



# DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

News for the week of April 27, 2021

## From the Wider Church



### Imagine! God's Earth and People Restored

The event occurred the week of Earth Day (April 18-21, 2021) and the focus of this year's advocacy event was restoration of God's earth and people. The Episcopal Church was a sponsor for the Ecumenical Advocacy Days. Presiding Bishop Curry preached at the opening worship service. The Episcopal Office of Government Relations was heavily involved in the planning and facilitation of the 4-day event.

The annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) brings together Christians from many religious groups, to learn about major issues facing our country and the world, and to present to members of Congress a set of legislative and funding actions that would address these issues. This year there were domestic and international "asks" that address climate change with special attention to the unjust impact on those who are disproportionately impacted by climate change, communities in our country and around the world.

Read more about the Ecumenical Advocacy Days Reflection by Miriam Casey [here](#).

Click [here](#) for how you can help.

## From the Office of the Bishop

### Welcome to Alan Rellafor, our new Missioner for Communications

Alan has been working since August of 2020 as a communication consultant, working on the diocese brand



identity, conducting a communication survey and listening sessions, and co-managing the 2020 diocesan convention.

In this role, he is responsible for:

- **Digital Evangelism** – Working with parishes and deaneries to strengthen communication networks, in particular, using media that improves connection across our geographically and demographically diverse diocese.
- **Communication Strategy** – Collaborating with the Bishop and staff of the Office of the Bishop, the Diocesan Communication Committee, and other stakeholders in developing key messages regarding the diocese and its ministries
  - Managing the diocesan website, e-communications, and social media
  - Managing the brand presence of the diocese
  - Seeking, listening and responding to the needs of the diocese in order to build a sense of communication and trust

Alan Rellaford is an award-winning graphic designer, event director and communication strategist with decades of experience in consulting and in-house settings. Read more about Alan [here](#).

## From the Episcopal Service Corps

**Episcopal Service Corps** is having their final Open House of the year on Tuesday, May 4th. If you're a young adult between 21 and 32 years of age, join ESC program directors and Corps members for an online Open House, May 4 at 8 pm Eastern/7 pm Central/6 pm Mountain/5 pm Pacific.



During the hour you'll have a chance to talk to ESC alumni and current Corps members, find out what it's like to serve through ESC, and ask any questions you may have.

[Registration](#) is required.

Ready to apply today? Use this [link](#).

## Diocesan-wide Sacred Ground Circle



### Why Attend a Sacred Ground Circle?

**For the Episcopal Church, Becoming Beloved Community** is a vision for a community where we grow in our love of God, our neighbors and creation. A labyrinth with four quadrants has been developed to illustrate the journey toward Becoming Beloved Community.

The first quadrant of the labyrinth is about our Baptismal vow to "*persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin,*

*repent and return to the Lord.”* The first step in repenting and turning away from racism is to learn and tell the truth about it. One way to do this work is through learning and communicating in **Sacred Ground Circles**.

Sacred Ground is a 10-part discussion about race, grounded in faith. Participants are invited to view selected videos and read books and articles about Indigenous, Black, Latino and Asian/Pacific American histories and how they intersect with European-American accounts.

The materials also examine the church’s evolving teachings on race relations. Participants come together in small groups, aka dialogue circles, to reflect on what they have learned and how it fits with their own family stories, identities, and experiences.

There will be two Sacred Ground opportunities hosted online:

- Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. beginning May 10 hosted by [Paul Mallatt](#) from Incarnation, Santa Rosa and [Deacon Kate Sefton](#) from St. Stephen’s, Sebastopol.
- Thursday afternoons 1:00 p.m. beginning May 13, hosted by social justice advocate [Bob Wohlsen](#) and Spiritual Director/educator [Sharron Simpson](#)

If you are interested in joining, email [Deacon Kate Sefton](#) or [Bob Wohlsen](#).

## Grant Opportunities



**The Episcopal Foundation of Northern California** has joyfully committed to award \$100,000 in grants to churches and missions throughout our Diocese in 2021!

Supporting the Diocesan mission of making disciples, raising up saints, and transforming communities for Christ, the Foundation will endeavor to enhance ministry and outreach in the Diocese in five general categories:

- Evangelism
- Education
- Technology
- Homelessness Relief
- Food Insecurity

The application period is from April 1, 2021 – June 1, 2021. Click [here](#) to download an application.

To submit an application, or if you have questions, please [email Michelle Karimi](#).

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The Episcopal Foundation of Northern California is continuing the **Mustard Seed grant program** for 2021!

**Mustard Seed** grants  
*“moving mountains”*

*Mustard Seed* grants are grants of \$500 to promote and support grass-roots

ministries at the congregation level in our Diocese.

- Available to parishes, missions, and other Episcopal organizations in the Diocese
- Linking small, creative ministries to resources: a little help in the right place at the right time in the right hands can eventually move mountains

The application period is from April 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021; grants will be awarded throughout the year. Click [here](#) to download an application.

To submit an application, or if you have questions, please email [Michelle Karimi](mailto:Michelle.Karimi@norcal.episcopal.org).

## Additional Resources and Links

In addition to the ongoing financial aid program the **Fund for the Diaconate** has been assisting deacons -- working, retired, or disabled -- who have insufficient funds for their needs. The Fund is unique in its mission of service to deacons by deacons. The Fund for the Diaconate of the Episcopal Church has created a special Emergency Grant Program, to aid deacons affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.



For more information visit the [website here](#).

Episcopal Relief & Development offers a [new digital prayer tool](#), bringing together prayers from many sources and the opportunity to share prayers with others.



[Online resources for people in recovery](#)

To submit news/events, please email [communications@norcalepiscopal.org](mailto:communications@norcalepiscopal.org). The submission deadline is the Wednesday before the Tuesday publication.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
*Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints & Transforming Communities for Christ*  
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