

LIFELONG CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMITTEE
Report to the 238th Annual Diocesan Convention

The Lifelong Christian Formation Committee (LCFC) of the Diocese of New Jersey works to provide resources, training, and support to those pursuing the ministry of faith formation across the diocese. It is our ministry to engage people of all ages in relationship with Jesus; equip people, by resourcing and modeling faith practices; empower people, by giving them space and permission to become disciples of Christ; and encourage people, by walking with them in their faith journeys.

In 2021, we continued to respond to the formation needs of individuals, ministries, and congregations across our diocese. Our work this year included:

- **Resourcing:** The LCFC is committed to curating and creating solid resources for individual, family, small group, and congregational formation that reflects and supports our core faith practices and points towards growth in discipleship. We regularly search for and review a variety of existing curriculums, programs, and best practices that reflect our Episcopal traditions but also innovate to meet the needs of our modern realities. We also create our own resources, focusing on supporting faith at home, flexible resources for smaller congregations, and adapting to intergenerational ministry. In 2021, we created two series of simple printables: Faith at Home guides linked to the liturgical calendar, and Milestones to link home and faith lives more intentionally. Both series will continue to grow in coming years. The LCFC also produces the quarterly Dwelling in the Word resource, available to individuals, families, and small groups across the diocese.
- **Communicating:** The LCFC aims to communicate the available resources we can offer throughout the diocese. In partnership with Steve Welch, we are able to produce regular Formation Newsletters on the diocesan email platform, highlighting available resources for a variety of ministry settings and needs. We have also increased our presence on the updated diocesan website, which we hope to grow even more in coming years as we make our resources available to individuals and formation leaders in New Jersey and beyond. We are also excited to plan our first diocesan-wide conference in several years, the upcoming Discipleship Conference on February 12, 2022, in partnership with ministries across the diocese.
- **Partnering:** This year we partnered with two ministries to provide resources and formation support: the Martin Luther King, Jr. Service, and the Campus Ministry Committee. These partnerships across are valuable tools we can use to maximize our resources and reach across ministry lines. Please contact the LCFC if your ministry would like to partner in the creation or curating of formation resources in the coming year.

In addition to these long-term goals, we are working to produce a Guide for Faith Formation for use by formation leaders across the diocese. This guide, available later in 2022, reflects considerable discernment and collaborative effort from the committee as a whole, and aims to provide a framework for the ministry of formation across our many congregations. Our hope is that this guide will provide guidance and structure while offering an invitational pathway to discipleship for people of all ages and stages looking to grow in Christ. While this guide will come to full fruition in 2022, much valuable work was completed behind the scenes in 2021, and it remains an on-going project of the LCFC.

The LCFC meets monthly, on second Tuesdays at 3:00 pm on Zoom, with ten members representing clergy and lay leaders from congregations across the diocese: the Rev. Debbie Cook, the Rev. Canon Dr. Rob Droste, Ms. Clare Gutwein, the Rev. Lisa Hoffman, Ms. Sue Legnani, Dr. Phil Lewis, Ms. Robin Marciniak, the Rev. D. Scott Russell, and our DoCC liaison, the Very Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson. I am grateful for the encouragement, knowledge, and commitment of each of our members, who continue to support this critical ministry in our diocese. We welcome new members, to bring fresh perspectives and approaches to the dynamic ministry of equipping disciples here in the Diocese of New Jersey!

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Delgado
Chair, Lifelong Christian Formation Committee