



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of* INDIANAPOLIS

Reports to Convention

Updated 11/5/2024

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Christ Church Cathedral

Dear Bishop Baskerville-Burrows and Members of Convention,

In compliance with Diocesan Canon 28, I am writing to provide an account of the mission and ministry at Christ Church Cathedral in 2024.

The Cathedral's vision is to serve as a transformative spiritual center for both our city and diocese, following Jesus Christ in extending radical hospitality, advocating for justice, and sharing God's peace, reconciliation, and love. Our mission—the daily practice of this vision—is to Glorify God. Serve our neighbors. Transform our city. While our current three-year Strategic Plan concludes in December of this year, we are moving forward with plans to extend it for an additional two years, through December 2026. Here are some highlights from our work this year:

Pillar 1: Convener/Connector for Our City and Diocese

- We continue to maintain a strong faith presence at the Indiana State House and at Marion County City-County Council meetings, particularly in advocacy alongside the Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance, the American Civil Liberties Union, and other groups on issues such as affordable housing, renter protections, and the establishment of a downtown improvement district that includes a Housing Hub for individuals experiencing homelessness. Recently, I was honored to be one of two faith community representatives appointed to Mayor Hogsett's Leadership Council on Homelessness, working alongside government, nonprofit, and philanthropic groups toward a unified strategy to end chronic homelessness in Indianapolis.
- Our partnership with St. Philip's, Indianapolis, continues to grow, and we recently joined them at a gathering of downtown neighbors to learn about Purdue University's expanding downtown campus. We have many ideas for mutual ministry opportunities together.

Pillar 2: Radical Hospitality

- We continue hosting "outward-facing" events on our Cathedral Lawn, including a new collaboration with GangGang, an artist collective responsible for Indianapolis' celebrated Butter Art Show.

Pillar 3: Deep Beauty of God

- Our Choir School is flourishing, and our unique Coro Latinoamericano has performed throughout the city multiple times, including at the consecration of Bishop Kristin Uffelman White in Southern Ohio.

Pillar 4: Spirituality Formed in Community

- We are committed to self-examination regarding our role and complicity in systemic racism, with plans for a more in-depth focus on this work during Lent 2025.

Pillar 5: Living Our Faith in Action

- Our partnerships with four grant-supported organizations addressing homelessness (Dayspring Center), immigration (Immigrant Welcome Center and Exodus Refugee Immigration), and systemic racism (Voices) remain robust, offering us valuable opportunities to serve our neighbors in tangible ways.
- We recently established the Bishop Kemper Society at the Cathedral to encourage Legacy Giving, inviting members and friends to remember us in their planned gifts.

If there are ways your congregation would like to collaborate, or if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out (grayl@cccindy.org). Serving as your Cathedral is a profound honor and joy. When you are next in downtown Indianapolis, we warmly invite you to visit or join us for our weekday noon Eucharist at 12:05 p.m.

Yours in Christ,

The Very Reverend Gray Lesesne, D.Min.
Dean and Rector

Episcopal Women's Ministries

Goals/Purpose/Mission Statement

The Episcopal Women's Ministries Council (EWM) serves to connect and support women throughout the diocese as they grow in their baptismal ministry of servanthood. We do this by sharing and encouraging women's ministries within and beyond the diocese - seeking, developing and recognizing women leaders, educating, and advocating for justice.

Activities/Actions taken over the past year to accomplish these goals

In lieu of hosting our own book study and as part of our commitment to the Anti-Racism Covenant, several members of the EWM Council joined a seven-week course entitled "Slavery in the Bible" in January. It was sponsored by the Racial Justice and Education Team (RJET), in cooperation with St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Professor Sandie Gravett (Appalachian State) presented cultural background on select scriptural readings followed by a facilitated discussion. The Episcopal Church's historical position on slavery was presented during the final session.

Spring Gathering 2024, April 20 - "Empowering Women of Faith" - The speaker was the Honorable Andrea Hunley, State Senator for district 46 in Indianapolis. EWM chose her as our speaker because we think that by her actions and her faith, she epitomizes the meaning of someone empowered through her faith. She spoke eloquently about her faith journey and her work in the legislature. Andrea's key points during her talk were: the need for more women in local government; finding common ground and building bridges; working together, being especially mindful of uplifting women and children and the marginalized in our state to work toward a better future. She also talked about the several policy decisions and focus areas for which she is advocating.

The Province V Big Provincial Gathering, April 26 & 27 in South Bend – Lisa Matucheski represented the EWM Council at this event. She attended workshops and met with Province V ECW Board members who were there.

