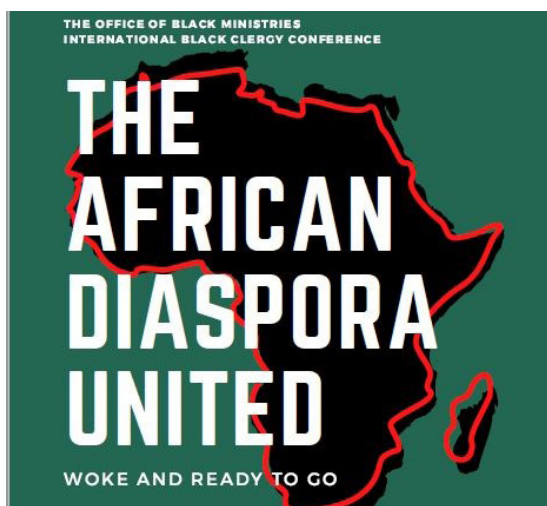




OFFICE OF
DEVELOPMENT



Online International Black Clergy Conference Draws Hundreds



More than 390 Black clergy and laity of The Episcopal Church gathered online in mid-November of 2020 for the Office of Black Ministries International Black Clergy Conference, "**The African Diaspora United: Woke and Ready to Go.**"

Participants included Black clergy and lay leadership worldwide, representing the diversity of backgrounds and communities they serve. The conference was a thoughtful mix of live and recorded presentations designed to ensure that the complexity of Black clergy experiences was acknowledged and celebrated. Highlights included keynote presentations from The Rt. Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin, The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, the 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, as well as The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop and primate of The Episcopal Church.

One of this conference's goals was to create a regional network of Black clergy within each of the provinces, which can serve as a mentoring network to sustain and support the growth of Black clergy, parishes, and congregations. This is especially important in this time of the coronavirus pandemic, as Black congregations and parishes struggle to secure the resources to move to online worship for their churches and parishioners. To aid in the growth of this

**The Episcopal Church at Work—
a Newsletter
from the Office of
Development**

Getting to Know You



The Rev. Shaneequa Brokenleg

The Rev. Isaiah "Shaneequa" Brokenleg did not have "host a podcast" on her 2020 bingo card! Brokenleg joined the presiding bishop's staff in the Office of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care in January 2020 as the staff officer for racial

network, the conference organizers highlighted the **Directory of Black Clergy and Congregations** to expand coaching and mentoring programs, as well as support systems.

The conference convened through the **Office of Black Ministries** under **The Rev. Canon Ronald Byrd Sr.** with the support of a council of advisers and planning team. During the conference, Ron was designated as an honorary canon to All Saints Cathedral, The Episcopal Diocese of the Virgin Islands. The conference exceeded its participation goals, substantially extending the Office of Black Ministries' reach and forging new partnerships to support The Church and its mission.

This is Sacred Ground

Across the country, parishes and dioceses are implementing the **Sacred Ground** and **Healing from Internalized Oppression** curricula created by The Episcopal Church to address systemic racism in congregations and communities.

This past August, the **Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society** staff (DFMS is the legal name of The Episcopal Church) took up this work too. Following the murders of

George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, a core group of staff prompted by Director of Human Resources **Raphaelle Sondak** and led by **Missioner of Black Ministries Rev. Ronald C. Byrd Sr.**, proposed the creation of self-selected affinity groups to address racism, oppression, Whiteness, and Blackness within the staff of The Episcopal Church.

During the summer In House session, the semi-annual online gathering of DFMS staff, a conversation around race and racism revealed the need to thoughtfully expand the conversation. Out of these conversations, it became apparent that the work of racial reconciliation needed to begin here “at home.”



Preparing to become the
**BELOVED
COMMUNITY**

reconciliation. She anticipated lots of travel and looked forward to this new call, training and teaching **Becoming the Beloved Community** in partnership with parishes and dioceses across the country.

Like most of us, she instead had to rethink what it means to connect and to minister. The podcast, **Prophetic Voices: Preaching and Teaching Beloved Community**, grew out of clergy asking for help. Clergy and lay ministers wanted to address social justice through the liturgy, but many didn't know where to start. Addressing this need, Brokenleg proposed to the Communications Office of The Episcopal Church a limited series of conversations with colleagues representing The Episcopal Church's cultural breadth and reach. Together, the guests parse the appointed liturgy, connecting it to their lived experience and traditions. They discuss what the liturgy reveals to them now and share how they are bringing it to their congregations this year. What emerges for the listener is a rich exploration of how the word of God reflects, informs, and inspires our **Becoming Beloved Community**.

“If you get 100 downloads, that's good,” or so Brokenleg was told by the communications staff.

The Prophetic Voice: Preaching and Teaching Beloved Community podcast has been downloaded more than 3,000 times! The podcast is a

The two racial affinity groups of about 30 individuals are led by Byrd and **The Rev. Tom Brackett**, missionary, church planting, ministry redevelopment, and Fresh Expressions of Church; **The Rev. Isaiah "Shaneequa" Brokenleg**, staff officer for racial reconciliation; and **The Rev. Dr. Molly F. James**, deputy executive officer for general convention. The groups meet regularly across multiple time zones to do the work of racial reconciliation. Separately, the groups look deeply and critically at the culture in which we are immersed.

