

Report to the Diocese from the Missioner for Spirituality and Leadership

It continues to be my honor to serve the Diocese in a part-time capacity. I have been visiting congregations across the diocese – at their invitation, and at the suggestion of the Bishop and Canon. I have served as supply clergy, offered forums, and have met with Vestries. In the past year, I have been working with the vestries of Christ Memorial Church, North Brookfield and Trinity Church, Ware, to build relationships, to explore how the two congregations might work collaboratively together. I have been leading Sunday services at each church once a month. Neither congregation has a resident priest. I meet regularly with Bishop Fisher to continue to discern how I might render my services in dealing with the opportunities and challenges of congregations.

I continue to do spiritual direction for some clergy and lay leaders in the diocese.

I continue to convene a group of clergy who serve two congregations to share insights and learnings, and offer mutual support. There is a unique ministry, and there is much to be learned from one another as the dynamics of congregational life and organization continue to evolve.

I also continue to facilitate a group of clergy serving larger congregations – meeting monthly for support, sharing, reflection and learning.

I am inspired by the passion and commitment of the clergy – and the care, competence and hospitality of Bishop Fisher and his staff.

In addition to my ministry in the diocese, I continue to serve as Bishop Liaison for Bishops United Against Gun Violence; and on the Faith Focused Initiative team of Braver Angels, a national movement created to depolarize America. I convene Braver Reconcilers, a monthly gathering of Episcopal clergy and lay leaders from around the country who are committed to building bridges across political difference. I am available to work with congregations seeking to engage in gun violence prevention; and/or to help bring Braver Angels' resources to parishes that are interested in organizing reconciliation conversations within the church or in the wider community, around political difference

Respectfully submitted,

The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith
Missioner for Spirituality and Leadership
Retired Bishop of Newark