns that have hampered their progress elsewhere. Over an average one year stay, they receive constant supervision, structure, and support within a dormitory milieu. Direct care staff are the frontline team members who assist Brookhaven youth with therapeutic programming, individual goals, and daily activities from wake-up to tuck-in. Brookhaven counselors conduct therapy with youth and their families, facilitate group therapy sessions, and closely monitor each child's progress through the program. In addition to regular counseling, Brookhaven youth meet with a child psychiatrist monthly for ongoing evaluation and pharmacotherapy if needed. The full-time case manager helps maintain continuity between all services including providing psychoeducational groups, coordinating visits between youth and families, transporting residents to outside appointments, and overseeing the proper packaging

and administering of any medications. Finally, Brookhaven administrators and leadership provide program oversight ensuring compliance with all standards of care, quality of services, staff supervision, and that needs are being met of the children, families, and community partners being served.

Educational Program

The Brookhaven Learning Center is a Vermont Approved Independent School and provides both general and special education services to attending students. In addition to the youth residing at Brookhaven, students from surrounding school districts also attend classes when identified as needing an alternative education placement. Brookhaven's team of classroom teachers, aides, and behavioral support staff are highly skilled at designing and delivering curriculum to meet the special needs of students who are typically unsuccessful in more conventional settings. Under the guidance of the Special Education Coordinator, teaching staff utilize therapeutic, creative, and highly experiential approaches to individualize instruction and motivate learning. As students progress through the program, plans are coordinated to help them transition back to regular ed classrooms, receive appropriate supports, and achieve long term school success.

The Year in Review

Brookhaven has continued to navigate significant challenges over this reporting period. The ongoing pandemic has impacted both personnel and the population we serve. Fortunately, there is continuity in key staff positions, client success, and quality of Brookhaven's services. Notable staff activity over the period has included the departures of two classroom teachers at the end of their contracts this summer. Kylie Edwards and Art Rufus took advantage of newly earned credentials and pursued opportunities in the public school system. We are grateful for the fine support they offered students during their time at Brookhaven and wish them well as they grow their careers. In terms of arrivals, Brookhaven welcomed clinician Jeff Nykiel and Case Manager Kent Kilpatrick onto our team late last summer. Both have brought considerable energy and ability in their first year toward assuming their duties and establishing positive relationships with our high need youth. Elsewhere, entry level positions like direct care have shown more frequent turnover over the period consistent with historic tendencies in community mental health and current volatility in the job market.

Administratively, Rocky Spino continued in his second year as Executive Director at Brookhaven. He remains inspired at being able to lead the important work being done and committed to maintaining the highest standards of care. Likewise, Rocky is proud of the dedicated Brookhaven team who not only have rallied together through this tough time, but have embraced modifications that have made the program measurably more safe and strong.

Brenda Batten continues in her twenty-year role as Administrative Assistant to the director and Brookhaven programs. Brenda is a friendly first point of contact on the phone and at the front desk, and a steady source of knowledge to both staff and stakeholders. For over seven years, Residential Coordinator Jessica Allen has overseen the personal care of the boys residing at Brookhaven ensuring their 24/7 safety and supervision. These areas include training and scheduling direct care staff, supervising the food and maintenance programs, and planning the

daily activities of the residents. Additionally, she continues in the important role of COVID coordinator ensuring that sound procedures and safe practices are maintained in response to the coronavirus. Angela Bisson remains in her role of over a decade as Brookhaven's Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) Coordinator. In this position, Angie is responsible for ensuring that all staff involved in the direct care of Brookhaven youth acquire and maintain strong skills in preventing and de-escalating crisis situations. Angie also offers Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Training to families of Brookhaven youth (TCIF) to help provide them with the tools to succeed when their children transition back into the home. More recently, Angie has aided substantially in the effort to recruit qualified applicants and fill available vacancies. Finally, Abby Jarvis continues her 8-year tenure at Brookhaven providing skillful counseling to children and families. In her role as lead clinician, Abby continues to assist the Director in monitoring the delivery of clinical services. Together with the Executive Director, these leaders are aided by a highly committed Board of Directors and Diocesan community who care deeply about and constantly strive to support the mission of Brookhaven.

Rounding out the above leadership are the many other professionals and support staff who maintain their strong commitment and hard work every day to help Brookhaven youth work through difficulty, achieve goals, and be at their best. Administrative Assistant Samantha Greer, Behavioral Specialist Scott Hoyt, Classroom Teacher Forrest Teullane, and Interim Special Education Coordinator Brittany Tremblay continue their vital roles on our school team. Head of Maintenance Michael Bogardus keeps Brookhaven's campus looking beautiful and the facility buildings and equipment staying functional. Cook Kana Johnson keeps both kids and crew well nourished by planning regular meals as well as custom menus for events like field trips, birthdays, and specialized diets. Last but not least, the invaluable Direct Care team nurture and guide our youth daily through the program. Among them are staff with numerous years of service including some dedicating over two decades in their positions.

Otherwise, in terms of staffing, Brookhaven continued into this summer with the same workforce shortages being faced by other youth care facilities in the state as well as employers nationwide. Existing staff have tirelessly stepped up their effort and availability as we have strived to fill gaps and find applicants during these unprecedented shortfalls. Ultimately, Brookhaven hopes to retain and recruit the amount of team members necessary to support our essential services.

Over the current reporting period, Brookhaven has continued to make structural, equipment, and other material improvements to maintain operations and meet changeable needs.

Continuing through this year, Brookhaven dorms and other spaces were provided with needed upgrades. Bedroom entrances of residents continued to receive new commercial grade doors and fixtures more suitable for safety and longevity. Dorm bathrooms were remodeled to provide one bathroom with a walk-in shower and maintain another with a bathtub. This not only modernized the bathrooms, but also made them safer and more practical for youth in congregate care. A state grant provided for the upgrade of HVAC systems in the learning center enabling better ventilation and more protections against the coronavirus. Chimney lining also needed to be completed on most buildings to ensure safety and code compliance. Brookhaven also saw the much-needed replacement of our utility pickup truck and lawn mower making the seasonal tasks of snow removal and lawn care much more efficient and dependable. Finally, plans were

completed to continue outside fencing that will offer a protective barrier to the nearby river and preserve the positive aesthetic of the Brookhaven campus.

Technological projects included the long overdue improvement of Brookhaven's WiFi network. Outdated wiring was replaced, routers were upgraded, and network security was enhanced to meet industry standards. Brookhaven also received a grant to improve educational resources and was awarded funds to upgrade laptop computers and install smart boards in the classrooms. Looking ahead to the new year, Brookhaven will need to modify its phone systems to accommodate the state's enhanced e-911 system and more reliably broadcast location in times of emergency response.

