

Over the past three years of seeding and growing the Becoming Beloved Community movement in this diocese—inspired by the vision of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry—there has been significant learning. At the end of 2021, Amy Howton, who had served in the role of Becoming Beloved Community Coordinator, created an [Impact Report](#) as a way to capture this learning.

Since then, we have been discerning what is needed to serve our commitment to racial healing, evangelism, and creation care, three pillars of Becoming Beloved Community. Discernment has occurred in the individual hearts, minds, and spirits of those involved and among various groups called to lead this work—both grassroots and diocesan.

It is exciting to share some of what is unfolding related to this vital work, expanded under Presiding Bishop Curry's call to *Become a Church that Looks and Acts Like Jesus*.

Those who have faithfully served in the development of this ministry and movement have been essential in leading us to where we stand now: more connected, more emboldened, more integrated, and more whole. The former Bishop-appointed leadership team, a structure that reflects the established institutional structure with which we are familiar, is called into a new evolution.

We offer thanksgiving for the foundational work of The Rev. Meribah Mansfield, The Canon Rev. Jane Gerdson, Dr. Cherie Bridges Patrick, Deborah Stokes, Dianne Ebbs; Rev. Maggie Foote; Rev. Rick Incorvati; Larry James; Megan Johnson; Martha (Marty) Lentz; Rev. Joanna Leiserson; Miriam McKenney; Ariel Miller; Rev. Karen Montagno; Rev. John Paddock; Cherie Bridges Patrick; Rev. Carol Potterton; Canon Rev. Lee Anne Reat; Nadya Richardson; Debby Stokes; Madeleine Trichel. We thank the most recent leadership team, including The Rev. Michelle Dayton and Larry James, co-conveners; Miriam McKenney, Catherine Duffy, Ariel Miller, Rev. Melanie Slane, Rev. Christopher Richardson, Ariel Miller, Jason Williams, and Deborah Stokes. We celebrate and honor the tremendous work these individuals and teams did together.

Rather than re-creating a new leadership team based on the old format, we are leaning more deeply into developing communities of practice. Toward this end, we are glad to announce a new incarnation of our leadership structure of Becoming Beloved Community. The newly-organized core team includes Amy Howton and Miriam McKenney, co-leaders contracted by the diocese, Catherine Duffy, and The Rev. Canon Jason Oden, Canon for Formation and New Episcopal Communities.

This team has organized over the last couple of months to plan and submit the Becoming Beloved Community budget for 2023 and align on priorities for the next two years. Our shared goal is to build capacity, innovate, and re-form our diocese into a diocese that looks and acts like Jesus by integrating Becoming Beloved Community into the lifeblood of our diocesan culture and structures. We want to remember and know God's transformative love as seen in each other.

We are planning Becoming Beloved Community formation offerings for the rest of 2022, including personal, diocesan-wide, and community-wide experiences. Stay tuned in the coming weeks for details about the upcoming Becoming Beloved Community formation lineup and for information about how to participate in Becoming.

In the meantime, feel free to reach out to us with questions, ideas, or concerns. We are in this together and each of us are essential.

We are excited about the possibilities that only God can imagine!

In solidarity,

Amy Howton; Miriam McKenney; Catherine Duffy; Canon Rev. Jason Oden