

Task Force on Formation & Ministry of the Baptized
May 28, 2020

In attendance: Paul Aparicio, Lisa Brown, Heather Erickson, Carol Gallagher, Timothy Hodapp, Russell Kendrick, Lisa Kimball, Demi Prentiss, Melissa Rau, Peter Wong

Sent regrets: Lydia Bucklin

Regretfully missing: Byron Rushing, Robert Wright

Gathering & Opening Prayer – *A Prayer for Shelter and Shadow* (from Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community by Pádraig Ó Tuama)

Brief personal check-in

- Melissa – resigned ECF, continuing w/ Forma, in formal discernment and considering seminary for Fall
- Paul – baby due Dec 9, much joy, work = wild (company makes face mask machines), exciting to be part of that supply chain & helping in that way, almost a blessing that it is so consuming but makes being active in church life difficult (flipped pattern from past), deeply thankful for community holding together in Sheboygan, church & non-profit connections growing, now focused on compassion fatigue, hopeful and refueling for me, in planning stage for reopening (mid-June), very grateful for bishop and task force guiding us w/ caution; deep conversations/struggles re: being Anglo-Catholic diocese without Eucharist; some of us are clear everything is different/nothing is normal and others are afraid
- Carol – diocese/state of MA has been hard hit, peaked end of April, Gov. announced staged reopening and included churches @40%, Bishop had said no gatherings until after July 1st, staff developed 4-phase plan, exhausting. Carol's husband diagnosed w/ lymphoma in Feb & had 3 rounds of chemo, puts me in quarantine, makes life even more fragile and isolating; he seems to be responding well; our daily rhythm is alright if altered; I am deeply moved by the connections being formed on the ground, including Navajoland relationship (purchasing masks from them and handing out to homeless on Boston Commons); hanging in
- Russell – hanging in there too; trying to develop plans for some churches to re-enter; 15/61 are attempting toward reopening in rural areas; have stumbled into clergy and vestry working together in collaborate and creative ways by encouraging them to plan locally, not just talking about money; my family is fine; meeting next Tuesday night launching Lay School of Ministry and have about 20 people already curious ... baptized ministry at work! I need a creative project to stay alive. Very excited.
- Heather – not very exciting; fortunate in Bay Area have not been hit hard & have very wise Mayor; Diocese is being cautious to reopen; Bay Area overachievers are over-achieving on quarantining, in part due to privilege; looking forward to end of children's school year, play over disciplined enforcement;
- Peter – we ended our school year early; I'm done w/ home-schooling; we'll continue online math games etc. We are doing alright. Had a few +ve cases in

congregation; Katie is hospice nurse w/ protective gear & I'm learning methods to sanitize them; hoping to worship in person next week; have learned way too many apps and where internet is strongest to upload service to YouTube; lot of energy around pastoral care being led by lay people; no Associate since Jan, losing 4th Children & Youth person in 6 years, but things are continuing; biggest worry is trying to fill staff position to continue humming along.

- Demi – my husband and I are so fortunate, working on several grant proposals; tired but in great shape; husband is 78 w/ diabetes, post-polio syndrome & we are extremely careful; blown away by what the Church are doing in response to all this, you are amazing ... thank you!!
- Tim – happy to see you all, sorry about barking dogs; VTS meeting seems lifetime ago; this region has had a lot of deaths, no clergy some laity; visiting with clergy learning offering prayers at end of life w/ nurse holding the phone; writing protocols for regathering – SO hard to find words & pull together assets for ministry of presence; crazy-making, haunting, awesome, inspiring ... reminds me how our incarnate God shows up in the everyday and the ordinary; 6 Town Hall meetings in each Region w/ Bishops ... asking where IS God showing up? What do we want to maintain and let go? Word and Sacrament will be at center; how do we begin to garner lessons learned; folks last night was like church I have never experienced in my life, to hear their stories of where Jesus is showing up and how they are experiencing their roles as baptized believers is AMAZING! It is magnificent. Not every day is easy or perfect but overall I am doing well, my husband is well, was in hospital for a day w/ kidney stone, what a reminder of how fragile the system is and how accessible grace is.
- Lisa K. – deeply grateful for privileged safety and resources; enjoying beauty of spring all around; aching and angry with people of Minneapolis following murder of George Floyd; feeling called into leadership of discernment among other leaders as they struggle with realities of COVID-19; experiencing glimpses of a new church being born as we let go by choice and loss of the ways things were, and open ourselves to what is possible.
- Lisa B. – good/bad days; taking joy in groundwork that we did in digital ministry are coming to fruition; appreciating being able to support so many small churches, lots of new interest, gratifying and wonderful and it won't quit! I'm exhausted. Realize how dependent I am in breaks in the monotony. I need travel personally and professionally. I miss it. I went into this pandemic as a 50 yr old and coming out as an 80 yr old. Hard to see future I'm excited about. Personally, I am lucky – family here is fun, having gourmet hotdog fest, redid our porch, making the best of it; ache for my daughter & her friends graduating from college w/o jobs, etc.

Update from Theology Working Group – where are you? What do you need to wrap up?

- Tim will produce draft for committee b4 next whole TF meeting (6/11)
- We had suggested 3 different stories, there are so many more now
 - Might GCO need to take some of this into account to celebrate ministry beyond just being a business meeting?
 - How not just show up with a resolution but change the structure to help community name & claim aloud?

- Paul is on worship committee of GC, we're on tail end of dreaming phase and I will share these ideas, a celebration of ministry of the baptized (echoes of Service of Lament last GC)
- How people are talking about being a follower of J in different/profound ways
- Has made theology side of this easier
- What do we do next? Imprint through our Baptismal Covenant tells us.

Update from Survey Working Group – emerging themes? What is next?

- We are analyzing 700+ survey responses by assigning major questions to each person
- Each person will write up summary paragraph, format, review for next all TF meeting, June 11

Lay Ministry “competency” resource – continuing to be vetted with diverse audiences

Review TF Timeline & Assignments

- Meeting schedule – 2nd Thursday each month, 11am Eastern
- Resolutions working group
 - Melissa lead, Byron, Demi, liaison w/ PB&F
- Blue Book report writing group
 - Lisa lead, Peter, Carol, Melissa
- Demi – offered to edit all final documents for common “voice” etc.
- Disruptors - Strategic amplification/networking, plan to be finalized at future meetings

NEXT MEETING – 11am Eastern, Thursday, June 11

Closing prayer – *Prayer for Courage*