Lastly, much attention over the year both globally and at Brookhaven has obviously been devoted to COVID response and recovery. Brookhaven's learning center was fortunate to be able to conduct in-person instruction for the school year. Likewise, early and near total vaccination rates among our staff, along with tight protocols on distancing, masking, and health checking, prevented having to impose many restrictions. Unfortunately, COVID infection did make its way to the Brookhaven community in April of this year necessitating brief closures, quarantines, and coordination with the Vermont Dept. of Health to mitigate these issues. Through partnership with our state health officials and the resiliency of our kids and crew, we were able to quickly bounce back and resume regular activity.

Moving Forward

Like the rest of society, Brookhaven continues to cope with the lingering impact of the pandemic. This includes the previously mentioned staff shortages in many Brookhaven positions. Also, there are markedly diminished numbers of day students in our learning center due to area schools conducting remote learning last year and not being able to identify students for referral. As schools return this year to more in-class instruction, it is anticipated that many students may have experienced declines and might benefit from the support available in a specialized education setting like Brookhaven.

On a brighter note, referrals to Brookhaven's residential program have rebounded and numbers of youth being served have returned to capacity. This summer, Brookhaven was able to reinstate on-site family work and visitations again between youth and significant others to normal levels. Also, for the first time since the pandemic, home visits for residents nearing discharge were recently restored. This is very satisfying given the importance of this type of parent-child access and interaction to the treatment process. At the same time, more residents than ever are graduating the program successfully, incidents of property damage and aggression have all but disappeared, and workers compensation claims are at an all time low. Ultimately, this is a credit to a dedicated group of helping professionals who have prioritized supporting our clients and setting conditions necessary for change. As always, we remain thankful for our gifted team, unified in our Brookhaven traditions, and optimistic in our trending success.

It is our pleasure to share this past year's activities with the attendees of the Diocesan Convention. And, on behalf of the children and staff, we offer our heartfelt gratitude to the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont for their ongoing generosity and support.

Respectfully submitted,

The Brookhaven Leadership Team
Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center

Cathedral Church of St. Paul Annual Report to Convention, July 2020 – June 2021

To the People of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont:

This is my second report to you as Dean & Rector of the Cathedral. Last year at this time, we had great hopes for a return to some sense of normalcy by the end of the year. Of course, that was not to be. If we meet in person for any part of convention this year, please find me to say hello! I look forward to spending time with you.

Much of the past reporting year was devoted to all things digital and virtual: we purchased and installed a video system in preparation for live-streaming which, as of the end of this reporting period, we have not yet begun; we perfected our Zoom skills and offered daily Morning Prayer through Facebook Live; we added a weekly service of Compline each Sunday evening; the choir recorded hymns and anthems from home and Music Director Mark Howe learned to use some new software to bring the individual recordings together into an anthem or a full hymn to offer on our digital platform. Like all of you, this was not the year we wanted to have.

We offered to the Cathedral, Diocesan, and wider communities two opportunities for engaging in anti-racism work: The first was a book study on *The Hate U Give*, and the second a five-week study on the *Scene on Radio: Seeing White* podcast. Both were well-received and many people from the broader community were able to participate. We also organized and hosted a diocesan-wide Virtual Christmas Pageant involving many parishes that was a great deal of fun. The bishop was in residence (virtually) for Holy Week which we offered in coordination with the Green Mountain On-Line Abbey and St. Peter's in Bennington. These all were wonderful opportunities to broaden involvement from and with others that the virtual world of Zoom made possible. One of the real gifts of this pandemic. This past June we coordinated a diocesan-wide service of Confirmation for youth who had been prepared for the same during the pandemic. The service was held at Mission Farm on a beautiful summer day.

We have continued our weekly silent vigil against racism (every Sunday at 1:00 p.m.) which we began on June 7, 2020. We are committed to continuing our witness to the larger community until such time as it is no longer needed. We also had the privilege of hosting a BIPOC vaccination clinic at the Cathedral every Saturday beginning two weeks before Easter and continuing through May. We continue to support, through time, talent, and treasure, Vermont Interfaith Action and the Joint Urban Ministry Project and hope that new relationships developed through the BIPOC clinic will offer more opportunities to engage together in justice work.

Our financial picture was sound as we ended 2020, and we are realizing some recovery from loss of income in 2021. We applied for and received a second PPP loan to carry us through and are happy to report that that loan, along with the first PPP loan has been forgiven. We were fortunate enough, through careful management of the budget, to not have to implement any of the several contingency

plans we had developed for significant loss of income. We are heading to the end of 2021 in a strong position and remain deeply hopeful for a healthy year in 2022.

We have made some small progress in moving toward a fully accessible Cathedral. New lighting was installed in the stairwell and motion sensor activation was installed for the lights in the stairwell and the hallway in the lower level. We hope you will soon see how much brighter everything is! We are in the process of installing railings to assist in navigating the steps from the floor of the nave to the sanctuary and are turning our attention to handicapped door systems. Coming into full compliance will be a huge undertaking that will stretch forward many years, yet we are committed to making it happen. We look forward to one day welcoming all of you into your beautiful, fully accessible cathedral!

As Dean I have endeavored to spend time with every active clergy person in the diocese, either through a Zoom chat or in person (I love driving around Vermont). I have not yet made it to all of you, but hope to have done so by the time I write another of these reports! I serve on the Board of Cathedral Square and was last year elected to the Financial Oversight and Audit Committee (which I now chair) and the Title IV Disciplinary Board, and was appointed to Grants & Loans.

Respectfully submitted,



The Very Revd Greta Getlein (she/her)

Dean & Rector

Cooperative Christian Ministry at UVM Report for 2020-21 School Year

Cooperative Christian Ministry at UVM (CCM) is an ecumenical and progressive campus ministry supported by six Protestant denominations: The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church, American Baptist Church, and United Methodist Church. The Campus Minister, Rev. Joe Cotner, embodies CCM's ecumenical spirit: he is an ordained ELCA minister and a member of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul.

CCM's 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.

As with churches, CCM did not have in-person gatherings during the academic year. Once a week, Joe hosted a discussion on Zoom around the general topic of progressive Christianity (using Marcus Borg's *Speaking Christian* to guide the discussion). While Zoom will never be the same as in-person meetings, it does offer certain advantages. Among them: one of our regular participants lives in California! She searched online for resources on progressive

Christianity, saw our meeting listed, and joined in. Joe provided vital support for her Christian journey at just the time she needed it.

