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# News from the College for Congregational Development

DIOCESE OF  
ROCHESTER



May 2024



## Register NOW for the 8th Year of the College in Rochester

It's hard to believe that 7 years have passed since the first summer of the College for Congregational Development, in 2016.

Back then, we were just learning how this new curriculum out of the Diocese of Olympia could help our parishes grow more fully into who Christ wants us to be.

Since then, our College and our participation has grown tremendously. Who are we? We are everyone from small, rural congregations, mid-sized churches, and large, urban parishes and cathedrals. Our congregations have music programs, preachers, soaring buildings, crumbling buildings, websites, children, chaplains, old folks, problems, conflicts, challenges, new ideas, old habits, hope, fear, love, labor, and life.

We remember our past and wonder about our future. We have a few regrets,

but we've learned a few things too. We want our spiritual communities to be healthy, vibrant, and expressive of our unique identities. We gather to learn, connect, and return home with new energy and skills to effectively lead the communities we love.

If you haven't attended the College before, or if you're new in leadership, or looking for a spark, this is the program for you!

This summer's dates are Sunday July 28-Friday August 2. The fee is \$950 for a team of up to three from the Diocese of Rochester, and \$950 per person for those from outside the Diocese.

I can't wait to see you there!  
Blessings,

*Virginia Tyler Smith*

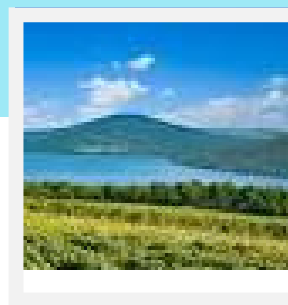
**Join us at Notre Dame Retreat House on beautiful  
Canandaigua Lake this summer!**

## Who should attend the College for Congregational Development?

The College is for clergy and lay leaders of parishes in the any Diocese.

Lay leaders may be elected leaders such as Vestry members or can be people who lead in more informal ways.

Those enrolling in the College should be willing to undertake the demands of a two-year program that includes attendance at all sessions, readings and assignments and back-home projects.





...being small; being in a remote location; being an older congregation doesn't mean you're at the end of your life; it means that this is an opportunity for something amazing to happen.

**The Rev. Canon Alissa Newton**

## Format and Design

The program will draw on a) organization development theory and practice, b) congregational development theory and practice, c) theory and practice related to healthy, responsive leadership and ) current and traditional understandings of Anglican/Episcopal ethos, culture, spirituality and ways of being the church today.

The training will consist of readings, presentations, experiential exercises, application activities, and back-home projects and will be offered in two formats:

- Six 1-day sessions for each of two consecutive years, or
- Two seven-day intensive sessions over two consecutive summers.

We continually update the content of the curriculum and our format for teaching. Come see what is new! Send another team, if it's been a few years. Come see what the College can do for you!

**SUMMER INTENSIVE DATES: July 28-August 2, 2024**  
**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FALL AND SPRING DATES**

## Meet Some of the Team!

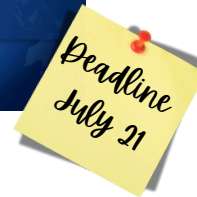


**The Rev. Canon Ivar Hillesland** will be leading our College this summer. Ivar is the national Director of the College for Congregational Development, and will be helping Virginia learn the ropes of directing the College with new curriculum.



The **Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith** is the Officer for Transitions and Congregational Development in the Diocese of Rochester. This will be her eighth time teaching in the College. She never grows tired of markers and newsprint!

**The Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew** is the Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Rhode Island. She is a longstanding trainer in Rochester, and we are thrilled to welcome her back!



Please send an email to the Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith at [transitions@episcopaldioceseofrochester.org](mailto:transitions@episcopaldioceseofrochester.org)

Include the names of your attendees, whether they are clergy or lay, any dietary restrictions or preferences, and mobility/learning needs

The Diocese will then invoice your parish for your team's fees. Fees include room, board and program registration.

The program will take place at Notre Dame Retreat House, 5151 Foster Road, Canandaigua, NY

- Parishes within the Diocese of Rochester--\$950
- Per person outside of the Diocese of Rochester \$950

**Questions? Call Virginia at 585-315-6604**