2024 Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Triennial Meeting, June 26-30th – Five women on the Episcopal Women's Ministries Council attended the ECW Triennial Meeting in Louisville, KY, which met concurrently with the TEC General Convention. They were Natalie Rodriguez, Beverly Ruebeck, Burnie Wilkins, Mary Cushing and Lisa Matucheski. Also, our 2024 Distinguished Woman from our diocese, Lucy Karam (Good Samaritan) and her husband, Yassir, attended the Distinguished Woman Luncheon. The theme for this Triennial year was "Empowering Women of Faith". We attended

workshops, networked with women from across the country and from all 9 Provinces to exchange ideas, listen, and learn from our Episcopal sisters in Christ. Many thanks to our diocesan leadership for giving us this opportunity.

2024 Women's Fall Retreat at Waycross, September 27-29 – We had a wonderful, if blustery and stormy, weekend at the Waycross Conference Center. Our speaker was Deacon Cathy Scott, formerly of this diocese and now residing in North Carolina. Our theme of empowerment continued with stories of women in the ancient past and modern day who trusted in God to show them the way forward. Cathy also led us in Wilderness Worship and shared insights from her years as a deacon. Since the EWM Council represents ECW in this diocese, we held our Annual Meeting during the retreat where our main business this year was to approve the revised bylaws. We enjoyed a time of sisterhood and spiritual rejuvenation. Any time at Waycross is time well spent and this Fall Retreat was no exception!

We are grateful to the diocese for their continued support of EWM Council, which represents the ECW of Province V, United Thank Offering, and Church Periodical Club in the Diocese of Indianapolis.

Social Media – Facebook for events: @EWMINDYTEC
Facebook for comments & posts: @EWMINDY

Membership

All women communicants in good standing in the Diocese of Indianapolis are members of the larger National Episcopal Church Women (ECW). Current EWM Council members are: Mary Cushing, Co-Chair, St. Paul's, Indy; Lisa Matucheski, Co-chair, St. Paul's, Indy; Beverly Ruebeck, Secretary, St. Paul's, Indy; Helen-Louise Boling, Treasurer, All Saints, Indy; Sheryl Otter, United Thank Offering (UTO), St. Timothy's, Indy; Margie Taylor, Trinity, Bloomington, Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK); Lara Dreyer, IT/Communications, Good Samaritan, Brownsburg; Natalie Rodriguez, Good Samaritan, Brownsburg, Graphics & Publications; Jolaine Roberts, St. John's, Lafayette; Burnie Wilkins, Good Samaritan, Brownsburg; Betsy Johnson, St. Paul's, Indy; Terry Noble, Community of the Transfiguration, Cincinnati, OH and Grace Episcopal, Oak Park, IL; Christine Plews, Trinity, Indy.

Global Missions Commission

Goals/Purpose/Mission Statement

The Global Missions Commission strives to move the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis to a greater understanding and expression of our call to serve beyond our borders, to enter into more faithful, life-giving relationships with our companions, and to explore the myriad ways that we are enriched when we share our cultures, traditions, and humanity with one another.

Activities/Actions taken over the past year to accomplish these goals

The Global Missions Commission continues to look for ways to deepen our relationships with our companions in Brasilia and Haiti while also raising awareness of these relationships in the wider Diocese. Our hope is that every congregation in the Diocese would feel a connection with our companions.

We were delighted to welcome Fr. Michelin to one of our meetings (by Zoom) this year and hear directly about the challenges posed by the violence in Port-au-Prince. The good news is that the school in Mithon is open and operating. Fr. Michelin continues to request our prayers, support, and thoughts.

Bishop Mauricio was able to share updates from Brasilia with us via email. In addition to their worshipping congregations, Bishop Mauricio highlighted the work of their ministry, CASA A+, which serves people living with HIV / AIDS in the city of Palmas, continues to offer HIV tests, support for those living with HIV/AIDS, and others at risk. We are working on plans for a pilgrimage to Brasilia at the end of June/beginning of July in 2025.

This year the Global Episcopal Mission Network was held on-line enabling both Maggie McClure and Hilary Cooke to attend. This was a time of sharing stories of companion ministries around the world.

In the summer, Bishop Jennifer appointed the Rev. Allan Wallace, Rector of St. Paul's in New Albany, as the new Chair of Global Missions. Hilary Cooke and Allan Wallace are working together to ensure a smooth transition.

We continue to seek ways for the entire Diocesan community to feel connected to our companions in Brasilia and Haiti and would welcome new members of the Commission.