In a wonderful encouragement for our ministry, we applied for and received a \$5,000 grant for 2021-22 from the Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministries of the Episcopal Church. The grant will be used to fund a Communications Assistant - Digital Strategies to improve our online and social media presence; provide an honorarium for a speaker for an event focused on gender or racial justice; and subsidize a small part of Joe's compensation.

CCM continued to be part of UVM's Food Insecurity Working Group. Katie Huggett, a member of our Board, participates on the Group. We are the only religious group that is part of this work. The campus food pantry, Rally Cat's Cupboard, continued to operate, although in a curtailed way. A donor gave \$50,000 for infrastructure, staffing, and equipment (e.g., refrigerator and freezer).

We are grateful for the tremendous support CCM receives from the Episcopal Church in Vermont. Members of our Board include Rev. Fred Moser (Board President) from Trinity, Shelburne; Lindsey Huddle (Treasurer) from St. James, Essex Junction; and Donna Toufexis from Cathedral Church of St. Paul. The diocese has been generous in its financial support as well. We thank God for your partnership in ministering with the UVM community.

Rev. Joe Cotner
Campus Minister

Diocesan Commission on Ministry Annual Report to Convention 2020-2021

The Diocesan Commission on Ministry, currently a ten-member body appointed by the bishop, canonically consists of a Committee on Formation (COF) and a Committee on Discernment (COD).^{*} In its current manifestation, however, the Committee on Formation is inactive (as has been the case for many years) and the bulk of the commission's work focuses on shepherding people seeking ordination through the steps of discernment until ordination.

Since the summer of 2020, the commission has met four times via Zoom (November 2020; April, June and October 2021) with people "in the process." Currently four people are in the beginning steps of discernment at the parochial level (with one coming to the DCOM-COD in early October). Two people have been admitted to Postulancy (one of whom will come to the DCOM-COM in early October for Candidacy). Five people are Candidates (of whom one will come to the DCOM-COD in early October for application for ordination to the transitional diaconate en route to the priesthood, while the other has already been approved for ordination to the transitional diaconate en route to the priesthood as of June 2021) and one person has been ordained (the Rev. Deacon Jack Karne, 26 June 2021, in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas).

Of these people, two postulants are discerning ordination to the priesthood. Of the five candidates, four are seeking ordination to the priesthood and one the diaconate. Some are going

to seminary (these days either virtually or in person or both), and some are reading on their own. Several are currently participating in a diocesan-sponsored program, the “Practicum on Pastoral Ministry,” ably led by the Rev. David Hamilton. This program began mid-2021, despite the complications and restrictions caused by the pandemic. Not surprisingly, there are now many variables for each person in his or her journey; one can no longer assume that people receive a conventional three-year seminary education (which many of the church-wide canons still presume). The commission spends a lot of time discussing these variants, which enrich our life and ministry here in Vermont.

Consequently, the commission continues to work on revisions of the handbooks for ordination to the priesthood (last revised in 2006) and discernment and ordination for Local Ministry Support Teams. The commission published a revised version of the handbook for ordination to the diaconate in 2017. The 2006 and 2017 handbooks can be found on the diocesan website.

The commission looks forward to working with the Rev. Canon Walter Brownridge, who will mostly closely accompany the commission in its work of discernment. At its June meeting, the commission had a very informative conversation with the Rev. Canon Susan Ohlidal about the history, formation and continuation of Local Ministry Support Teams in our diocese. She will assist the commission in its work with Local Ministry Support Teams. Likewise, the commission anticipates that the Rev. Canon Auburn Watersong will be a vital source of support for its work, particularly in conversations about clergy and congregations.

The Chair of the DCOM is most grateful for the commitment and hard work of the members of the Commission on Ministry: the Rev. Deacon Stannard Baker, Beverly Barton, Eric Davis, the Rev. David Hamilton (ex officio), the Rev. Janet Brown, the Rev. Scott Neal, the Rev. Dr. Titus Pressler, the Rev. Shelie Richardson, Lisa Schnell and Candace Vandouris. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with such faithful, insightful and spiritual people.

Respectfully submitted,

(the Rev. Canon) Lee Alison Crawford, Ph.D.
Chair, Diocesan Commission on Ministry

Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy

Grounded in the love of God, the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy (EHC) is a joint ministry of The Episcopal Church in New Hampshire and Vermont. Our chaplains offer pastoral presence and spiritual connection for Episcopalians at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) during times of illness and vulnerability.

The current Chaplain, the Rev. James C. Ransom, and Associate Chaplain, the Rev. Lisa M. Ransom, sustained this ministry throughout 2020, navigating the challenges of COVID-19.

When allowed, the Chaplains visited patients in person, and when not allowed, contacted patients on the telephone. Visiting, even by family members, was severely limited this year, thus Chaplain visits were particularly appreciated by patients and their families.

The 2020 statistics tell our story:

- As in previous years, Chaplains visited patients three days each week.
- Our Chaplains visited 325 individuals, often multiple times.
- Episcopal patients came from 61 towns in New Hampshire and 57 towns in Vermont.
- Births to Episcopal patients doubled in 2020, up from an average of 4 to 8.

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.

The Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy, a 501(c)(3), is governed by its instruments of incorporation, its bylaws, and by a “Letter of Understanding” with the Bishops of the Dioceses of New Hampshire and Vermont which outlines the relationship of EHC to The Episcopal Church. The seven-member Board of Directors, from both New Hampshire and Vermont, is currently composed of Laura Kent, Chair, St. James, Woodstock, VT; Elizabeth Ruml, Secretary, St. Thomas, Hanover, NH; Arthur Young, Treasurer, St. Thomas, Hanover, NH; Elizabeth Lowell, St. Andrew’s, New London, NH; Mark Preece, Rector, St. Martin’s, Fairlee, VT; Paul Glover, St. Thomas, Hanover, NH; Elizabeth Higgins, St. Paul’s, White River Junction, VT.

The Chaplaincy, with an annual budget of \$20,000, is dependent on the generous gifts of the bishops, clergy and congregations of the two dioceses, as well as individuals who value this ministry. Your contributions are welcome and may be directed to the Treasurer at: Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy, 9 W. Wheelock St., Hanover, NH 03755. Checks should be made out to “Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy.”

Financial Oversight and Audit Committee Annual Report to Convention June 2020 – July 2021

To the People of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont:

The Financial Oversight and Audit Committee met seven times during the reporting year. The primary focus of the FOAC in this reporting year was the continued updating of Audit processes for parishes and internal review processes for the FOAC, particularly as it relates to the review of Parochial Reports submitted by parishes. A great deal of work on audit process was completed by the outgoing chair, Laura Buel, for which the Committee is incredibly grateful.

