



## Thank you for registering for our conference!

We will present the full conference in person and via Zoom. All sessions will be recorded. The choice of how you would like to attend – and how much you would like to attend – is up to you.

Please look over this welcome package, it includes a list of books by our presenters, as well as a special promotion code to order them at a 20% discount from Church Publishing.

Please fill out the workshop selection form included here as a fillable PDF, and email it back to us as soon as possible (to [graceandhopevt@gmail.com](mailto:graceandhopevt@gmail.com)), so we can present you with the best possible experience.

- You have a choice of workshops in the afternoon. Please choose only one per time slot.
- You will be able to watch the other workshops via video recordings after the conference.

People attending workshops in person will be offered a muffins, coffee, lunch, refreshments, and dinner on Saturday, Sept. 24.

- Conference HQ is St Mary's in the Mountains Episcopal Church  
13 East Main St, in Wilmington, VT.

We will also be using the Old School Community Center about 500 feet to the east of the church, at 1 School St.

There is some parking directly behind the church.

There is additional parking at the Community Center and at the Pettee Memorial Library, 16 South Main St.

Please let us know if you have any special needs in terms of accessibility or food.

**If you have any questions, please email us at [graceandhopevt@gmail.com](mailto:graceandhopevt@gmail.com)  
or call John Terauds at 802-376-6187**



In person in  
Wilmington, VT  
and on Zoom

## Conference schedule at a glance

### Friday

7 pm: Evening Prayer with Rev. Canon Walter Brownridge

### Saturday

7:30 am Morning Prayer (said)

8:05 am Muffins & coffee

9:00 am Opening Hearts and Doors Plenary session  
9:15 am -Welcome to the Feast (break-out groups)  
*break*

10:00 am Opening Hearts and Doors  
-When have you been invited? (break-out groups)  
-Seek, Name, Celebrate (break-out groups)  
*break*

11:00 am Opening Hearts and Doors  
-Story-sharing Cards (break-out groups)  
11:35 am What have we learned? Plenary session

12:05 pm Lunch

1:00 pm	In the pub and the laundromat	Listening to young adults	<b>Music:</b> Can these bones live?
	<i>break</i>		

2:00 pm	Letting go of fear of failure	Listening to teenagers	<b>Music:</b> In search of our sound
	<i>break</i>		

3:00 pm	Overcoming obstacles		<b>Music:</b> Finding faith messages
---------	----------------------	--	--------------------------------------

5:00 pm Dinner

7:30 pm Red Door Concert

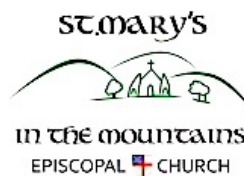
### Sunday

10 am: Farewell social

11 am: Celebration Eucharist with Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown

Full Conference details at: [smmvt.org/evan-conf-2021](http://smmvt.org/evan-conf-2021)

Email: [graceandhopevt@gmail.com](mailto:graceandhopevt@gmail.com)



In person in  
Wilmington, VT  
and on Zoom

## Conference attendance and workshop selection form

*You'll find workshop details on the next page*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending

in person ☐ via Zoom ☐ email for Zoom invitation: \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Evening Prayer 7:00-7:45 pm Attending ☐

Saturday Morning Prayer 7:30-8:00 am Attending ☐

*Muffins & coffee 8:15-8:55 am*

Saturday 9:00 am - noon Unlocking God's Grace & Hope Attending ☐

*Lunch 12:15-12:55 pm*

Saturday afternoon (select one from each time slot)

1:00-1:55 pm In the Pub and the Laundromat Attending ☐

Ministry with Young Adults Attending ☐

**Music:** Can These Bones Live? Attending ☐

2:00-2:55 pm Letting Go of Our Fear of Failure Attending ☐

Ministry with Teenagers & Youth Attending ☐

**Music:** In Search of Our Sound Attending ☐

3:00-3:55 pm Overcoming obstacles about evangelism Attending ☐

**Music:** Finding Faith Messages and Messengers Attending ☐

*Dinner 5:00-6:00 pm*

Saturday 7:30-9:00pm Red Door Concert: C'Mon Get Happy Attending ☐

Sunday Eucharist 11:00 am to 12:30 pm Attending ☐

***Please return this form as soon as possible via email to***

**[graceandhopevt@gmail.com](mailto:graceandhopevt@gmail.com)**

***Thank you!***

# Saturday-afternoon workshop details

*All workshops will be recorded, so pick one to attend – and watch the others later*

## 1:00-1:55 pm

### **In the Pub and the Laundromat**

#### **Led by Rev. Susan Ohlidal and Rev. Meredyth Wessman-Ward**

Here is a place to share stories about the Spirit's work outside the walls of any church.

