

CANON FOR MISSION

It has been my sincere privilege to serve Bishop McConnell and the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh as canon for mission since November 15, 2015. This, for me, has been a year of tremendous learning and adjustment. I thank my many colleagues, mentors, and friends who have offered me guidance and encouragement throughout.

I have been blessed to be involved in the following mission-focused initiatives since beginning my tenure on the diocesan staff:

Mon Valley Mission: I have provided strategic support and logistical leadership for this project, intended to help our Mon Valley parishes discern their role in addressing the region's socio-economic issues and spiritual needs.

Appreciative Inquiry: I received training on this process from the Rev. Ted Babcock, and, working together, we have used it to assist St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier, in discerning where God is calling them as a parish and developing a plan for response.

Exploring Non-Traditional Ministry: Working with a Board of Trustees sub-committee, I helped guide the exploration of diocesan support for the ministry of hospitality (dubbed "House of Life") proposed by the Rev. Dan Isadore and his wife, Hallie. Moving into 2017, we will be exploring other non-traditional means of engaging with our communities and introducing neighbors to the Gospel of Christ.

Exploring Digital Ministry and Formation: I am involved in preliminary research and planning around a redesign and repurposing of the diocesan website. While the site will continue to meet the information needs of our diocesan insiders (clergy, staff, vestries, lay members), we are also hoping to use the site as a channel for Christian formation, and as a tool for evangelism and ministry to non-Christians and the unchurched.

Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative: In anticipation of the ECW-sponsored event featuring the Rev. Becca Stevens on October 29, I am participating in efforts to drive awareness of the issue of human trafficking in the Pittsburgh region and to encourage action against the practice.

Mission Grants: I contributed to the 2016 revision of the *Parish Guide to Grants and Loans*, an effort that included researching and verifying new and existing mission grant opportunities. I also assisted in the completion of several grant applications.

Finally, looking just a bit ahead ... I am excited to be accompanying a group of clergy and lay leaders to the *Evangelism Matters* conference in Dallas, November 18-19. I pray this will be an effective launching point for wider efforts to equip and empower people throughout the diocese to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Prayerfully and respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Karashin