There is no shaming or blaming, just thoughtful examination of our disparate experiences within the dominant culture. The groups have separate readings and cover different topics, but all have the same goal, which is create the space for reconciliation and understanding within our organization.

Participating staff are grateful for the time set aside for them to do this work; it takes time to build the trust necessary to have honest, healthy, and empowering conversations. We educate ourselves by listening deeply and engaging thoughtfully with our colleagues. We live out our faith striving for justice and peace among all people and respecting the dignity of every human being.

In the News – Rapid Response Grants

In early November of last year, the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church awarded **33 Beloved Community “Rapid-Response” grants** totaling \$187,800 to support parishes and dioceses that are mobilizing to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their neighbors and communities.

Online classrooms effectively locked thousands of children out of school because their homes do not have access to the high-speed internet that online education demands. Parishes like **St. Elizabeth’s in Elizabeth, New Jersey**, received a grant to extend the coverage of their Wi-Fi to the parking lot, allowing neighbors to log on for homework access or job searches and provide additional computer access in their parish center. **St. Barnabas**



hit and is importantly meeting a need. The success of the Advent series podcast has led Brokenleg to prepare a new series for Holy Week.

An epidemiologist in her previous career, Brokenleg's call to priesthood offered a union of her professional and cultural life. A member of the Lakota tribe, Brokenleg is a Winkte, a sacred healer for her people. As an epidemiologist, she traveled to many reservations and native communities throughout the Midwest to develop outreach programs to address health issues and challenges. Her current work in racial reconciliation draws on many of those same skills and approaches. She sees herself as a partner, following the communities' lead and bringing tools and a new perspective while listening deeply to their discussions on racial reconciliation. The podcast is another tool to help clergy and lay preachers wrestle with race, gender, and social justice through liturgy.

Though this is not how Brokenleg envisioned her work for The Episcopal Church to roll out, we are grateful for her creativity and commitment to our shared work in racial reconciliation, and we are looking forward to new episodes of the podcast.

in **Montgomery, Ohio**, will use their grant to provide a safe and warm space for children to do homework and access the internet. **Barth Safe House** in Shelby County, Tennessee, is using their grant to address the needs of economically disadvantaged college students for whom online learning is a barrier to completing their degrees.

Many grants addressed food insecurity, including **Vecinos Seguros @ Trinity Lime Rock** in Lakeville, Connecticut, which is using their grant to address increased food insecurity in their area by expanding their current outreach project which provides grocery gift cards to families and individuals in need.

Each grant represents The Episcopal Church supporting the urgent need of local parishes and dioceses to build the Beloved Community each day, work that is increasingly challenging.

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Call:

(800) 334-7626 ext. 6002

Give online:

[Click here](#)

Make a gift of securities contact Julia Alling:

(212) 716-6041

Ground mail:

DFMS-Protestant Episcopal
Church US
P.O. Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

Parishes and Pews



Parish Photographers

Do you have a great image of your Church community? Would you please share it with us? The Office of Development is always looking for high-resolution photographs that share the dynamism and diversity of The Episcopal Church. Thank you!

Contact **Julia Alling** – jalling@episcopalchurch.org

Prayer Corner

Prayer/Meditation

O Christ,

light made manifest

as the true light of
God,

gladden our hearts

on the joyful morning
of your glory;

call us by our name

on the great Day of
your coming;

and give us grace to
offer,

with all the hosts of
heaven,

ending praise to God

in whom all things
find their ending,

now and ever. Amen

*Book of Common
Worship (1993)*

CARES Act

Charitable deductions for donations up to \$300 on 2020 taxes

Your generosity last year may be rewarded this year. The passage of the CARES Act in 2020 included an important, if temporary, change to allowable charitable deductions. For 2020, filers can deduct up to \$300 for charitable gifts made in cash (checks and credit cards are also allowed). Please confirm this deduction with your tax preparer or tax software to determine your eligibility.



Do You Participate in a Donor Advised Fund?

A donor-advised fund is like a charitable investment account for the sole purpose of supporting charitable organizations you care about, such as The Episcopal Church. When you contribute cash, securities or other assets to a donor-advised fund directed to a public charity, you are generally eligible to take an immediate tax deduction. Those funds can then be invested for tax-free growth, and you are able to recommend grants to virtually any IRS-qualified public charity. Contact your financial advisor for more information.

Are you already enrolled in a DAF? Have you considered making The Episcopal Church a beneficiary of your philanthropy? If you've given through your DAF, thank you. Would you please inform us of your gift so we can thank you for your generosity? For information on giving through your DAF or other estate and planned giving options that will sustain the Church's work for years to come, contact Associate Director of Development T.J. Houlihan at thoulihan@episcopalchurch.org or (800) 334-7626 ext. 6271.

Celebration of Saints

JAN 12:

Alfred of Rievaulx

Abbot and Theologian, 1167

JAN 24:

Florence Li Tim-Oi,

Priest, 1992



JAN 27:

John Chrysostom,

Bishop and Theologian, 407

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