**Report of the Canon for Evangelism & Discipleship Development**

**To the 2024 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri**

The Rev. Canon Whitney Rice serves as the Canon for Evangelism & Discipleship Development in the Diocese of Missouri. Progress in her work in 2024 is summarized below.

**Evangelism**

* Led Evangelism With Integrity workshop at many congregations across the diocese
* Met and collaborated with other Evangelism Canons across the national church
* Served on national Episcopal Church Evangelism Council of Advice

**Discipleship Development**

* Hosted multiple workshops for the diocesan household and on-site at parishes including:
  + Evangelism With Integrity
  + Church Conflict Fire Insurance: Adaptive Leadership in Challenging Times
  + Community Listening
  + Post-Pandemic Evangelism: The Acts Generation and the Reformation Generation
  + Questions of Jesus
  + Reimagining Churchcraft

**Experimental Ministries/Missional Communities**

* Consulted with and supported Diocesan leaders beginning missional community work
* Supported Journey Church and Grace African Christians Connection church planting team in applying New Episcopal Ministries Grants of $30,000 each
* Supported and consulted with various clergy in redevelopment and revitalization work in their congregations

**Requiem or Renaissance**

* Concluded Cohorts 1 & 2 with follow-up work in January
* Recruited new Shepherds Team throughout the spring and summer
* Built Cohort 3 throughout the year and launched in October
* Populated Thinkific online course platform to consolidate all program resources (recordings, videos, handouts, notetaking space, zoom links) in one place, accessible asynchronously
* Secured $27,000 Roanridge Grant to fund the program
* Created video and document resources for the program

**Ordination Process**

* Met and worked with ordinands throughout the process to drive and facilitate their progress toward ordination: forms, interviews, meetings, processes such as GOEs and seminary financial aid, field placements, mentoring, and pastoral support
* Co-hosted Ordination Townhalls
* Served as Bishop’s Staff Liaison to Diocesan Board of Examining Chaplains, Commission on Ministry, and Standing Committee
* Convened and drove monthly meetings of core ordination facilitators: Ms. Jillian Smith, Mr. Isaac Arten (Diocesan Board of Examining Chaplains Chair), The Rev. Harry Leip (Archdeacon), and The Rev. Ann Dieterle (Commission on Ministry Chairs)
* Helped organize and participated in multiple ordination liturgies across the diocese
* Began conversation and gathering resources about attending more fully to the needs of those who identify as neurodivergent in the ordination process

**Wider Church Involvement and/or Continuing Education**

* Met with 14 dioceses across the Episcopal Church about adapting Requiem or Renaissance for their own use; Diocese of Los Angeles will be adopting it in January 2025
* Led Questions of Jesus for Diocese of Minnesota Clergy Conference
* Participant in Leading Women small group
* Evangelism Faculty for Bishop Kemper School of Ministry
* Co-founded Province V Innovation Catalysts group

**Other Duties as Assigned**

* Canon visitations most Sundays to preach, celebrate, problem solve with clergy and lay leaders, and lead classes and fora
* Served as a consultant and partner for clergy and lay leaders seeking support in their work

Respectfully submitted by

The Rev. Canon Whitney Rice

Canon for Evangelism & Discipleship Development

November 2024