

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Commission for Intercultural Ministries



Episcopal Church
Becoming Beloved Community

October 2021

***Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of
every human being?***

- The Baptismal Covenant, Book of Common Prayer, pages 304-305

[Wade in the Water](#) is among spiritual songs believed to have been sung to communicate secret code messages to escaping slaves. It warned them to flee dry land for the water, so the dogs and owners chasing them couldn't track their scent. Such songs are believed to have been used throughout the Underground Railroad — a secret network used by thousands of slaves to escape to freedom during the 19th century.

Stay safe, stay committed...and always know that you are beloved.

Miriam Casey, Co-chair, Commission for Intercultural Ministries (mlcasey7@yahoo.com)
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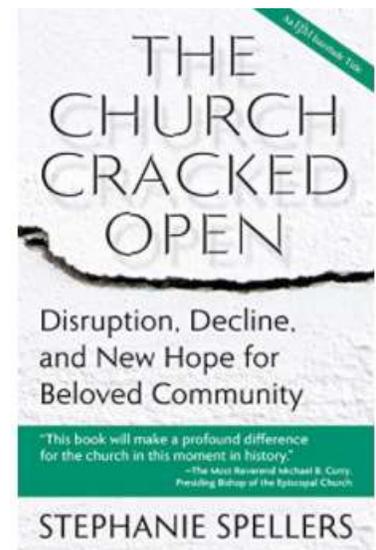
CANON SPELLERS TO LEAD PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP **Thursday, November 4, 2021, 4-6 pm**



The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Stewardship of Creation, and 2021 Convention keynote speaker, will lead a pre-convention workshop titled, *Systemic Racism and the People of God*, drawing upon the recent [Racial Justice Audit of Episcopal Leadership](#). Register for the free Zoom workshop and for the 2021 Diocesan Convention [here](#).

THE CHURCH CRACKED OPEN by Stephanie Spellers

Sometimes it takes disruption and loss to break us open and call us home to God. It's not surprising that a global pandemic and once-in-a-generation reckoning with white supremacy—on top of decades of systemic decline—have spurred Christians everywhere to ask who we are, why God placed us here and what difference that makes to the world. In this critical yet loving book, the author explores the American story and the Episcopal story to find out how communities steeped in racism, establishment, and privilege can at last fall in love with Jesus, walk humbly with the most vulnerable and embody beloved community in our own broken but beautiful way. *The Church Cracked Open* invites us to surrender privilege and redefine church, not just for the sake of others, but for our own salvation and liberation. (Description from Amazon)



RACIAL RECONCILIATION & BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



The Episcopal Church introduced its first issue of [Racial Reconciliation & Becoming Beloved Community Newsletter](#) on October 1, 2021. This newsletter is a wonderful resource for those interested in Episcopal racial justice and reconciliation work. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, please contact The Rev. Melanie Mullen, mmullen@episcopalchurch.org.

RACIAL JUSTICE AUDIT RESOLUTION

The Commission for Intercultural Ministries presented a [video](#) at the Diocesan Convocation on October 9 proposing a budgetary commitment to fund a racial justice audit of leadership beginning in 2023 in The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California. Town Halls are scheduled by the Diocese on Wednesday, October 13, 7-9 pm, and Saturday, October 16, 1-3 pm, for questions and comments for all of this year's resolutions, including the proposed audit. Look for more information in the Diocesan e-News.

I WILL, WITH GOD'S HELP: JOURNEY TOWARD RACIAL HEALING AND JUSTICE

The Commission for Intercultural Ministries has developed a one-day racial healing workshop titled, "I Will, With God's Help: Journey Toward Racial Healing and Justice." The workshop will be piloted later this year and official workshops will be scheduled to be presented throughout the Diocese in 2022. More information will be coming about the workshop and the training schedule.



BI-WEEKLY SACRED GROUND CIRCLE FORMING AT ST. JOHN'S, ROSEVILLE Beginning Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 7-9 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church in Roseville is sponsoring a Sacred Ground Circle via Zoom starting Wednesday, October 13, 2021. The Circle will meet at 7 pm every other week (with a short break for Thanksgiving and Christmas). All are welcome and scholarship assistance is available if help is needed for purchasing the books. Please contact the Rector, Fr. Cliff Haggengjos, at haggengjos@comcast.net.