Susan put on her clerical collar one evening, went to her local watering hole, bought herself a beer and sat down at the bar. Soon, she was engaging in all sorts of conversations that turned into regular encounters Susan calls Pub Theology. These have continued during the pandemic.

Meredyth took to the streets of Worcester and headed for the laundromat, where she listened to the stories of people doing their washing. This led to a storefront ministry involving folks who might never think about walking through the red doors of an Episcopal Church.

We will leave significant time for your questions and stories.

### **Ministry with Young Adults**

#### **Led by Rev. Dr. Paul Carling**

What are college students looking for? What are Millennials' attitudes towards spirituality? It's not that they do not have questions about faith; it's that they are looking for dialog that feels authentic and speaks to their everyday experience. And it can include our Episcopal traditions!

Paul, who has just retired after building up student participation as Chaplain of the Episcopal Church at Yale, will share his insights and help us connect the dots on how to access authentic ministry and meaning with college students and young adults.

### **Music Workshop:**

#### **Can These Bones Live? Vital Song = Vital Church**

#### **Led by Dent Davidson**

Dent, a dynamic musician deeply rooted in the Episcopal tradition, will help us look at and listen to our rich musical storehouse with fresh eyes and ears, to see how we can harness the power of music to engage a new generation of spiritual seekers – and even re-energize veteran worshipers.

Come experience our musical tradition being infused with new ideas and energy that use the people and other resources we already have available in our parishes.

## 2:00-2:55 pm

### **Letting Go of Our Fear of Failure**

#### **Led by Rev. Lorenzo Lebrija and David Zahl**

Lorenzo and David will help us focus on how we access the courage to consider something new in our parish ministries. For them, the secret is to approach ministry with a spirit of play (and playing with the Spirit) and learning how to effectively gather the insights we need to inspire new ministry initiatives.

The session will begin with a centering exercise aimed at helping us see and appreciate what may look like small and seemingly insignificant signs all around us. There will be ample time allowed to answer your questions and concerns.

We will close by considering how all that we do comes wrapped in God's grace.

## **Ministry with Teenagers & Youth**

### **Led by Rev. Matt Lindeman**

Whether we like it or not, a leader's personality has a lot to do with how she or he will connect with a group of teens and young adults.

Matt will lead us through his own experiences in the Peace Corps and as a youth minister. He will suggest ways in which we can realistically assess our own strengths and weaknesses as ministry leaders, and how to count up the assets in our midst – what Matt calls “matching the hatch.”

We will allow plenty of time for questions and for sharing wisdom and stories.

## **Music Workshop**

### **In Search of our Sound: Balancing Innovation and Tradition**

#### **Led by Rev. Dr. Rick Bauer**

The traditional and the contemporary always live in tension – especially when it comes to the music we like to hear in worship.

Rick will discuss practical and theological approaches to discernment around musical choices for church musicians and worship leaders. Transitioning from a long career in contemporary music as a performer and recording artist, and now serving as rector of a largely conservative congregation, Rick will help us consider how we can strike balances that honor the rich musical legacy of the past while respecting opportunities for evangelism through musical exploration.

**3:00-3:55 pm**

## **Overcoming obstacles about evangelism**

### **Led by Rev. Titus Presler**

As members of the Body of Christ we are called to verbal proclamation of the Good News. To incorporate proclamation in our pilgrimage in the Way of Love is to fully live into God's mission.

Titus will share his wisdom and insights as we gather to consider the words heard and exchanged in the day's workshops. There may still be more questions than answers in our midst, but we will be reminded that our journey in faith has the sharing of stories at its core.

You can prepare by reading Titus' essay, “Evangelism? Tackling the Roots of Episcopalians' Reluctance” in *The Living Church* [here](#).

## **Music workshop**

### **Finding Faith Messages in Unusual Places**

### **Finding New Music Resources that Draw Others To Their Faith**

#### **Led by Joe Fortner and Holly Winger Fortner**

If we acknowledge that God's Spirit is at work everywhere in the world, we may start to notice how even popular songs often express the longing and soul desire that begins every faith journey. This opens new pathways for reaching out to people who have no background in traditional worship.

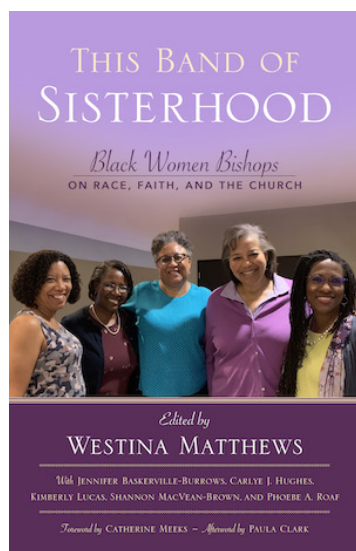
Joe and Holly will share their insights on bringing the sacred and the secular together in music, inviting participants to experience this union in song. We will also look at how all of this is possible using the people and instruments that are already present in our midst.





