



# DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

News for the week of September 22, 2020

## Virtual Visitation at St. Alban's, Arcata



The Very Rev. Sara Potter



Bishop Megan Traquair

Worshipping together as community in the heart of the redwoods, Bishop Megan Traquair and Rev. Sara Potter, with Rev. Cindy Woods, Rev. Nancy Streufert, Dan Scofield, Rick Timmons, and Nanette Voss held a seamless, completely Zoom worship with beautiful messages and singing.

Thank you St. Alban's for your Zoom orchestration and your hospitality.

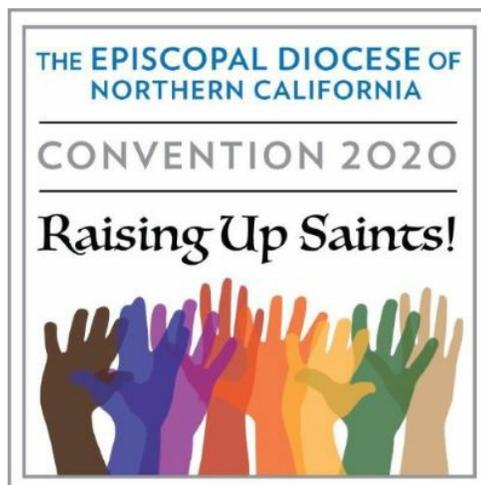
View the service [here](#).

## Diocesan Convention Registration

### Now open for everyone!

New this year, we are inviting all members of the diocese to attend the virtual convention. When you register you will be able to participate in one of the four dynamic learning tracks as well as attend the general sessions.

[For more information click here](#)



# Convention Spotlight

## Living into our Baptism: Ancient/Future Formation for Baptismal Living

**Presenter: Rev. Bryon Hansen**

With the pandemic, fires, racial inequality, and other stresses our life is filled with primary questions: Is there a God? Does God know or love me? What does the saving life of Jesus mean for me and for my community? What shall be my practice of faith? We have deeper and more urgent questions than belong in a newcomers class.

In the early church, seekers faced the same questions and found them answered in an encounter with Jesus Christ through the church community. They met in small groups, studied scripture and discovered the hand of God in each other's lives. They served, worshipped and were mentored in the slow, powerful growth where God claims us, and we claim the Living God as our own.

The practice of Baptismal Living or the Catechumenal process, is an open door; it welcomes the work of the Holy Spirit consciously into the lives of new and long-term members. Lives are changed, communities are transformed and neighborhoods are helped. It works well in every size of church.

The process is drawn from the ancient pattern of formation and can lead to Baptism, Confirmation or Reaffirmation. It is for any person who is finding or returning to a relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Millennials respond the depth of the practice, and seniors rejoice to find God has purpose and relationship for them still.

Come and see what this life and the practice of Baptismal Living could mean for yourself and your church. Pastor Bryon Hansen, from Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle will share his wisdom, practice and hope with us.

*"Being a community of practice—of the baptismal life—can be the spiritual and emotional glue that holds us together as we become the Beloved Community, which has got to be one our primary aims." Bishop Megan Traquair*

## Administration & Finance

**The Episcopal Church Medical Trust**

## 2021 Open Enrollment Process is Coming Soon!

### 2021 Active Employee Open Enrollment

October 28 - November 18, 2020

### 2021 Pre-65 Retiree Open Enrollment

October 28 - November 18, 2020

### 2021 Post-65 Retiree Open Enrollment

October 15 - December 7, 2020\*

*\* Dates are estimated; final dates will match Medicare Open Enrollment period once announced*

\*\*\*

More information on 2021 Open Enrollment coming soon.  
Please contact [benefits@norcalepiscopal.org](mailto:benefits@norcalepiscopal.org) with any questions.

## Disaster Relief Assistance

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

**Isaiah 43:2**



In our diocese there are four main fires that have burned over 1,600,000 acres. These fires have impacted 28 churches and three parishioners have lost their homes.

In addition to prayer, if you would like to reach out a helping hand, here is how to donate to disaster relief:

### **Bishop's Discretionary Fund: Disaster Relief**

100% of your donation will go directly to assist victims in the first stage of the disaster and later during long term recovery.

To donate to disaster relief, click [here](#) now.

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=159790&f=6&a=20.00>

Please make checks out to EDNC put "Disaster Relief" in the memo line.

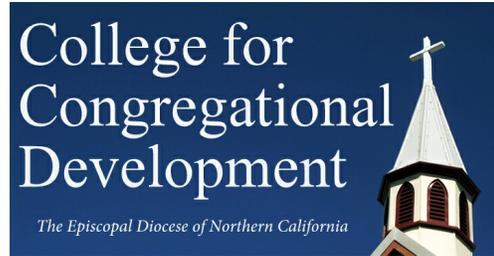
Mail checks to:  
The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California  
350 University Avenue, Suite 280  
Sacramento, CA 95825

## Resources and Links

### The College for Congregational Development Update

The College for Congregational Development will be going online.

Dates to be announced soon. Watch for more information.



### The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego Presents The Border Ministries Summit 2020

The focus will be on Christian Peacemaking in a World of Conflict. The summit will be presented virtually on November 20 & 21.

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

### Episcopal Latino Ministry Competency Course

Registration is now open for the next two sessions of the Virtual Episcopal Latino Ministry Competency Course (VELMC), an innovative five-day intensive course designed for diocesan staff, clergy, lay leaders, and seminarians to gain practical knowledge and cultural competency for Latino/Hispanic ministry.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### New Community 2020 Virtual Conference

The world has become aware of the “systemic inequalities and disparities” that have plagued our society for hundreds of years. Issues surrounding unequal justice practices, a “different” justice system for people of color, and lack of fair opportunities is now a conversation that America is having.

Register for this conference to join in conversations about:

- the unique community of Navajoland and the international support they have received
- demonstrations demanding police reform and systemic overhaul of our justice system with accountability
- the “new reality”: how will this change our marginalized congregations?
- maintaining mental health amidst the grief and loss due to Covid-19 and the present racial climate

- What is reconciliation, rebuilding, and resurrection going to look like?

For more information, please click [here](#).

---

## Building Intentional Small Groups

Many churches in our diocese are having small group meetings. If you would like more information on further developing or starting to use small groups in your church. The Episcopal Church has resources for creating an intentional small group ministry in your congregation. Click [here](#) for more information.



### ELECTION RESOURCES for your church

[Resources from The Episcopal Church](#)

[Vote: Then Sing - Election Day broadcast from SING: The Center for Congregational Song.](#)

[Five ways to faithfully address elections.](#)

[Vote Faithfully: Toolkit for Churches](#)

---

[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*  
[www.norcalepiscopal.org](http://www.norcalepiscopal.org)



