

Thriving in the COVID World Task Force

Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Bishop Singh appointed members across our Diocese to form a task force that's providing guidelines and support in the following mission statement:

1. To help with pastoral re-entry, in slow motion, to in-person worship.
2. To help nurture and sustain our emergent liturgical and sacramental life.
3. To help nurture and sustain the relational oneness and health of our Diocese as well as offer overall strategic advice.

To directly support this mission statement, the task force is divided into three sub-committees. Here is a quick look at who is serving on each. We are *grateful* for their time, thoroughness, and care!

Group 1 – Regathering



The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Young / Chair. Ron began his service as Assistant Rector at Christ Church in April 2014 and in September 2019 became the Priest in Charge. Ron was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. In the 1990s he began to explore his calling to ministry and received a Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School. In 2002 he began doctoral study at the General Theological Seminary with a focus on the history of the Episcopal Church. Ron received his Doctor of Theology degree in 2009. Prior to his call at Christ Church, Ron was an adjunct professor of Church History at the General Theological Seminary in New York and served as a lay assistant in Saint Peter's Church, Essex Fells for 5 years. He was ordained in the Diocese of Newark and continued to serve Saint Peter's until his call to Christ Church. Ron enjoys travel, sailing, fishing, kayaking, cooking and entertaining, and antiquing. ronald@christchurchpittsford.com



Dr. Max Whelan has been the Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Rochester and Highland Hospital for over twenty years. Max is a long-standing member of St. Peter's, Geneva, is married to Joanna, and is a father and grandfather.



Mr. Drew Guild is the Warden, St. John's of Catharine. Drew has 38 years in the broadcast industry. He's past VP Marketing of Tourism and Members of the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce, along with Industrial and Insurance marketing. A beautiful Episcopalian got Drew off the porch, and now he's trying to grow a 210-year heritage in rural ministry.



Ms. Liz Salamone has served as the Director of Children's Education at Christ Church, Pittsford since May 2017. A Rochester native, Liz was an insurance actuary before returning to the area with her husband to raise their two sons. Liz enjoys volunteering with the Pittsford PTSA and other school organizations and is treasurer of Pittsford United Nursery School. She looks forward to traveling with her family post-COVID.

Group 2 - Liturgy and Sacramental Life



Rev. Nita Byrd / Chair. Nita is the Chaplain and Dean for Spiritual Engagement at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Nita joined the Colleges from Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, N.C. As chaplain there since 2012, she was responsible for campus religious life, from planning services to student programming to pastoral care. In addition to her duties as Religious Studies Program Director at St. Augustine's, she served on the faculty and as a member of the president's cabinet and the university's advancement team. BYRD@hws.edu



The Very Rev. William O. Daniel, Jr., (Ph.D. University of Nottingham) is the rector of St. Michael's Church, Dean for Liturgy and Formation in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, and adjunct professor of humanities at SUNY Geneseo, in Geneseo, New York. He is the author of [*Christ the Liturgy*](#), (Angelico Press, 2020) [*Inhabited by Grace*](#) (Church Publishing, Inc., 2019), various works of poetry and social commentary, and is a roaster of coffee. You can follow Fr. Daniel at www.williamdaniel.info.



The Rev. Joshua Barrett is the Pastoral Leader at Church of the Redeemer, Addison, and Pastoral Associate at Christ Church, Corning. Josh will be Ordained as a priest in August 2020.



The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff is the priest/church planter at South Wedge Mission, an ecumenical new parish start in collaboration with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In addition to traversing the diocese as a supply clergy, Matthew has previously served as transitional priest at St Stephen's (Rochester). He currently serves on Rochester's inaugural Police Accountability Board.

Group 3 – Reimagining the Church



Ms. Julie Syracuse / chair. I am currently a warden at St. Johns, Sodus and Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council. I have worked in business intelligence for the wine and spirits industry, most of my career. I am currently working on a bachelor's in biblical studies. In my spare time, you will find me on the golf course or out on the bay enjoying social distancing by boat. juleycuse@gmail.com



Ms. Joan Phillips is currently the senior Warden at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Henrietta, where she has been attending since 1978 with her family. Joan retired from the nursing profession over 13 years ago, from what is now Rochester Regional hospital, after serving as the director of Psychiatric services to older adults, children and youth.



The Rev. Keisha Stokes is a transitional deacon and May 2020 graduate of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. She has been serving as an intern at Trinity, Greece since December. Prior to seminary, Keisha was an elementary school teacher and during seminary she also coached track and cross country. She has been doing youth ministry in our diocese for ten years. Keisha has enjoyed working with the Reimagining Church sub-committee as the group

explores what the church of the future has to offer, and she is excited about the possibilities.



The Rev. Richard Hamlin is a retired parish priest. He was ordained in our Diocese 45 years ago. Rick first began the Episcopal Team Ministry in Allegany County. After serving in parishes throughout New York, he retired from his last parish in Miami, Fl. Rick and his wife returned to their home in Allegany County where he serves as Permanent Supply Priest in the Angelica and Cuba parishes.



Mr. Floyd Bayley is a lifelong member of the Anglican & Episcopal church. Floyd is a retired Principal Electrical Engineer. He's been a member of St. Paul's, Rochester for over 30 years. Over that period of time, Floyd has served on the Vestry, Outreach Council, Long Range Planning Committee, and Stephen Ministry. He currently serves on Diocesan Council, is co-chair of the Congregational Development Partnership Committee, and is co-chair of the education committee of the Diocese "Racial Reconciliation Healing and Justice Initiative." Floyd previously served on Diocesan Commission on Ministry.



Rev. Dr. Steve Robb is a recently retired family practitioner, now living in Bradenton, Florida. Steve serves as a deacon for Foreign Missions for the Diocese of Rochester. He has been married to his wife Sally for the past 45 years, and they have two sons, Andy and Dan. Steve write Christian music, loves golf, has two Frenchie's and just finished building two schools in Costa Rica. He's awaiting his next mission trip when COVID-19 is past. Pura Vida!



Ms. Amanda Dwyer is a member of Christ Church Pittsford. She serves on the Vestry and has served as a reader, Sunday School teacher and has been a member of the Annual Giving and Outreach Committees. Amanda is an attorney with Harris Beach PLLC, where she focuses her practice on corporate and securities law. In her spare time, Amanda enjoys tennis, birdwatching and hiking with her husband and two young sons.



Dr. Carl D'Angio is a member of St. Peter's, Henrietta. He is Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Humanities & Bioethics, and Chief of the Division of Neonatology at the University of Rochester Medical Center.



Rev. Cameron Miller is the rector of Trinity Place, Geneva, NY. He has served family, pastoral, program, and corporate size congregations in urban, university, and rural settings for forty years. The charisma of his ministry has been with the re-development of congregational mission and ministry, including adaptive re-use of historic and culturally significant buildings. Through liturgical renovation, preaching, and renewed sense of community he has helped multiple congregations manage transformative change and growth.



Mr. Jeremy Cooney is a senior executive and lawyer with 15 years of public sector management and non-profit fundraising experience complemented by a strong record of civic leadership. He is a principal with Red Thread Strategies LLC, where he helps non-profit organizations with philanthropic growth, executive coaching, and board development.

****Please contact the appropriate Chair if you have questions or insights.****