



April 22, 2020

A Message From the Nominating Committee

Beloved Friends in Christ,

Happy Easter to you all.

Although the coronavirus pandemic has cast a shadow over what is usually a joyous time of year, we can rest assured that God's Church and its mission will endure. The Nominating Committee's work continues as well. Although we cannot meet in person right now, we have taken to videoconferencing and other tools at our disposal to move the search process forward. With God's grace and guidance, we adapt and carry on.



We are tasked with identifying a slate of individuals from which our diocese will call our next bishop, who will succeed Bishop McConnell upon his retirement next fall. That slate will be voted on at a special convention to elect the ninth Bishop of Pittsburgh on April 24, 2021. Later this year, we will reach out to parishes to learn what the people of this diocese want and need from our next bishop and will offer a short survey to hear more about what is on the minds of parishioners. Until then, know that the Nominating Committee is committed to completing the work we were called to do, and we ask for your prayers and support.

-The Nominating Committee for the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh



Row 1 (standing l-r): Michael Braxton, Committee Chair; the Rev. Canon James Shoucair; Kevin Hipolit; the Rev. Aidan Smith; the Rev. Don Youse, Chaplain; the Rev. Linda Tardy Wilson; Richard

Peden; Daryl Walker; Shahnaz Alam Denlinger.

Row 2 (seated l-r): The Rev. Nano Chalfant-Walker; the Rev. Bill Geiger; Elizabeth Gassler; Gloria Trevino-Frye; the Rev. Laura DiPanfilo; Joseph Macklin II.

--Photo courtesy Judy Stark, Nominating Committee Consultant



Parish Administration & Finances Workshop

Saturday, April 25
9:30 a.m. to 12 noon
Via Zoom Webinar



Parish treasurers, administrators, senior wardens, and clergy - and anyone else interested in the management of church finances and other aspects of parish administration - are invited to attend this informative session. To register for this workshop, click the registration button.

Click Here to Register

Kathi Workman, our diocese's canon treasurer, and The Rev. Kimberly Karashin, canon for mission and director of administration, will serve as the workshop's facilitators, covering topics such as:

- Lay and clergy compensation and benefits
- Payroll
- Diocesan assessments
- Tax requirements
- Annual audit
- Parochial reports
- Property insurance and management
- Safeguarding requirements
- Available grant and loan programs

Ample time will be provided for questions and answers throughout.

The workshop will be held as a webinar using the Zoom Video Communications platform. For anyone without access to a computer or other Internet-enabled device, an option will be available to join by telephone. Details about how to join the webinar will be sent to registrants prior to the workshop. (Note: At this time, there are no plans for an in-person option.)

Bonus! All parishes with a representative participating in this workshop will receive a copy of the new [Finance Resource Guide](#), a project of the [Episcopal Church Foundation](#).

If you have questions about this workshop, or are wondering whether you should participate, contact Canon Kim at kkarashin@episcopalpgh.org or 412-721-0853 ext. 254.



Update Your Place!

EPISCOPAL ASSET MAP

The [Episcopal Asset Map](#) is the tool that the diocese uses on the web as its "[Parish Finder](#)" for those that are seeking a parish that fits their needs.

With the Episcopal Asset Map, each parish has the opportunity to tell the Church and the world about how your congregation is being called to serve God and neighbor. When you share your faith

stories, worship styles, ministries, and more, you are providing visitors with information that can help them as they discern where the Spirit is calling.

During this period of Virtual Worship, the map provides an opportunity to point visitors to the place that you hold your services, whether on your website, in social media or via video conferencing.

Each parish has the ability to update their own listing. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO LOG IN TO ADD INFORMATION.** Simply find your parish on the map, click "Update this place," add or edit the information, then click save and submit. The diocesan office will review your changes and make them public, usually within hours of the submission.



SJO Awards Garden Grants

The diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee (SJO) is pleased to announce the awarding of four \$500 grants to the following applicants for 2020:

- St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, Franklin Park
- St. David's Episcopal Church, Peters Township
- Community of Celebration's Spring Street Garden, Aliquippa
- Shepherd Wellness Community, Bloomfield



SJO's goal with the grants is to create supplies of locally grown produce for our neighbors in need. Depending on the location and circumstance, they expect that such produce will be distributed through local food pantries or parish-based outreach efforts. Tending these gardens also provides opportunities for youth participation and collaboration with neighboring community members outside the congregations.



COVID-19 Resource Hub

We have established a committed page on the diocesan website for matters related to COVID-19.

Included here are letters from Bishop McConnell, tools to help meet pastoral needs, prayer and liturgical resources for use at home, details on safety net programs, financial resources for parishes, and much, much more.



It's available at <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/covid-19-resource-hub/>. This is the fruit of not only our own work, but of shared resources across the Church in this time.

We will continue to keep this page updated. If you have a resource that you think would help others, please send it to info@episcopalpgh.org.



Habits of Grace: An invitation for You from Presiding Bishop Curry

As we learn how to adjust our lives given the reality of the coronavirus and the request to do our part to slow its spread by practicing social distancing, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry invites you to join him each week to take a moment to cultivate a 'habit of grace.'



A new meditation will be posted on Mondays through May. To view the series, visit <https://episcopalchurch.org/habits-of-grace>.



Virtual Services With Virtual Choirs

During these uncertain times, our parishes have been creative in the ways that they have been able to bring worship to their parish families. There is an amazing variety of service styles available from our [list of streaming services](#).

One real challenge is how to incorporate the choir into the mix.

Two of our parishes have found innovative ways to incorporate their choirs into their services, Church of the Redeemer in Squirrel Hill and St. Brendan's in Franklin Park.



Joan Gundersen from Redeemer explains how they creatively added music to their Easter services:

"Nine parish members who sing with the choir participated, about half of the full choir. It was a real learning curve since some of the members had never used their computers/tablets/phones to record anything before. Each had to record themselves singing it while listening on earphones to the accompaniment recorded by our organist/choir director, Ann Labounsky. All the recordings reached me late on Maundy Thursday. My husband, Bob, then spent the next two days working with video and sound editing to create the final product. It was ready for inclusion in both the Vigil and Easter Sunday services."

The Redeemer choir's Matthias' "Gloria"



St. Brendan's April 19 service featured a virtual "Halle Hallelujah" choir. Their offering includes more than 35 voices and they plan to expand it to over 100 voices.

See <https://www.stbrendans.org/hallehallelujah> for how they are including everyone in their parish.

St. Brendan's Halle Hallelujah



Combining nearly 800 submissions from more than 600 participants all around the world, The Episcopal Church celebrated Easter as singers from around the country come together in one voice to proclaim - The Strife is O'er, the battle won!

The Strife is O'er - The Episcopal Church Virtual Choir and Orchestra



If you watch carefully, Redeemer's Joan Gundersen can be seen at about the 1:10 mark.



The Diocesan Office is Closed But...

Please know that the diocesan staff continues to be a resource for you. They may be working remotely, but they are very much at work and still can be reached through their office phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

The staff listing is available at www.episcopalpgh.org/who-we-are/bishop-and-staff/

Not sure who can best answer your question? Visit our "Whom to Contact" page at www.episcopalpgh.org/who-we-are/diocesan-staff-whom-to-contact/



All submissions to the *Grace Happens* newsletter and the diocesan web site are welcome and should be sent to amuhl@episcopalpgh.org. When possible, the copy should be in a Word document and all original logos, pictures and artwork should be attached separately. Please be sure to include your contact information with any submission.

