

2021 Deacon Annual Report

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

2021 is the year of the "last phase" of transition for St. John's. The Rev. Minerva Camarena Skeith became Rector of St. John's on January 1st. Her leadership enables me to relinquish roles that are more administrative in nature, so that I can focus on ministries that are more consistent with diaconal ministry. After three years of transition ministry, I took a three-week vacation starting on December 20th.

My primary ministry in 2021 has been as a lead facilitator and convener of our Racial Justice Ministry and Sacred Ground Dialogue Circles. We completed our first Sacred Ground series in October. Through the Racial Justice Ministry, we celebrated Juneteenth during the entire month of June, with Wednesday evening education sessions on racism, a Lamentation and Healing Service, and a celebration of Pauli Murray. We raised more than \$900 for the Pauli Murray Scholarship Fund at the Seminary of the Southwest.

As in 2020, I continue to participate in webinars on racial justice, facilitating Sacred Ground sessions, difficult conversations, and other related subjects. I completed the Dare to Lead training on November 12th.

I continue to serve as the Recording Secretary for the Commission on Hispanic Ministry.

With the new concerns about Afghan Refugees, I facilitated a meeting of the people interested in doing something. It's been very difficult to connect with Refugee Services of Texas, but we have found a way to do something. The head of one of the Afghan families that we served 6 years ago has come to us for help specific families. We have been able to help financially and with items that parishioners have contributed.