## A wealth of reading by our conference leaders

As a conference participant, you can get 20% off the following books by our conference speakers by using the promotional code **VER20** before Sept. 30. Just follow the link to the Church Publishing website embedded in the title of each book.



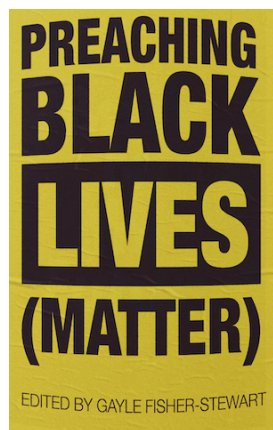
### [This Band of Sisterhood:](#)

#### [Black Women Bishops on Race, Faith, and the Church](#)

*Edited by Westina Matthews, Foreword by Catherine Meeks,  
Afterword by Paula Clark*

The first five Black women to be elected diocesan bishops within the Episcopal Church gather in these pages for a candid conversation on race and the future of the church.

Guided by Westina Matthews, Bishops Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows (The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis), Carlye J. Hughes (The Episcopal Diocese of Newark), Kimberly Lucas (The Episcopal Diocese of Colorado), Shannon MacVean-Brown (The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont), and Phoebe A. Roaf (The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee) offer honest wisdom and experiences relevant to this complex time in American life.

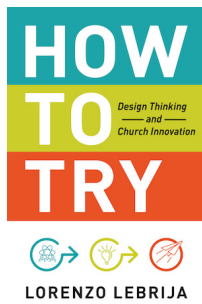


### [Preaching Black Lives \(Matter\)](#)

*Edited by Gayle Fisher Stewart*

Prophetic imagination would have us see a future in which all Christians would be free of the soul-warping belief and practice of racism. This collection of reflections is an incisive look into that future today. It explains why preaching about race is important in the elimination of racism in the church and society, and how preaching has the ability to transform hearts.

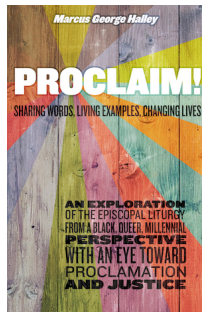
Includes contributions from over forty leading Christian thinkers and pastors.



## [How to Try; Design Thinking and Church Innovation](#)

Lorenzo Lebrija

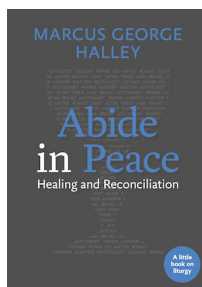
Lorenzo Lebrija, director of TryTank, a lab for church growth and innovation, has developed a fresh, straightforward framework for experiments in new ministry based on research and interviews. With three clear steps, this framework can have a lasting impact on any church that uses it. You can even start innovating today, using this specific and actionable process within your church community.



## [Proclaim! Sharing Words, Living Examples, Changing Lives](#)

Marcus Halley

Here is an exploration of Episcopal liturgy from a black, queer, millennial perspective, with an eye toward proclamation and justice. Part memoir, part history, part biblical studies, and part practical theology, Rev. Halley suggests that the politics of our liturgical tradition is the ground from which we can engage in the justice work that our world needs.



## [Abide in Peace; Healing and Reconciliation](#)

Marcus Halley

Here is an invitation to explore rituals of healing and reconciliation in parish practice by asking some powerful questions: How is Christian community fostered when healing and reconciliation are prayerfully and actively sought? How do the ancient rituals of healing practiced among us today form a community committed to the Way of Love, the Way of Healing? And how does such practice lead the Christian community to seek peace?

## Even more books by our conference leaders (not published by Church Publishing)

- The Rev. Dr. Paul Carling: *Return to Community*
- Dent Davidson: *Gathered for God*
- Jerusalem Jackson Greer
  - *A Homemade Year: The Blessings of Cooking, Crafting, and Coming Together*
  - *At Home in This Life: Finding Peace at the Crossroads of Unraveled Dreams and Beautiful Surprises*
  - *A Faith-Made Year: An Intergenerational Curriculum based on A Homemade Year*
- The Rev. Titus Presler
  - *Horizons of Mission*
  - *Going Global with God: Reconciling Mission in a World of Difference*
  - *Transfigured Night: Mission and Culture in Zimbabwe's Vigil Movement*
  - *Questing: The Way of Love in Global Mission (a curriculum)*
- David Zahl
  - *A Mess of Help: From the Crucified Soul of Rock N Roll*
  - *Law and Gospel: A Theology for Sinners (and Saints)*
  - *Seculosity: How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics, and Romance Became Our New Religion and What to Do about it*