Membership

Hilary Cooke, Randy Keko, Maggie McClure, George Moore, Bradley Pace, Peter Sehlinger, Allan Wallace, Betty Whaley, Steve Whaley, Fatima Yakubu-Madus

Mission Strategy

Goals/Purpose/Mission Statement

The Mission Strategy Team oversees programming and grantmaking that enable all of our diocesan congregations, regardless of size or location, to make faithful choices that enable our communities to follow in the way of Jesus.

Activities/Actions taken over the past year to accomplish these goals

Over the past year, the Mission Strategy team has largely been on hiatus. This pause was primarily due to the planned rotation of some members and the recruitment of new ones. There were 5 members supported by 2 diocesan staff members. During this period, we took the opportunity to reflect and ensure that we had appropriate representation across the diocese, balancing both clergy and lay members. This necessary step caused a delay in progressing with any new initiatives.

We are currently in the process of soliciting feedback from grant recipients on the progress of their initiatives, what they have learned, what didn't work and what they might do differently. This feedback will be used to inform the work of the committee for 2025. In addition, new ideas will be explored.

Church collaborations, church pairings, and improving internal and external communications continue to be of interest. Being open to new ways of being church continues to be a challenging, rewarding, and worthy effort. 2025 is set to be a year of deeper learning and activity to strengthen congregations and the neighborhoods in which they reside.

Membership

Deb Samples, Penny Schenck, Shelbi Fortner, Valeria Phillips (Co-convener), Rebecca Holbrook (co-convener); Diocesan Staff: Canon Giulianna Cappelletti Gray and Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale



Province V Executive Board report to the Diocese of Indianapolis 2023-2024

Report created on August 20, 2024

Submitted by: Lesley MacKellar

Province V is a network of 12 (soon to be 11) dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The Diocese of Indianapolis is one of those 12 (11). The changing number of dioceses is because of combining of resources, not that anyone left. This year, the Dioceses of Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, and Eau Claire reunited into the Diocese of Wisconsin. In October 2024, the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan will complete their process of juncture into the Diocese of the Great Lakes.

The Theme of Province V: CONNECT. NETWORK. SUPPORT.

Connect people to people and people to resources.

Network to build communities across diocesan lines.

Support each other in a variety of ministries.

There are several resources available at the provincial level. Please review this report and share information with others in your worshipping community!

Leadership

The Province V Executive Board is responsible for the operations of the province. There are 17 members of this board, which includes the 11 diocesan representatives, 2 members (one lay and one clergy) who serve on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and 4 elected officers. Each diocesan bishop appoints a representative, and I have been appointed to this task.

You can see the full list of members here: <https://www.provincev.org/exboard.html>

Board members meet monthly via Zoom to share resources from our dioceses and hear about and help develop provincial events and programming. The board gathers in-person once per year to build deeper connections and have in-depth conversation about vision and strategic planning for the province.

The Rev. Heather Barta serves as coordinator of Province V. Her role is to provide support to leaders of existing networks and create new opportunities for people across the province to connect with each other to build networks of support.

Province V Awarded \$470,956 in Grants

This is the biggest news all year!

Province V is excited to have received a number of Spring 2024 grant awards for provincial initiatives and books for fall's Creation Care retreat. Please celebrate with us! If any of these topics are of interest to you, we are looking for volunteer team members to create and launch the initiatives. Contact provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com.

- **2024 United Thank Offering Grant, \$55,000**

This grant will launch Province V's new *Engaging Gender Complexity (EGC)* initiative. EGC will help individuals and worshipping communities create welcoming space for *all* people and will equip participants to welcome gender-diverse individuals into their community without causing harm to or undue emotional and psychological labor for them. Episcopalians are called by our baptismal vows to promote the dignity of every human being, counteracting historical and current traumas perpetuated on gender-diverse communities. Guided by trained facilitators, in-person gatherings will be a laboratory to learn more about gender-diversity and practice radical hospitality towards these individuals and communities. Faith communities informed about gender-diversity have the potential to be places of refuge, modeling this radical welcome to the wider world.

- **2024 Constable Fund Grant, \$30,000**

Funds a two-course digital curriculum to inform, form, and transform individuals and communities concerning gender diversity and catalyze personal and communal efforts in line with General Convention's Resolution D 030 (GC80) "to welcome and support people and communities of diverse genders, including trans gender and non-binary." The first course entitled *Embracing Gender Diversity (EGD)* will be administered through Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation's *Pathways for Baptismal Living* program. The second course, *Facilitating EGD (FEGD)*, will prepare facilitators to host in-person, in-depth conversations that grow from questions that are raised in the first course.