KEEPING TRACK OF SACRED GROUND

Are you forming a Sacred Ground Circle? Let the Commission for Intercultural Ministries know by registering it here: <https://forms.gle/hriHCPKmLwjUHEyEA>

Are you interested in joining a Sacred Ground Circle? Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/G26EPxDzEFSpnsZW7>

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY WITHIN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Commission for Intercultural Ministries (CIM) has an overarching mission to support the development of the Beloved Community in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California. The Commission accomplishes this by working to build relationships between all people in the Diocese, focusing on fulfillment of our Baptismal Vows.

Within the Commission, there are several focus areas:

- Sacred Ground Circles
- I Will, With God's Help: Racial healing one-day workshop
- Latino/Hispanic Ministries
- Indigenous Ministries

- Advocacy
- Afghan Resettlement
- Racial Justice Audit

The CIM is seeking a part-time volunteer to manage registration and create/manage a registration database for future racial healing workshops planned for the Diocese in 2022. If you would like to learn more or if interested, please contact Miriam Casey, CIM Co-chair, mlcasey7@yahoo.com.

If you are feeling called to be more actively involved with the Diocesan efforts to build Beloved Community in your community, we hope you will reach out to us. We can help you to discern where your gifts might connect with the needs.

God bless,

Lynn Zender, Co-Chair, Commission for Intercultural Ministries
(ZenderLynn@gmail.com)

Miriam Casey, Co-Chair, Commission for Intercultural Ministries
(mlcasey7@yahoo.com)

HOW CAN WE HELP AFGHAN REFUGEES?

Sacramento is home to one of the largest Afghan Communities in the US. Several thousand new Refugees are expected to arrive in the area in the months to come. The Commission for Intercultural Ministries launched the Diocese's Afghan Resettling Team in September. Energy abounds in our Diocese to warmly welcome our new Afghan neighbors and help them resettle into their new homes.

The Team is partnering with local non-profit agencies to coordinate the needs of the Refugees with the resources available from churches and individuals in the Diocese. In addition, the Center at St. Matthew's Episcopal continues to provide food, English as a Second Language (ESL) education, and immigration Legal services for current and newly arriving Afghans.

There are many ways You Can Help meet these needs and provide a loving, warm welcome to our new Afghan neighbors. Check the updated [WAYS to HELP](#) flyer for information and links to donate and volunteer.

Please contact Bob Wohlsen, bob.wohlsen@gmail.com, Team Volunteer and Donor Coordinator, for more information about Ways to Help.

HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRIES TOOLKITS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Your Latino/Hispanic Ministries Task force has been busy developing toolkits for three different services in the coming months. We invite you to use what we have developed and edit them to fit your needs.

Toolkits are available at the links below and in the Commission for Intercultural Ministries section on the Diocesan website to congregations that would like to hold celebrations for any of the following holidays:

- [Dia de los Muertos Toolkit](#) (All Saints Sunday, November 7, 2021)
- [Pastorela Navideña Toolkit](#) (Christmas Pageant)
- [Via Crucis Toolkit](#) (Way of the Cross Lenten tradition)

Please let us know if there are other ways we can help as we work together to better serve this important community. Please contact Lynn Zender at ZenderLynn@gmail.com if you have any ideas or thoughts about this.

