

THE REVEREND CANON WHITNEY RICE

CALL TO MINISTRY

I am at heart a messenger of the gospel. My highest joy is helping people discover the radiance of God's love for them and its potential in community to transform the world. I seek to equip people for discipleship and evangelism so that they may dive deeper into the wild adventure of life as a Jesus-follower.

EDUCATION

Master of Divinity	2008	Berkeley Divinity School at Yale
B.A. Religious Studies & English	2005	University of Kansas

MINISTRY GIFTS AND RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Lay Leadership Development

- ❖ *Requiem or Renaissance* 18-month skills-building and discernment program for 18 congregations in the Diocese of Missouri, helping them discover what they're called to let die and where they're called to new life, Roanridge Grant recipient
- ❖ Partner for two 2021 **New Episcopal Community Grants** in the Diocese of Missouri, African Diaspora Church Plant and Faith Christian Church of India
- ❖ *Diocesan Brainstorms* on Stewardship, Christian Formation, and Children & Youth ministry. Brings together lay leaders from across the diocese to collaborate on how best practices are evolving in the shifting contexts of hybrid church
- ❖ *Adaptive Leadership & Systems Thinking* for Episcopal Service Corps participants and in multiple congregations. Combines the work of Ronald Heifetz and Edwin Friedman to help lay leaders build skills and intentionality into their ministry presence and practice
- ❖ *Community Listening* draws on the work of Heidi Unruh to help lay leaders turn their attention outwards and build mutual ministries in their communities, driven by the assets and dreams of their neighborhoods
- ❖ *Ministry Avatars* asks participants to draw together the attributes, needs, desires, and gifts of their target ministry populations and cross-reference them to most effectively design and target ministries that will truly serve people where they are

Evangelism

- ❖ Wrote, filmed, and edited *Evangelism With Integrity* YouTube video series, 2022
- ❖ Episcopal Church Evangelism Council of Advice, 2021
- ❖ Planning team for *Evangelism Matters*, 2021
- ❖ Evangelism faculty member for **Bishop Kemper School for Ministry**
- ❖ Awarded a 2018 Episcopal Evangelism Grant for designing and teaching *Evangelism With Integrity*, a day-long training workshop offered throughout the Diocese of Indianapolis for clergy and lay leaders. *Evangelism With Integrity* challenges Episcopalians to consciously divorce evangelism from its toxic legacies of spiritual violence, colonialism, imperialism, and Christian malpractice. Participants reimagine evangelism as the practice of reducing fear and building spiritual intimacy both inside and outside the congregation. There is a seven-week follow-up email series with videos reemphasizing key concepts, scripture with reflection questions, and practical evangelism tips and challenges. Graduates

of the program are encouraged to report back their evangelism experimentation via #evangelismwithintegrity.

Discipleship Program Development and Leadership

- ❖ **Questions of Jesus**, offered in congregations, as the clergy retreat for the Diocese of Michigan and the ECW retreat for the Diocese of Ohio. Jesus asks 307 questions in the Bible and only answers 3. Participants grapple with Jesus' questions—"Where is your faith?" "What were you arguing about on the way?" "Why are you weeping?"--as a means of deepening their relationship with Christ and their call to discipleship.
- ❖ **Revolutions of Faith**, a semester-long course in the parish and now on the online spirituality collective *The Hive*. Traces the journeys of many of the most revolutionary Christian activists, thinkers, and saints from MLK to Martin Luther, Mother Teresa to Teresa of Avila, Nelson Mandela to St. Augustine, asking how their lives and witness not only changed how we think about God and each other, but also call us to live our common life differently.
- ❖ **Sacred Body**, a day-long women's retreat. Leads those women through exploring American orthodoxy and orthopraxy around their bodies—who society says we are and how we should treat ourselves around appearance, weight, age, sexuality, gender identity, race and ethnicity, ability/disability, motherhood and fertility. Through scripture study, participants imagine how Jesus wants them to see and care for their bodies, followed by writing and using in worship a Creed and Covenant of Women's Living Incarnation modeled after the Nicene Creed and Baptismal Covenant.
- ❖ **Senior VBS**, a week-long program for those aged 60+. Explores discernment of call in retirement and how the post-work years are a rich new field for discipleship, with the addition of songs, crafts and games from childhood Vacation Bible School for an element of fun. Amplified by outside speakers on law, health, finances, and grief and loss, this program strives to lead seniors to deep spiritual reflection on what it means to be an elder and leader in the community.

Resource Development

- ❖ Community Ministry Grant and Resource Development Consultant for Indianapolis Center for Congregations
- ❖ Writer for The Episcopal Digital Network's *Sermons That Work*
- ❖ 2022-2023 Louisville Institute Pastoral Study Grant recipient for book project, *Jesus vs. Zuckerberg: A Call to Resistance and Resurrection in Techno-dystopian Empire*

MINISTRY POSITIONS

2020-Present

Canon for Evangelism & Discipleship Development, Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

2019-2020

Associate Rector, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Webster Groves, Missouri

2016-2019

Associate Rector, St. Francis In-The-Fields Episcopal Church, Zionsville, Indiana

2013-2016

Shared Ministry Priest-in-Charge, St. Thomas & St. Luke's, Franklin/Shelbyville, Indiana

2011-2013

Rector, St. David's Episcopal Church, Bean Blossom, Indiana

2008-2011

Curate, Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis, Indiana