The FOAC moved its review of Parish Parochial Reports from fall to spring, to allow for immediate feedback and education before final reports must be submitted to the DFMS. Each reviewer worked directly with Parish Treasurers, Senior Wardens, and/or clergy to review,

educate, and resubmit reports that meet the full requirements of General Convention as laid out in their guidelines. This experience was a positive one for both the reviewers and the parishes.

The FOAC also moved forward with creating fillable pdf forms (thank you to Ann Carroll and Karen Robinson in the Diocesan office!) for portions of the Audit and looks forward to continuing to provide audit feedback to parishes this fall.

The FOAC is responsible for the oversight of all financial and audit processes for the Diocese, Rock Point Commons, Trustees, and Parishes. As such, the chair has begun to work more closely with the Finance Office of the Diocese and the Bishop's office to review processes and structure. This is a work in progress and you will hear more about this at Convention.

We hope you will consider joining us in our work!

Respectfully submitted,



The Very Revd Greta Getlein, *Chair*

Members: Laura Buel, The Revd Susan McGarry, Chad Wohlers

Global Episcopal Mission Network (GEMN)

As the diocesan liaison for the Global Episcopal Mission Network, I invite Vermont Episcopalians to be in touch about your visions and relationships for mission in the global community. GEMN is a network of dioceses, congregations, mission organizations, seminaries and individuals committed to catalyze global engagement throughout the Episcopal Church. The Diocese of Vermont has been a supporting member for many years, and it is a privilege to represent GEMN in our diocese.

The 2020-21 period has been a time of especially acute crises – the coronavirus pandemic, racial turmoil, ecological destruction and political unrest, all of them with global ramifications. GEMN has prayerfully sought to discern the justice-working and reconciling movement of God amid the crises and provide innovative resources for global engagement amid the challenges:

“Earthkeeping: Creation Care in Global Mission” was the theme of the 2021 Global Mission Conference as GEMN addressed the urgent planetary crisis of our time. GEMN received a grant from the churchwide Creation Care Task Force to help with the gathering, which was held online in April. Speakers included Melanie Mullen, churchwide creation care staff officer; Rachel Mash of Green Anglicans; Orlando Gomez, bishop of eco-activist Costa Rica; Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, creation care missionary in Western Massachusetts; and Leon Sampson of Navajoland. You can access the conference videos [here](#) on the GEMN [website](#).

Mission Formation Program moved online to Zoom in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic and each time drew several dozen attendees, including some from abroad. It went so well that an online [interactive version](#) will be standard even when in-person formation becomes possible again. Vermont Episcopalians can easily attend this in future – stay tuned for notices in “The Mountain.”

Questing: The Way of Love in Global Mission was published by GEMN through Amazon on the Kindle platform. The seven-session study series for congregations and individuals applies the now well-known Way of Love to global mission. Co-authored by Grace Burton-Edwards of Georgia and myself, [Questing](#) is a resource for Vermont congregations wanting to explore what global engagement might mean.

Mission Thursdays with GEMN last fall gathered mission activists online to network and hear from activists who are adapting global mission to pandemic conditions. As the series resumes on a monthly basis, Vermonters will have opportunity to participate in these live conversations. Notice will appear in “The Mountain.”

Global Mission Toolkit of webinars, videos and print resources for catalyzing global mission was recently compiled by a unique partnership among GEMN, the Standing Commission on World Mission, and the Office of Global Partnerships, thanks to a grant from the Constable Fund. It includes videos on a variety of topics, including an interview about mission companionship with Janice Price of the Church of England. You can explore this suite of resources [here](#) on the Episcopal Church website.

Global Mission Prayer Cycle lifts up in prayer the mission work of dioceses, organizations and seminaries throughout the church on a monthly basis. The Diocese of Vermont is prayed for on the 27th of each month.

The GEMN Board of 12 activists includes laypeople and clergy from all over the Episcopal Church and people who hail from Haiti, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. It also includes Molly O’Brien, formerly of Trinity Church, Shelburne, who served as interim coordinator for much of 2021. It has been a privilege to serve as Board president for several years, and I look forward to engaging more Vermonters in this work. You can reach me at: 802-326-3157, or tituspresler@post.harvard.edu

The Rev. Dr. Titus Presler

GEMN Diocesan Liaison

Grants & Loans Committee, July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

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: Becca Boucher (St. Mark's, Newport), The Very Rev Greta Getlein (St Paul's Cathedral, Burlington), Paul Horn (St Stephen's, Middlebury), The Rev Christine Jones (St John's, Randolph) The Rev. Todd McKee (St. Paul's, White River Junction), Steve Smith (St. James, Arlington), The Rev. Bob Wilson (St. Mark's, Newport), Canons Auburn Waterson and Walter Brownridge (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

Consider grant and loan requests only from an Episcopal entity sponsored within Vermont. The Committee will not consider requests from non-Episcopal entities or requests from outside Vermont.

Give priority to requests that show promise for enhancing local mission approaches.

Give priority to requests that support discernment, planning, promoting, training for, implementing, and evaluating mission (rather than funding the actual mission).

Give priority to requests that show sustainability.

Give priority to requests that support discerning, planning, promoting, and training of lay people.

Give at least 50% to support local mission and give no more than 50% to [non-mission] requests related to buildings.

Attempt to distribute funds as widely as possible.

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.

Discourage the use of funds to solve emergencies or to postpone dealing with a long-term problem.

Discourage the use of funds strictly for the purpose of historical preservation of buildings.

During this past year there have been \$76,150 in grants and no loans approved and distributed. If you would like more details on the funds granted please contact The Rev. Bob Wilson, Chairperson.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Bob Wilson

Green Mountain Witness

Green Mountain Witness is the evangelism initiative of the Diocese of Vermont. Its inaugural event was the 2018 diocesan convention, which had the theme “Go Tell It On the Mountains – Evangelism Vermont-Style,” and it was keynoted by Stephanie Spellers, canon to the presiding bishop for evangelism reconciliation and creation care.

Pushy and disrespectful examples of evangelism in the wider world naturally make many Episcopalians wary of evangelism. But here's the appealing churchwide definition: "Evangelism is the spiritual practice of seeking, naming and celebrating Jesus' loving presence in the lives of other people – and then inviting them to more."

In this understanding Christian witness begins with listening, not telling; honoring, not dismissing; exploring, not presuming. What might be shared is not dogma but the story of what God in Christ has done in one's own life. As another Episcopalian said, "Evangelism is telling one's own story in light of God's story."

