

CANON FOR EVANGELISM & FAITH FORMATION

With gratitude I submit this report to my sisters and brothers in Christ in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Since joining the staff in January 2017, I have found joy in service. You who serve in the diocese in a diversity of roles visibly strive for faithful, sustainable, and creative means of serving Jesus Christ and one another. I am grateful to serve along with you.

A principle call of my ministry is providing concrete support for households as the primary source of faith leadership. I continue to develop relationships with congregations throughout the diocese to introduce at-home faith formation, which encourages households to become the substantive location of faith practice and conversation. While every parish naturally encourages members to attend worship regularly, what about the days in between? My role is to connect with individual parishes to help households initiate daily faith practices that require nothing more than a faithful heart. Namely, I teach a practice called FAITH5 which is a cost-free, 10-15 minute practice that anyone can participate in regardless of background, household demographic, or education.

To date, I have served St. Andrew's, Highland Park; St. David's, Peters Twp.; St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg; and Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, and have upcoming sessions with Christ Church, North Hills. This includes preparatory work, an initial presentation, follow-up meetings, and assistance to clergy and lay leaders in supporting the participating people of their parish. I am available to any congregation throughout the diocese interested in further exploration. Additionally, I am eager to assist congregations in identifying ways to organize cross-generational aspects of regular worship, meaning that people of all ages and experiences gather together to influence, care for, and love one another in the name of Jesus.

It is my goal and hope that 100% of all congregations would aim to energetically participate in faith formation and evangelism development as part of a wider effort both in supporting the individual identity and health of each congregation and to unite in purpose with the diocese and wider Episcopal Church.

To further develop opportunities for the diocese, grant proposals are currently underway to support joint individual, parish, and ecumenical ministries. Among those efforts include upcoming events to present opportunities for faith formation at home, best practices in ministry, assessment tools for evaluating success in ministry (other than money and attendance!), and more. Another exciting project is developing a relationship with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to develop an Anglican track for study, as well as organizing diocese-wide lay opportunities for substantive faith formation.

It is a great joy and blessing to work with our bishop, canons, and members of both the diocesan and cathedral staff. Furthermore, I am humbled and grateful to serve in a diocese where the priests, deacons, and laypeople so diligently work to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ real among the congregations and communities of our region.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Natalie L.G. Hall
Canon for Faith Formation and Evangelism