

2020 Annual Report to the Bishop

The Rev. Victoria Mason, Deacon
St. John's Episcopal Church, Austin, Texas

- Being a high risk for COVID-19, due to age and heart conditions, I have not participated in person in the live streaming worship services since March 22, except for one occasion on October 18.
- However, I have virtually participated in the life of the congregation in several ways:
 - General liturgy planning
 - Creation of a Spanish Via Crucis slide show that we published on Good Friday
 - Communications: specifically, with Spanish communication. I helped find a translator for our weekly newsletter and other documents. I also help edit both English and Spanish newsletters.
 - Pastoral care and emergency assistance for parishioners, especially Latino parishioners,
 - Assisted 4 Latino families with navigating the Camp Allen procedures to enable their children to go to summer camp. This included asking for and getting (!) Spanish translations of the documents that are sent to parents.
 - I attend the monthly Vestry, Staff and Adult Christian Education meetings. One benefit that evolved about Zoom meetings is that I can use Chat in Zoom and loosely translate the conversation in Spanish.
- I co-coordinated and co-led my last Discovery Retreat at the end of February. I transitioned my share of responsibilities, reporting, and other related tasks concerning the EDOT Discernment Process.
- I facilitated the formation of a Racial Justice Team. I am facilitating the team meetings. I either support or facilitate the activities and programs that this team has initiated. The activities included:
 - Thursday Morning Bible Study discussions about racism and personal experiences
 - August Becoming Beloved Community Baptismal Promises series in preparation for Bishop Ryan's visitation and congregational Reaffirmation.
 - Development and implementation of first series of Sacred Ground Curriculum. We have 2 groups of 10 people participating in this program.
- I have attended a gazillion webinars on racial justice, facilitating Sacred Ground sessions, difficult conversations, scriptural exegesis, and other related subjects.
- I serve as Secretary for the Commission on Hispanic Ministry.

- Immigration and Refugee Assistance: I facilitated the first meeting of the combined Immigration and Refugee assistance ministries. This was a brainstorming and planning session that came up with a general strategic plan and immediate action items. Unfortunately, COVID-19 lockdown began immediately afterwards and the movement for Racial Justice took over our focus. I hope that we can pick up the pieces and reboot this ministry this year, 2021.