The focus of Green Mountain Witness has been to catalyze conversation about evangelism in congregations around the diocese, and a number of talks and workshops took place in 2019 as team members took individual responsibility for being in touch with specific congregations. Activity has slowed to a crawl during the pandemic of 2020 and 2021. It has difficult to spark commitment to exploring this dimension of Christian witness when congregations are struggling simply to maintain worship and community in pandemic conditions.

Yet St. Mary's in the Mountains in Wilmington undertook the remarkable step of organizing an evangelism conference, assisted by a grant from the churchwide Evangelism Initiative. Originally planned for September 2020, "Unlocking God's Grace and Hope" was postponed to September 2021 and, still in prospect at this writing, was planned for both in person and on Zoom. Jerusalem Greer, the churchwide evangelism staff officer, was to keynote the gathering. Leaders known churchwide were engaged to highlight young voices and the role of music in sharing the gospel. Green Mountain Witness team members were among those committed to facilitate hands-on workshops on story-telling, invitation and testimony. Registrants included Vermonters, people from elsewhere in the Province of New England and some from across the country.

The Green Mountain Witness [team](#) has been delighted to welcome as new members Michelle Thomas of St. Andrew's, Colchester, and the Rev. Bob Leopold of Christ Church, Montpelier, and St. Andrew's, Colchester. Continuing members are Joe Fortner of St. Mary's of St. Mary's, Wilmington, a prime mover in that parish's conference; Lindsey Huddle of St. James, Essex; Jennifer Ogelby of St. James, Essex; and Katie Runde of Christ Church, Bethel.

We plan to be in touch with congregations during the coming year as pandemic conditions permit. Meanwhile do reflect on how you can encourage such witness in your congregation. I invite you to be in touch: 802-326-3157, tituspresler@post.harvard.edu

The Rev. Dr. Titus Presler, Convener

Liturgical Commission Report

2020 – 2021 has been a challenging year for gathering for liturgies, as we all know. I think that as a diocese, with the creativity offered by our clergy and laypeople, we have worked hard to provide experiences of worship while also trying to keep people safe. Where broadband was readily accessible, online worship was easier but in all corners of our diocese, we have tried to stay faithful. So my thanks to all people of the diocese for the work you have been doing to keep us connected. Here are a few highlights from the past year, of which I am aware.

In 2020 Bishop Shannon founded an online prayer community, now known as the Green Mountain Online Abbey. It currently offers Morning Prayer and Compline Monday – Saturday and Evening Prayer on Sundays. The Rev. Deacon Mary Taggart is the deacon pastor for this online community. It has been a source of comfort and daily discipline that has been helpful to those who attend regularly.

In the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021 the Rev. Angie Emerson, Rev. Canon Susan Ohlidal, Rev. Deacon Lucy Pellegrini, and I taught online workshops for laity in the art of leading Morning Prayer. The purposes were to increase participation of the laity in liturgical leadership and train, support and encourage Morning Prayer leaders to become part of regular worship rotas in their congregations. 52 people have been licensed for leadership in our diocese. We hope these leaders will be employed in their respective congregations, adding their lay leadership voices to our common worship life. If there is enough interest we will be glad to offer another course in 2022.

Our diocese offered a preaching course in 2020 by *Backstory Preaching*. 24 people were trained as lay preachers. We hope they too will be adding their voices, wisdom, and fresh perspectives to their community's worship life.

We did not have as many large group liturgical events as in 2020 but did offer online worship for 2021 Diocesan Convention.

Mark Howe, Director of Music and Canon Precentor of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul facilitated a group conversation of diocesan musicians in January to share stories and discuss how musicians might help one another through this time of pandemic. There was interest from about 19 musicians and 12 attended. We hope such conversations will continue into 2022 as we begin to regather in various configurations.

Michael Hartigan, Parish Musician for Trinity Church, Shelburne who has served as a musician for several of our online worship offerings, has worked with others in our diocese regarding the creation of so called "virtual choirs." He has developed an in-depth tutorial for those who would like to learn how to do this ministry in their congregations.

Anam Cara Sojourners, a Celtic spirituality inspired group, offered 40-Day Advent and Lenten morning prayer opportunities for our diocesan community and beyond during those highly reflective seasons.

A Diocesan Confirmation service took place in the summer of 2021 at Mission Farm in Killington.

Representatives from our diocese participated in a national two day masterclass entitled “Being a Top-Notch Hybrid Church” offered by Virginia Theological Seminary. As we begin to come out of the pandemic, many of our communities continue to offer services both in-person and online. It might be interesting to offer a survey about the different ways we are doing this as a diocese and how effective these online worship ministries are becoming. They offer worship and fellowship options for those who cannot be or do not want to be present in-person for reasons of safety, incapacity, and distance. Hybrid church is certainly a rising phenomenon. I would be happy to have feedback from parishes who are experimenting in various ways.

I am grateful to colleagues, both lay and ordained, with whom I do this important work. As we come out of the pandemic we will have more opportunities to strengthen our liturgical ministries in the Diocese of Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Kim Hardy
Chair, Liturgical Commission, Diocese of Vermont

Mission Farm Report for Convention July 2020 - June 2021

Submitted by Rachel Field and Lisa Ransom

Emerging Vision

Our first year at Mission Farm has been one of rapid growth and engagement. We have sought to move boldly into the growing season with the hope in our hearts of building community around food access. From this posture, our many programs and patterns of life have emerged. We believe that a commitment to transformational, intentional and embodied love, can bring new energy, new expression, and new remedies, for the offenses of racism, exploitation of the earth, poverty, and even to new communities in a post-Covid world.

We are not sure where we are being led by the Spirit, and the winter months bring chances for discernment, reflection, and contemplation. Some foundational truths are becoming evident. We will be intentionally anti-racist, earth-minded, and grounded in solidarity with the poor. We

will increase food access in partnership with our community members and fellow growers. We will become more whole through in-person spiritual practices of locating our bodies in respectful presence on the land. Finally, we commit to prayerful engagement with each other, our partners and all who join in building our shared future.

First Planting

On a chilly May morning Conne and Ben from neighboring Butternut Ridge Farm drove their tractor to the top of the hill behind Church of our Saviour and began tilling. This was our first major planting effort at Mission Farm in over 30 years, and we prayerfully opened a quarter of an acre for nourishing food for our community. Within weeks we had planted 50 pounds of seed potatoes over 450 feet of bed space, and a variety of seeds gifted from the Nulhegan Tribe of the Abenaki as part of the Abenaki Land Link Project, which is a partnership between the Nulhegan Tribe of the Abenaki, NOFA Vermont, and Rooted in Vermont. All the produce from these seeds - the “three sisters” of corn, beans, and squash - will be returned to the Abenaki community for distribution among their community. Additionally, with the installation of eight garden beds near the church building, we planted a small “kitchen garden” as both a teaching space and a source of food for our summer interns who were in residence.

