



SHAPED BY FAITH

Shaped by Faith Annual Report Convention 2021

Since our last Diocesan Convention, we have held 35 regional gatherings of Shaped by Faith teams throughout our Diocese; 32 of these have been held on ZOOM. This has been augmented with many parish team ZOOM sessions; a quick review of my ZOOM account showed 93 meetings over the last year. I am daily grateful for the tenacity and resilience of our team members as we have worked to mold our program around the restrictions and realities of this pandemic. We have been blessed to have several faithful leaders helping “shape the shape” of this initiative:

The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, *Bishop*

The Rev. Canon Chris Streeter, *Canon for Mission Development & Innovation*

The Rev. Canon Dan Morrow, *Canon for Congregational Life & Mission*

Canon Chad Linder, *Canon for Finance & Operations*

Amy Swiernik, *Experienced Lay Leader*

Congratulations to our Northern Tier team members; they are the first to complete the intensive work phase of Shaped by Faith! On September 1, 2021, they called a Northern Tier Regional Missioner to provide sacramental care to multiple parishes, and to oversee collaborative mission throughout the region. I am grateful to **The Rev. Janis Yskamp** for answering this call, and for the energy and excitement she has already brought to this new role. I had the chance to join the first Northern Tier Regional Council meeting last month, and look forward to the new ways ministry and mission are happening in that part of our Diocese. Other projects taking shape include reconfiguration of regions into intentional clusters with shared leadership; the calling of a youth minister with regional, rather than parochial, focus; partnering with a local non-profit; and intentional sharing of programmatic resources.

There is still more work to do, and I look forward to engaging with regions in the coming months, discerning and refining projects and encouraging experimentation, mindful of the myriad of ways we have already broken away from the resisting force of continuing to do things *the way we have always done them around here!*

An array of resources, including congregational development and mission configuration models, have been shared to help shape this work. All of the materials presented, along with multiple videos and webinars, can be found on the Shaped by Faith section of our Diocesan website. Please refer to our website for additional information regarding the shape and scope of our program: <http://www.diocesepa.org/shapedbyfaith>

While the intensive work of focusing on **Identity and Mission**, leading to the **Design** of a new, regional shape continues, we have been working diligently to ensure that the structure and resources are in place to help **implement** these projects. At our recent Council of Trustees meeting, I shared our vision for this next phase of our work:



SHAPED BY FAITH *Implementation Commission*
Description (Draft)

PURPOSE

The Shaped by Faith Implementation Commission supports the ongoing work in our Diocese to increase strength and vitality through regional projects. The Commission will request updates of current projects and review renewal applications for continued funding (annually).

COMPOSITION

The Shaped by Faith Implementation Commission will be comprised of 10 members:

- 1 Leader from each of our seven Diocesan regions (Lay or Clergy)
- 1 Member of COT
- 1 Member of Finance Committee
- Shaped by Faith Program Director (Convenor)

PROCESS

The Commission will meet with representatives from each region at least twice annually:

MEETING #1: PROGRESS SESSION

The Commission will initiate a progress session with each region approximately six months after a regional project has begun. Goals and metrics will be reviewed and, if needed, amended. A progress summary will be requested from the regional team in advance of this session.

MEETING #2: RENEWAL APPLICATION SESSION

The Commission will require a renewal application be submitted to secure funding and continue the project. **Grant applications may only seek funding for a 12 month period.** Goals and metrics will be reviewed and, if needed, amended. The Commission will make a funding level recommendation for each project.

We are currently recruiting leaders from each region to help serve on this new Implementation Commission. If you are interested in serving, please reach out to me or any other member of our SbF Leadership team.

Projects will be assessed each year by the Commission to provide feedback and grant funding for continuation. Project leaders will provide reflection on the status of their experiment:



SHAPED BY FAITH

***Regional Project
Implementation Application (Draft)***

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Diocesan Region:

Participating Parishes:

Primary Contact(s):

DESCRIPTION OF THE SHAPED BY FAITH PROJECT

(Please provide an approximately 300-word response to each question below.)

1. Please tell us about the project you seek to implement in your region.
2. What does this project hope to achieve?
3. How does this project adhere to our Shaped by Faith Guiding Values (discovery, experimentation, creativity & collaboration)?
4. What goals do you have for the next 12 months? Consider using SMART analysis (*specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound*) in your discernment.
5. How will success be measured? What metrics (qualitative and quantitative) might aid you in gauging progress?
6. What, if any, challenges might you encounter as you implement this project?
7. What is the anticipated timeline? What additional funding needs do you anticipate? Please provide a budget for this project.

SIGNATURES

Rector(s) or Priest(s)-in-Charge of collaborating parishes:

Senior Warden(s) of collaborating parishes:

Date:

Our regional work has been supplemented and enhanced with course offerings through our Stevenson School for Ministry. These courses are offered on a voucher system at no cost to Shaped by Faith parish team members. Topics have ranged from Stewardship and Parish Administration to Evangelism and Conflict Transformation. Special thanks to **The Very Rev. Robyn Szoke-Coolidge**, Dean of the Stevenson School for Ministry for her support of this work. As we begin to shift into the implementation phase of our work, I look forward to working with our new Dean to craft formation offerings that will provide support for our regional experiments.

COVID-19 required the cancellation of a Diocesan-wide in-person event concentrated around sharing our common stories. Instead, we held a series of webinars featuring practitioners from across our Diocese. Special thanks to **Carolyn Joy Patterson and Debbie Robelen** for their leadership and energy with this component of our Shaped by Faith program. Resources from these webinars can be found on our Diocesan website.

Finally, a note of thanks to you, especially those in our Diocese who held the challenges of this initiative alongside the challenges of pandemic leadership. I have said on several occasions that we knew this work would be hard; we did not know that we would be doing this work while responding to the disruption of COVID-19. Nothing about this year went as planned. At times, I wondered if we should hit the pause button on this program. Through it all, thanks be to God, we have been blessed with a visionary, faithful and dedicated leader who knew this work was too important to put to the side. Thank you, **Bishop Scanlan**, for your tireless advocacy of this initiative, and for the love and care you model to our Diocese. It is a blessing to join you in reshaping our beloved community.

Faithfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Christopher M. Streeter
Canon for Mission Development & Innovation