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July 9, 2021

2021 Diocesan Convention
The 156th Annual Convention of the
Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh
Friday & Saturday, October 15 & 16, 2021

Current documents relating to the Convention are available on the diocesan website at <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/resources/2021-diocesan-convention/>



The Diocesan Nominating Committee is seeking people willing to accept nomination to positions with diocesan boards and commissions that will be elected at the 2021 Diocesan Convention.



[Click here](#) for a description of open positions to be elected.

[Click here](#) for a nomination form, with instructions, that is to be submitted to the Diocesan Office by August 1, 2021.

Thank you.

The Diocesan Nominating Committee



Beloved Community Initiative

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. --John 13:34-35

The Beloved Community Initiative (BCI) seeks to promote the liberating and reconciling love of Jesus Christ, particularly as it relates to racial justice and reconciliation. The BCI will serve specifically to develop strategies, as informed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, our Baptismal Covenant and our diocesan mission.





90-Day Racial Equity Challenge (August Through October)

- Every day for 3 weeks, do one action to further your understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity. This can be done within a group of friends, an organization or workplace, or on your own. This idea is adapted from the work of Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr. And Debby Irving's "21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenges," www.eddiemoorejr.com.
- During week 4, join others in a "Service of Sharing and Celebration."
- Repeat over a three month period.



Dismantling racism and achieving reconciliation in the church begins with education and dialogue. We can start now and it can be self-directed. Get disrupted, and get to know the other parts of the body.

Join us in this 90-day challenge and discover how we can begin showing the world that we are Jesus's disciples and that we are growing to love one another. More information and an easy-to-use tracking sheet to chart your progress [is available here](#).

Want to learn more? Contact the Rev. Eric McIntosh, Canon for BCI, at emcintosh@episcopalpgh.org or Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, BCI Program Coordinator, at s.alamdenlinger@episcopalpgh.org with any questions.



Forum: Independent Police Review Board of Allegheny County

- Why do we need an Independent Police Review Board?

- Who will use it?
- How does my community join?
- What will it do?
- When will it be set up and ready to work?

Spend an evening with Liv Bennett



Olivia "Liv" Bennett is a community activist who represents District 13 of Allegheny County Council. She is chair of the Public Safety Committee.

Liv has spent several years fighting for justice in Allegheny County. She has advocated for sensible gun control, for police accountability, and anti-racist policies in her work. Her interest in politics and activism began when she was a child, looking up to her father who held office as a Pittsburgh Public School Board member. Although he passed away when she was young, his impact continues to be a source of inspiration for her today.

July 15, 7-8 p.m. on Zoom

R.S.V.P. to scregistration@uucnh.org

Sponsored by St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, The Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills, and the Community Presbyterian Church of the North Hills.



Service Held at Epiphany, Avalon

A closing is anticipated this summer on the sale of the property that had been home to Church of the Epiphany, Avalon. Bishop McConnell conducted a short service of "deconsecration" there on Wednesday, July 7.

Epiphany, Avalon closed its doors as a parish in 2003. The property was subsequently used as a house of prayer. In recent years, it has also served as home for a YMCA Senior Adults Program, 12-Step groups, and a non-denominational worshipping community.



Questions may be directed to Canon Kathi Workman (kworkman@episcopalpgh.org) or the Rev. Canon Kimberly Karashin (kkarashin@episcopalpgh.org).



AA for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

St. Peter's in Brentwood will soon be hosting an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for the deaf and hard of hearing, with American Sign Language as the primary means for communication. The group will meet every Friday at 7 p.m., beginning July 16.

[St. Peter's Episcopal Church](#), 4048 Brownsville Road, Brentwood PA 15227

Speakers and interpreters are needed.



For more information contact: John Hegedus at johnhegedus@mac.com



Union of Black Episcopalians Churchwide Revival



It's time to register for the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) 53rd Annual Conference, scheduled for July 27-30, 2021

The 2021 conference – a completely virtual event – will take the form of a revival, with plenary panel discussions, breakouts, lively worship and parties.

The event will feature celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the original *Lift Every Voice and Sing* hymnal; celebration of the life of the first female bishop in the Anglican Communion, the late Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris (1930-2020); and exclusive attendance at a book launch to meet the six pioneers who are our first Black female diocesan bishops.

Facing the Rising Sun

There will be special programming by and for youth and young adults (YAYA), plus games and activities for children under 13. The youth and young adults will offer a program on YAYA Day, sharing a lens for looking into the future; and they promise a rousing YAYA worship service followed by a mixer and "dance party to end all parties." It will be a fitting end to the UBE 2021 Conference and Churchwide Revival.

Questions? Email: leadership@theube.org

[Download UBE 53rd Annual Conference and Revival Registration Form](#)

[Download UBE 53rd Annual Conference and Revival Schedule](#)

[Click here for online registration](#)



Around the Diocese



Bishop McConnell's Visitation Schedule:

July 11: Church of the Advent, Brookline

Parish leadership is reminded to complete and submit [this form](#) at least two weeks in advance of their visitation.

Please be reminded that **Bishop's Scholarships** are available for the following two groups:

- The children of clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. [Click here for the form.](#)
- Seminarians and diaconal school students of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. [Click here for the form.](#)

Applications for both of these scholarships are available on the [Documents & Forms](#) page of the diocesan website, or via the direct links above. The application deadline is July 31 for the academic year beginning in the fall. Applications should be sent to the diocesan offices at 325 Oliver Ave, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.



Parting Shot

Celebrating Betsy McConnell

On June 23, 2021, diocesan clergy spouses gathered with Betsy McConnell in the Grand Concourse Audubon Room and presented her with a beautiful tray with an inscription to her and a gift certificate to Talbots.

Suzy Robison, the event organizer, commented, "Betsy invited us many times to gather in her home and led us on retreats, plus so much more. We are grateful for her kindness and will miss her very much."



Standing: Meloni Murph, Sandra Shoucair, Susan Pollard, Natalie Jensen, Laura Marchl, Kate Geiger, Susy Robison. **Seated:** Jennie Geisler, Kathy Baird, Vera Quinn, Betsy McConnell, Thekla Wainright