Internship Program

Beginning on Pentecost Sunday Mission Farm welcomed three interns for a summer program on the Farm. The interns, Jimmy, Caity, and Lizzie, are all Episcopal seminarians. Jimmy came to us from Virginia Theological Seminary where he is a postulant for the priesthood from the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Lizzie and Caity are both from Yale Divinity School and exploring the possibility of ordination. The three interns lived in the Heminway Guest House, developed a rhythm of daily prayer, and worked closely with the emerging farm practices taking shape at Mission Farm. They planted 450 feet of potatoes, cared for a laying flock of 10 chickens, tended to a wily and rambunctious trio of lambs who led them on a chase for 15 miles across Killington Mountain (you can read all about in in VT Digger!), and planted a quarter of an acre of corn, beans, and squash as part of the Abenaki Land Link Project.

While here they explored the mountain and held these questions: “what is the land inviting” and “what is the Spirit inviting in this place?” These are questions that have been carried in the hearts of all the leaders at Mission Farm over the past year as we listen together to what God may be inviting on that mountainside. This internship was a learning experience for all of us - both the interns, regular volunteers, and staff at Mission Farm. We had the opportunity to navigate those early phases of formation in prayer and daily life as the number of people living on the farm doubled overnight! There was a lot to celebrate, and we are looking forward to

carrying forward what we can and imagining even more possibilities next year.

Events

In the past year Mission Farm has hosted a robust series of events for the wider community (both within the Episcopal church and outside of the church). These events were largely offered virtually due to the COVID - 19 pandemic, and we did have a few in person outdoor offerings for the community.

Kiss the Ground Film Screening and American Flatbread October 18, 2020 - 25 attendees attended Mission Farm for a drive-in movie night in partnership with American Flatbread. We also partnered with Vermont's Interfaith Power and Light to stream the movie online for a wider audience and were delighted to be a part of VT IPL's fall program series.

Celebration of Light Advent Retreat - 9 attendees for an online contemplative virtual retreat during Advent. We experimented with zoom as a platform for earth-centered spiritual practice with silence, readings, and centering prayer.

Braiding Sweetgrass Meditation Series - Lenten Dinner Program (online) with over 60 registrants from 7 different states across the US. This program featured the collaborative efforts of five women leaders, both lay and ordained, Tonita Branan (Seattle, Washington), Karen Brightly (Bridgeport, Vermont), the Rev. Lisa Ransom (Killington, Vermont), the Rev. Rachel Field (Randolph, VT), and the Rev. Sheri Osbourne (Vergennes, Vermont). This program offered both a deep dive into Robin Wall Kimmerer's text as well as embodied ritual and contemplative conversation in small groups. We leaned in and tested the ability of zoom to hold an intimate and physically grounded space.

Gardening and Land Management as Spiritual Practice (online) 23 registered including both Episcopal church members and members of the wider community, from Vermont and from outside of the state to work with local farmer Lisa McCrory (Earthwise Farm and Forest) around developing a spiritual toolbelt for working with the land

Gardening and Land Management as Spiritual Practice (in person practicum) 12 attendees from across the state of Vermont met for a morning of practical engagement with a variety of spiritual tools for working in partnership with the land to plan gardens and map landscapes

Mindful River Walk June 6 - Yoga walk along the river led by a community leader for any members of the Killington community who were interested. The meditative walk brought 13 guests from the surrounding area to share in an experience of embodied prayer with the land and

each other.

Everyone Eats

Mission Farm was able to join with a slew of restaurants, businesses, and farms as a distribution site for the “Everyone Eats” program that offered free prepared meals to all Vermonters as a part of the State’s COVID relief efforts. We gathered food from the Food Hub in Rutland and, every Thursday evening, distributed 75 meals (rain or shine!) to whomever would pass by - no questions and no qualifications. We were so delighted with the connection to the Food Bank through Everyone Eats that when the Food Hub stopped collecting meals this summer, Mission Farm became a direct drop off site for restaurants to deliver. What we did not expect was the nexus of community that developed during these drop offs. Masked, distanced, and often in cars, we became known and were able to know members of our community who normally might not pass along the small farm road off of the highway. We aren’t counting numbers, and this doesn’t necessarily mean that there are more people in the pews (although a few guests have decided to come to church!), but it does remind us that the expansive generosity of God’s love can change hearts and build community anywhere and everywhere.

Conclusion

We, Rachel and Lisa, return gratitude for the many ways that you each have supported Mission Farm in the past year. By completing our initial survey, asking questions about what may be emerging, partnering with us to lead some of our programs, or holding Mission Farm in prayer - all of these tender offerings are so gratefully received. Please know that we are holding you, the Diocese of Vermont, in our prayers as well. In the words of Thomas Merton, “we do not know where we are going...but we believe the desire to please you does in fact please you.”

In gratitude and with the earth,

Rachel and Lisa

Episcopal Province of New England Diocesan Report

The Episcopal Province of New England, which is one of the nine geographical gatherings of dioceses within the Episcopal Church, exists to support the Body of Christ. The mission of the Province, also known as Province I, is to further the work of and deepen relationships in The Episcopal Church in New England. The Province accomplishes this by coordinating the interdependent ministries of the seven dioceses in a spirit of mutual responsibility.

The Coordinator of the Province of New England works with diocesan staff and congregational leaders to coordinate efforts, communicate information, share resources, and make connections to work for God's mission in the world, restoring people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Province 1 consists of the seven New England dioceses of the Episcopal Church:

[The Diocese of Connecticut](#)

[The Diocese of Maine](#)

[The Diocese of Massachusetts](#)

[The Diocese of New Hampshire](#)

[The Diocese of Rhode Island](#)

[The Diocese of Vermont](#)

[The Diocese of Western Massachusetts](#)

Much has happened in Province I over the past year albeit predominantly over Zoom and not in person. Our New England Province is very active on a broad base of ministries. Some of these activities are highlighted in the bulleted points below.

Formation Network Convener Linnae Peterson is hosting monthly calls for Province 1 folks interested in formation. The first conversation started September 16, with the fabulous Miriam McKenney! Miriam serves on the Becoming Beloved Community Leadership Team. The Province 1 Christian Formation Network will continue with free monthly speakers series.