BECOMING A BELOVED COMMUNITY – SCHOOLS SEPTEMBER 27, 2021: AN UPDATE

By Laurie Boone Hogen
Lauriehogen@gmail.com

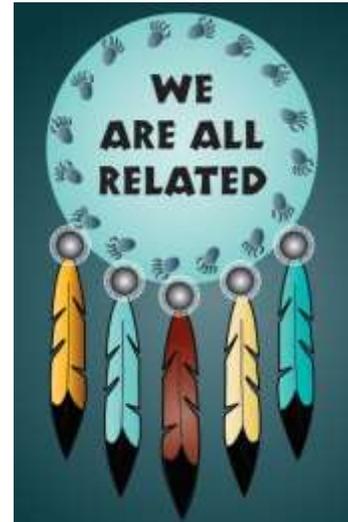


The mission of Becoming a Beloved Community-Schools (BBC-Schools) is to establish a long-term commitment of advocacy for social justice rooted in “Love Your Neighbor.” This supports the education and well-being of our most vulnerable children in our two neighborhood elementary schools: Dunbar School in Glen Ellen and Kenwood School in Kenwood. Read more at this [link](#).



BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND BEYOND

The Commission for Intercultural Ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California received a grant from The Episcopal Church Becoming Beloved Community ministry to fund a project to guide two congregations to build meaningful relationships with their Native neighbors and to develop Land Acknowledgments for the land upon which the churches are located.



The two churches engaged with this project are Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento and Church of the Incarnation in Santa Rosa. Redbud Resource Group, a Santa Rosa-based and Native-owned consulting firm, has developed a toolkit for working with organizations to develop meaningful relationships between the organizations and local Native communities. Focusing initially on developing Land Acknowledgments, these relationships are steppingstones toward deeper relationships that address larger concerns about equity for the Native community. The participant congregations will be guided by Redbud Resource Group through a process of (1) assessing their readiness for the work of Land Acknowledgment and developing a relationship with local Native communities, (2) developing a plan for engaging with members of the local Native community and for crafting a Land Acknowledgment, and (3) developing a relationship with members of local Native communities and actually crafting the Land Acknowledgment. The Indigenous Missioner for the Diocese and members of the Commission for Intercultural Ministries will also work with the congregations and Redbud to ensure a smooth process and effective communication to the rest of the Diocese.

The project is anticipated to unfold over six months commencing in the fall of 2021. During this period, there will be four meetings involving the church-based teams and the Redbud consulting team. Members of the local Native communities will be brought into the process once the church teams have completed the self-assessment process and preparation for entering into relationship with their Native neighbors.

Our hope is that the process used for this project will be a model for other congregations in the diocese to use to establish relationships with their Native neighbors and to develop Land Acknowledgments.

For more information about the project, contact The Rev. Canon Tina Campbell, Missioner for Indigenous Ministries (Tcampbell@trinitycathedral.org), or Miriam Casey (mlcasey7@yahoo.com).

**VINCENT CHIN'S FAMILY NEVER GOT THE JUSTICE THEY WANTED.
BUT HIS CASE CHANGED THINGS FOR THOSE WHO CAME AFTER HIM.**



Although Vincent Chin is largely forgotten, his death galvanized Asian Americans into activism. Watch this [video](#) about the incident and reflections about his racist, violent death and the injustice of the sentencing, and how his death has relevance today. Read this [article](#) from CNN's *History Refocused* about Asian Americans' fight for accountability and how his case led to change and inspired a movement for justice in the Asian American community.

CAN POLICING BE FIXED?
Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 3-6 pm PT

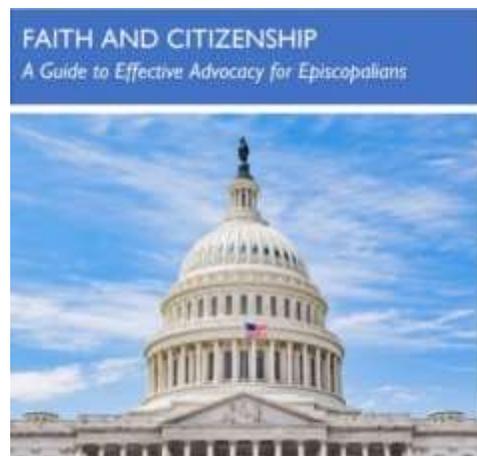
The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing will host a virtual workshop on the topic, "Can Policing be Fixed?" As a former patrol officer in one of the poorest and most crime-ridden communities in our nation, Washington DC, Dr. Rosa Brooks will present a revelatory account of what it's like inside the "Blue wall of silence," and the urgent need for police reform. Register [here](#) for a powerful and enlightening conversation about the state of our nation's law enforcement agencies.