- **2024 Becoming Beloved Community Impact Grant, \$10,200**

This grant will help create and disseminate the new *Trafficking: Faithful Response and Support* initiative, to be available for individuals and communities across the church. Leaders will learn more about human trafficking, including identifying the signs and responding to suspected trafficking. This program will also help communities of faith identify ways to support victims of trafficking as they work toward renewed life.

Learn more about our partner: Total Life Wellness at

<https://totallifewellness21.wixsite.com/total-life-wellnes-2>

Resources are available at Province V's Anti-Human

Trafficking webpage: <https://www.provincev.org/antihumantrafficking.html>

- **2024 Church Periodical Club (CPC), \$756**

This grant will provide books to Province IV and V's Creation Care Event in the fall . Province IV and Province V Creation Care Networks will jointly host this creation care retreat in the Diocese of Kentucky on September 12-15, 2024, with guest retreat leader Margaret Bullitt-Jonas of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Margaret is co-author of the book, *Rooted and Rising*, which will be provided to all participants. The Provinces are grateful for the CPC's support as we continue to share ways of caring for all of creation. Visit <https://revivingcreation.org> to explore Margaret's work.

- **2024 Trinity Church's Leadership Development Grant, \$375,000**

Over 3 years, this grant will fund Province V's Campus Ministry Developer position to help communities that 1) serve or wish to serve institutions of higher education without campus ministers; 2) wish to actively support the work of their local embedded campus ministers, and/or 3) want to learn how to engage more authentically with young adults over all. Trinity Church's Leadership Development Grant collaboratively addresses urgent gaps in leadership education with

faith-driven mindsets and practical skills for the Church and for people in leadership roles outside the church, empowering them to achieve common goals.

Learn more about Trinity Church's Vision for Leadership

Development: <https://trinitywallstreet.org/grants-partners/leadership-development>

Networks

<https://www.provincev.org/networks.html>

The networks continue to expand to serve leaders across the province. Networks are open to any person who would like to be connected to others working on similar ministries. If there is a network that you might find helpful, contact the coordinator, Heather Barta at provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com.

Leadership Coaching Project

<https://www.provincev.org/lcp.html>

Trained lay and ordained coaches are available to work with individuals, teams or groups on your goals and challenges. These coaches are available to any person interested in working on ministerial or personal goals. All coaches will provide a complimentary “introductory” meeting so that you can ask questions about coaching with them and get to know each other. Rural Area Ministry Specialists are available at a reduced rate to leaders in rural areas. (“Rural Area” is defined as a town with a population of 20,000 or fewer.)

Upcoming events

Sept 12-15, 2024 – Creation Care Network Event, Louisville, Kentucky

October 8-10, 2024 – Campus Minister Retreat, Madison, Wisconsin

Connecting to the Province

Sign up for the monthly newsletter at the bottom of the website: <https://www.provincev.org>

General Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ProvinceFive/>

Creation Care Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082984106362>

Dismantling Racism Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078969506674>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/provincefive/>

Please contact me for more information about anything presented in this report!

Lesley MacKellar, lesleymackellar@gmail.com/ (317) 908-4426

Racial Justice and Education Team Report

The Racial Justice and Education Team sponsored events that brought our Episcopal family and Central Indiana citizens together in venues of learning and growing together in dialogue regarding racial justice, history, challenges, and victories.

At our last Convention, our keynote speaker and workshop presenter was spiritual writer and poet, Cole Arthur Riley. In June, we brought in the niece of the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, Ms. Rosita Stevens-Holsey, as speaker at the annual Pauli Murray commemoration at the Episcopal Church of All Saints. In addition to the Pauli Murray commemoration, RJET also co-sponsored the Jonathan Myrick Daniels remembrance liturgy at St. Christopher's in Carmel and co-sponsored the series on Biblical Slavery held at St. Timothy's.

RJET continued its sponsorship of the national church's 11 week Sacred Ground series, facilitated by Canon Mariann Scott and Deacon Cathy Scott. Over 200 participants have successfully completed the entire program, included in that number are non-Episcopalians and a few folks outside of Indiana. Additionally, Mariann and Cathy have facilitated Sacred Ground leader training for parishes interested in offering Sacred Ground to their congregants.

RJET recommended to our diocesan family the Indiana Historical Society's multi-media exhibit titled "Resist!" an exhibit about the social environment in which Notre Dame students reacted to a Ku Klux Klan gathering in 1924.

RJET continues to maintain a database on the diocesan website that has information regarding racial justice resources for use by our diocesan family. RJET team members are also available for consultation regarding programming and resources.

Deacon Cathy Scott