The new Province I Addiction and Recovery Ministry Network met for the first time in March 2021, convened by Sandi Albom. It was a beautiful session of wondering where the Spirit may be leading our awareness, prayer and action. The group meets online on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7-8 PM. More information on the Province 1 website.

Province I Annual Faith Formation Gathering was online and free this year with Part I on Friday, March 5th from 7-9 featuring The Marriage of Evangelism and Formation, presented by Drs. Patricia Lyons and Lisa Kimball. Then on Saturday, March 6th from 9- noon use the same Zoom link to join the conversation about formation and spiritual practice in New England. Colleagues joined from across Province 1 to gather digitally to share ideas, resources and community.

Emily Keniston has been a great asset to the Province as a force of bring folks into conversation and coordination of diverse and important missions of the Province. Unfortunately, Emily will be leaving the Province in November of 2021 and a search is in process to find her replacement.

The Executive Committee has been expanded to six plus the Coordinator. This includes President Kit Wang, who is a priest in Maine, the Bishop Ian Douglas of Connecticut as Vice President, and the Rev. Titus Presler of Vermont as Treasurer.

The finances of the Province are healthy and continue to use the services of HarQuin Bookkeeping to handle the finances of the Province.

The Province Ministry Networks are:

Diaconal Ministry	Exploring Diversity/Nurturing Culture
Faith Formation	Stewardship of Creation
Campus Ministries	Human Trafficking
Spiritual Direction/Spiritual Directors	Evangelism
All Our Children	Seed Money for Growing God's Mission
	Global Mission

The 2022 provincial budget will be about \$98,000 is funded mostly by diocesan assessments, which are assigned according to a diocese's relative size. The Diocese of Vermont contributes approximately \$7,000 to the provincial budget.

Province I as an organization and as an active Body of Christ in our region strengthens the mission and work of all the churches and Episcopalians in New England. The resources available through the Province are rich in leading and supporting all of New England's Episcopalians to Christ's love. Explore the website (<https://www.province1.org>) and then join in one or more than one of the varying ministry networks. The journey together in New England is rich and diversified in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Bob Wilson

Rock Point Commons: Camp & Conference Center Annual Report to Convention

For the past seventeen months, life on Rock Point has been very different, and yet we have adapted to serve the community in a variety of different ways. As you may recall and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Rock Point summer camp was cancelled for both summers of 2020 & 2021. We realize that this decision disappointed many campers and camp families, so we tried to

make the most of a tough situation. As a way to extend hospitality in the middle of a pandemic, we decided to repurpose our camp cabins and welcome Vermont families to Rock Point. While repurposing and outfitting the cabins was an experiment in 2020, it was wildly successful and we again welcomed families back to the Rock Point Cabins during this past summer of 2021. It felt good to again welcome families back to Rock Point this summer and we were almost completely booked from mid-June through September 1st. My sense is that this ministry of hospitality will likely establish a new tradition for many families who will want to return summer after summer to enjoy Rock Point's Cabins.

Also, during the summer of 2021, we invited the YMCA to operate two summer day camps on our beautiful property. From mid-June through mid-August, Camp Ignite and Camp Propel ran simultaneously and these camps were also very successful. Camp Ignite was a camp experience for young girls. Ignite's curriculum was STEM based (science, technology, engineering, & mathematics) and the camp counselors facilitated some creative and fun learning experiences for these young ladies. Camp Propel was a co-ed day camp and its curriculum focused on outdoor athletics while also integrating creation care into their program. The inclusion of creation care resonated with many of the campers who found Rock Point to be naturally beautiful and tranquil. We are pleased with the partnership we've developed with the YMCA, as they too are a Christian based non-profit that focuses on the health and well-being of youth and families.

Another organization that Rock Point has partnered with during the summers of 2020 and 2021 was the LGBT non-profit known as Outright Vermont. Outright Vermont has a children and youth program known as "Gender Creative Kids." This group gathers on the second Sunday of every month and they frequently come to Rock Point for some fresh air and recreation. This is another example of a new partnership on Rock Point that supports youth and families through the ministry of hospitality and welcome.

Also, this past summer four seminarians lived on Rock Point while participating in a chaplaincy internship at the UVM Medical Center in Burlington. Alex, Darcey, Marta, and Liz lived on the first floor of the Van Dyck Building while engaging in this internship that ran from June through mid-August. We were pleased to support these folks as they went through their program and it was nice to make new friends who also came to appreciate the beauty of Rock Point.

Finally, Burlington High School's alternative education program, "OnTop," has again begun their second academic year here on Rock Point. You may recall that the Burlington High School facility had to be evacuated due to the presence of dangerous PCBs in the air. While many BHS students are now attending school at the repurposed Macy's department store downtown, twenty-seven "OnTop" students come to school every day here on Rock Point. This alternative education program has a wraparound curriculum that includes academics, counseling, and programs which encourage therapeutic healing. Both teachers and students have commented just how grateful they are, knowing that Rock Point welcomed them during a very challenging time.

As you can see, much has changed here on Rock Point in the past two years. The ways in which we have been able to support so many youths within our community has felt like a gift of Divine

Providence. There have been surprises – good surprises – even in the midst of this pandemic. God’s presence is clearly here on Rock Point and that Presence manifests itself in some surprisingly poignant ways. As we now actively plan for Rock Point’s future sustainability, we will be depending on the presence of the Spirit to guide us all into the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Habersang
Executive Director
Rock Point Commons

Standing Committee Annual Report July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

The Standing Committee, an elected body by Diocesan Convention, comprised of four laypersons and four clergy persons, meets by teleconference or in person monthly, 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, 2020 and June 30, 2021: August 26, 2020; October 7, 2020; October 31, 2020; November 11, 2020; January 6, 2021; March 11, 2021 and May 5, 2021.

