



## Nurturing Our Shared Gifts for God's Inspiring Mission

### A Message from the Office of the Bishop

This is a bright and promising moment as we joyfully gather to enhance our collective ability to support the essential ministries and programs for God's mission in our diocese. Let's embrace this adventure, stepping beyond our church walls, and unite as the Episcopal Church in Colorado. Together, we have the ability to touch the lives of people throughout our state and beyond. We are not just vital; we are an essential part of the fabric of our communities across Colorado. We carry on Christ's loving work, guided by the Holy Spirit, spreading God's love and warmth to everyone we encounter. Our financial contributions are not just gifts; they are heartfelt expressions of our faith, as sincere as our creed, life, and worship. A big thank you for your generous hearts in making this sacred mission come alive in the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

We are all travelers on a wonderful journey, walking the Way of Love and growing together in our faith. Energized by the Holy Spirit, we're not just changing lives; we're uplifting communities and the world. Here in Colorado, we're proudly taking the lead in living out our baptismal covenant amid the realities of today. We're forging the Beloved Community, courageously addressing racial inequality, and working towards justice and healing. We're also embracing our responsibility to nurture and protect all of God's creation in the face of our changing climate. We're striving to create a loving and inclusive church, accepting all sexual orientations and gender identities. Together, we're helping individuals recognize their divine worth, find purpose, and see life's endless possibilities. We're crafting a sacred space at Cathedral Ridge, celebrating our young leaders, and creating unforgettable experiences for children, youth, young adults, and beyond.

With open hearts, we express our profound gratitude for our communal work and for the pledges from our congregations. As we wisely manage our shared resources and support our operating budget, we can engage, equip, and empower God's people to love and follow Jesus.

- This past year, we've done tremendous work in engaging, equipping, and empowering God's people to love and follow Jesus.
  - Our Formation Team continued to engage people of all ages in deepening their faith and living out their call to ministry. This included fall and spring Quest youth retreats for middle and high school students; taking a cohort of 19 individuals to the triennial Episcopal Youth Event in Baltimore; supporting 38 participants on YES mission trips to Kansas City; and reintroducing, post-COVID, three inspiring

Cathedral Ridge youth summer camps. Adult offerings included bimonthly hybrid Eucharistic Visitor trainings; Pastoral Leader formation for a new cohort of individuals called to this licensed lay ministry; Vestry 101; and Safe Church training (now online and in-person). The Episcopal Church in Colorado joined the Seminary of the Southwest's Iona Collaborative, gaining access to extensive course content, which is allowing the diocese to redesign its diaconal formation in new and creative ways. The formation team continued hosting events large and small, most notably clergy gathering and diocesan convention, and helped connect people and ministries across the diocese, aided by the diocesan church management system, Realm. The team continued resourcing and coming alongside churches wishing to engage in the "realities of today's communities" that churches have identified as key ministry areas for our diocese, as well as other ministry areas unique to individual churches. The team embraced the growing interest in the ancient, often transformative practice of pilgrimage, leading pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela and Iona Scotland, and consulting with individual churches and dioceses interested in crafting local or overseas pilgrimage experiences.

- Our Communications & Evangelism Office has expanded communications and administration resources through Caffeinated Church exponentially with over 36 workshops offered annually, serving more than 350 members, and planning its first annual conference in Denver, September 2024, for the wider Episcopal church in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA, Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church, the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains, and the Denver Presbytery. Canon Mike has also worked with many churches and spoken at several events on Evangelism, along with online workshops to help us learn about how we can be engaged beyond our walls out in our communities to build authentic relationships where Good News can be shared. Additionally, Canon Mike continues to serve as faculty for Project Resource; equipping stewardship teams with strategic training and flexible resources to design and execute annual stewardship campaigns which can be replicated and adapted in future years. Project Resource is dedicated to fostering cultural and systemic advancements around stewardship as a ministry in the Episcopal Church and as an offering of the College for Bishops.
- Our Administration team at the Office of the Bishop has worked diligently to resource administrators and church leaders. A great highlight was the administrators' retreat at Cathedral Ridge in April. Also this year, we navigated the new Colorado FAMILI law, the changing landscape of insurance and benefits for the Episcopal Church in Colorado, and began exploring the potential to offer payroll services diocese-wide with the Colorado Episcopal Foundation.
- In our Transition Office, the Rev. Canon Vanessa Stickler Glass has worked with countless churches as they call new clergy. She has also led many mutual ministry reviews and supported churches through financial hardship and ways to be creative in ministry leadership through the lay pastoral leader's process, strategic partnerships, and interim posts.

- The main purpose and mission of the “Multicultural Ministries” of The Episcopal Church in Colorado is to Fully Reflect the Richness and Unity of the Body of Christ by Welcoming and Embracing Each Person in their wholeness... [with their questions, complexities, ethnicity, culture and all], and by Assisting Congregations and Communities to become More Culturally Diverse and Truly Inclusive. The Missioner Rev. QC offers presentations to the Regions and Congregations, to create “Diversity Awareness of our Own Context” and also offers Basic Latino Competency Trainings and Empowerment of Latino Leaders.
- We are exploring a shared position of a Missioner for Social Justice & Advocacy with the Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA. This position will be equally funded between our two denominations, similar to the existing Missioner for Multicultural Ministries position. A group is submitting a grant request to the regions to fund this position until we can fully fund this position out of the diocesan budget, hopefully, this upcoming year.
- We are excited that the Rev. Canon Jon Anderson has joined the Office of the Bishop staff as the new Canon for Mission and Operations. Jon brings twenty years of parish experience and a strong business background, having worked in banking and finance before he was ordained a priest. As our Canon for Mission and Operations, he will weave together these two important aspects of his life and work.