CALIFORNIA MAKES ETHNIC STUDIES A HIGH SCHOOL REQUIREMENT

Governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill on October 8 that makes California among the first in the nation to list ethnic studies as a graduation requirement for all public high school students beginning 2029-2030. Read more [here](#) from *KCRA 3*.

FAITH AND CITIZENSHIP
A GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY FOR EPISCOPALIANS

Episcopalians advocate for better policies and laws that can help us all live in a more just and compassionate world. The [Faith and Citizenship Guide](#) from the Office of Government Relations is focused on engaging the government, and how the work of advocacy can help to bring about systemic change that will bring us closer to God's kingdom. Our hope is to help you to gain a better understanding of how to build relationships with government officials and how to make calls for justice more concrete by pushing for particular laws and policies. This guide seeks to help you fulfill your baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace.



ACTION ALERTS

As followers of Jesus, we are called to follow the way of love that Jesus teaches us, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We understand that the laws enacted at the federal and state levels impact the systems that operate within our communities. They either contribute to building just systems and the Beloved Community, or they diminish justice and equity within societal systems. As people of faith, we have an opportunity to advocate for laws that are just and help to build the Beloved Community.

The action alerts provided below are supported by the General Convention and/or the Executive Committee. Please review these action alerts and consider submitting a letter to elected officials encouraging them to support legislation that builds justice and the Beloved Community.

TAKE ACTION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY. Support the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act and legislation to designate Indigenous Peoples' Day as a legal public holiday and replace the term "Columbus Day" with the term "Indigenous Peoples' Day." [Action Alerts – The Episcopal Church](#)

URGE CONGRESS TO PROVIDE RESOURCES TO WELCOME OUR AFGHAN ALLIES. We need legislation to address the shortfall in funds to resettle our Afghan allies, to provide benefits, and to open pathways to citizenships. As a Church based on welcoming the stranger in dire situations, we know that Congress can step up to the challenge of helping our communities receive individuals who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our troops and their families. [Action Alerts – The Episcopal Church](#)

ASK CONGRESS TO ENACT SENTENCING REFORM. The EQUAL Act, which passed the House with incredible bipartisan support, will help fill a gap other sentencing reform efforts have missed by ending the federal prison sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine offenses and apply this change retroactively. This is crucial as we reform sentencing policies, end mass incarceration, and eliminate racial inequalities that significantly impact Black Americans. [Action Alerts – The Episcopal Church](#)

TELL CONGRESS TO SUPPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS. This vital legislation extends authorization for several successful federal anti-human trafficking grants and programs. It also creates new programs and strengthens the law to prevent trafficking, protect survivors, and prosecute perpetrators. [Action Alerts – The Episcopal Church](#)

TELL CONGRESS TO PRIORITIZE PROTECTIONS FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE.

COVID-19 exacerbated a range of societal inequities. Urge Congress to include several high-priority items that will offer protections for low-income people and vulnerable children and that will help ensure we have a safety net for those who do not have resources to care for themselves and their loved ones [Action Alerts – The Episcopal Church](#)

URGE CONGRESS TO PASS AMBITIOUS CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION!

We call on Members of Congress to ensure that the [Build Back Better budget reconciliation](#) includes provisions to support dramatic emissions reductions, a rapid transition clean energy, and intentional investment in disadvantaged and marginalized communities who suffer disproportionately from the effects of climate change. [Action Alerts – The Episcopal Church](#)

URGE CONGRESS TO INCREASE REVENUES TO FINANCE HUMAN NEEDS.

Support increasing revenue to promote tax fairness and fund vital proposals to provide supports for low-income Americans and vulnerable children. Income and wealth inequality have soared in this country in recent decades that lessen the tax burden on the wealthy. We urge lawmakers to use this opportunity to increase progressivity in the tax code and reduce income and wealth inequality. [Action Alerts – The Episcopal Church](#)