The Standing Committee acted on the following items between July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021:

Property Matters

- Approved the sale of the Rectory of St. John’s Church, Randolph, VT
- Approved routine Quitclaims for Ryegate, Leicester, VT; Bangs, Highgate, VT; Mason, Highgate, VT; Jackson, Cornwall, VT; Whitten, Essex, VT; Messenger, Weybridge, VT; Denio, Barnet, VT; Kuhlmann, Fayston, VT; Tam, Essex, Junction, VT; Murphy, Richmond, VT; Milewski, Jericho, VT; and Ruth, Williston, VT
- Approved the sale of St. Ann’s Church property in Richford, VT

The Ordination Process

- Approved Thom Rock being ordained to the priesthood
- Approved Katie Runde becoming a candidate for the priesthood
- Approved Melanie Combs becoming a candidate for the priesthood
- Approved Lars Hunter becoming a candidate for the diaconate
- Approved Jack Mann Karn being ordained to the diaconate
- Approved Darcey Mercier becoming a candidate for the priesthood

Consents to Episcopal Elections

- Gave consent for the election of The Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler as Bishop Diocesan of Wyoming
- Gave consent for the election of The Rev. Paula E. Clark as Bishop Diocesan of Chicago

Other Actions

- Approved St. Paul's Episcopal church in Wells moving to parish status
- Elected Scottie Emery-Ginn as president and Kim Hardy as Secretary
- Accepted Kim Hardy's resignation and elected Tom Rees as Secretary

Standing Committee members for 2020-2021 were: (Clergy) The Rev. Kim Hardy (Secretary, 2021), The Rev. Jennie Anderson (2022), The Rev. Lisa Ransom (2023) and The Rev. Stannard Baker (2024); (Lay members) Lars Hunter (2021), Scottie Emery-Ginn (President, term expires 2022), Thomas Rees (Secretary, 2023) and Maggie Thompson (2024). The President is honored to work alongside a talented, dedicated, and faithful committee, offering their work to the glory of God and in service to the Episcopal Church in Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen "Scottie" Emery-Ginn
President, 2020-2021

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 2020-21 period covered by this report, those meetings were held on September 3 and November 11, 2020 (Annual and Regular Meeting) and on March 4 and June 3, 2021.

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 5 properties in 2020, with \$9,950 fees collected and to date in 2021, 7 transactions collecting \$5,460 in fees.

Various matters relating to the following properties were also addressed by the Committee during the year:

Sale of St. Ann's Richford (deconsecrated in 2019)

Sale of Currier Hall associated with Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls

Support of concept, St. Paul's White River Jct. efforts to partner with Twin Pine Housing Trust to build affordable housing

Review of boundary adjustment proposal between St. Andrews St. Johnsbury and municipality for renovation of the adjacent property

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 \$37,3315,191 as of June 30, 2021, a 32.83% gain over prior the year, exceeding all our benchmarks and goals. The Committee met with its professional investment management advisors from Advisors in Financial Planning, Inc every quarter. Fund performance continued to improve following the adoption of the revised socially responsive (ESG) Investment Policy in the spring of 2016.

In 2020-2021, the Trustees approved quarterly distributions from the DUT to investors at the most recent rate of 1.482% based on the annual rate of 5% of these average unit values over the past 12 quarters. Each distribution has increased in value since March 2020. The distribution payment dates are the 20th day of the last month in each calendar quarter of the year.

Additional Activities of the Trustees included work on a draft Trustee Responsibilities document and Trustee Bylaws, which continue to be works in progress.

Christopher Chapman, St. Michael's, Brattleboro, was elected Trustee for a seven-year term at Convention in November 2020. He now serves a full 7-year term after having served out a partial term ending in 2020.

Sarah Cowan, President of the Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont

Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont 2020-2021 Roster:

Benjamin Anderson-Ray; Laurel Broughton (Clerk); Christopher Chapman; Sarah Cowan (President and Chair, Real Estate Committee); Ellen McCulloch-Lovell (Chair, Investment Committee); The Rev. Stephen Reynes; Steve Smith; Ex officio: Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown; Gerald Davis, Treasurer

Vermont Ecumenical Council Report to Diocesan Convention 2021

As Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer I represent The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont as President of the Vermont Ecumenical Council (VEC), Moderator of the VEC's Executive Committee, a participant in the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU) and Annual Meeting of Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO), Coordinator of Province 1 Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers, and other ecumenical relationships. I also serve as Chair of the Board of Cooperative Christian Ministry (CCM) – the ecumenical ministry of six Protestant denominations (Episcopal, United Methodist, American Baptist, ELCA Lutheran, Presbyterian, and United Church of Christ) at the University of Vermont.

The past year of the pandemic has been challenging for ecumenical and interreligious relations, as it has for so many ministries. Nonetheless, these relationships continue and this work has flourished in new and different ways.

While the Vermont Ecumenical Council was not able to observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 with its usual service during the traditional Week (January 18-25, between the Feasts of the Confession of Saint Peter and the Conversion of Saint Paul), the VEC's general Coordinating Committee met on its regular quarterly schedule on Zoom, and the Executive Committee met on Zoom every six to eight weeks to carry on the VEC's work between the quarterly meetings. The VEC's website continues to be maintained regularly with postings of articles and events of ecumenical interest across many Christian traditions. As a "Network for Christian Cooperation" (it's organizing principle), 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 and the Vermont District of the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, members include the Society of Saint Edmund, the Sisters of Providence, Vermont Justice for All, Cooperative Christian Ministry at UVM, the Burlington Religious Society of Friends, and more than forty other Christian organizations and individual members.

As a partner organization under the VEC, the Vermont Bible Society has particularly thrived during the pandemic, sustained by regular disbursements from the Greenleaf Fund. The Bible Society generously provides Bibles upon request at no charge to churches and Christian ministries throughout Vermont. Episcopal parishes are encouraged to take advantage of this ample resource when considering their needs for Bibles for worship spaces, study groups, or other ministries. Information can be found on the VEC's website, <https://vecncc.org>.

Since March 2020 the Executive Board of Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO) on which I serve as Province 1 EDEIO Coordinator has met online rather than in-person, but its work continues to thrive in the new environment. The Board helps sustain the ecumenical work of The Episcopal Church and organize the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU). The NWCU gathers ecumenical representatives from Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Evangelical Christian bodies around issues of theological and social concern, and seeks to foster deeper working relationships and articulate grounds for common understandings. As Provincial Coordinator for Province 1, I participated in EDEIO's planning meeting for the 2021 NWCU held in April around the theme, "Welcoming All As Christ." Using the online platform Whova, the 2021 NWCU was able to gather a record number of both participants and presenters, including speakers from the Vatican, owing to both the facility of the online platform and the cost savings it afforded. In addition to Episcopal Church ecumenical and interreligious officers, participants in this year's NWCU included Roman Catholic, Lutheran (ELCA), United Methodist, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, Moravian, Greek Orthodox, and Evangelical/Pentecostal representatives, as well as members of several ecumenical advocacy organizations.

I continue to be most grateful for our Diocese's ongoing support of ecumenical and interreligious ministry, particularly its faithful payment of modest annual EDEIO dues (\$350) as requested by

the Presiding Bishop, annual support of the VEC and of CCM, and the opportunity to represent us at the NWCU, which is central to all this ministry. As Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer, I am happy to offer teaching, resources, and other support as requested to any congregation seeking to deepen its ecumenical and interreligious relationships.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Moser

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