

The Rev. Gregg Morris

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CONGREGATIONAL AND DIOCESAN MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Downers Grove, IL

August 2015-Present

Rector

- Oversee all aspects of mission and ministry in a vibrant, suburban congregation, with an increasing number of families with young children
- Set tone, vision, and direction for the deployment of people and resources in ministry and outreach initiatives
 - Enhanced a welcoming and inclusive tone through intentional presence, oral and written communication
 - Turned parish focus from inward to outward, resulting in connections and partnerships with surrounding neighborhood, schools, community organizations, and other local church congregations
 - Clarified outreach focus as "the church that feeds people," resulting in quarterly Community Dinners (serving 250-400 individuals each), Little Free Pantry, Good News Garden (delivering 250 pounds of fresh produce seasonally), and expanded local food pantry support
- Supervise, equip, resource and support 8 professional part-time staff, including Deacon, Parish Administrator, Bookkeeper, Children's Minister, Music Director, Organist, Children's Music Director, Parents' Day Out Program Director and staff
- Supervise and collaborate with 3 trained lay Chaplains to offer spiritual care to parishioners
- Initiated and coordinated weekly live-streamed worship services
 - Maintained connection of worshiping community during COVID-19 lockdown and aftermath
 - Provided ease-of-research for potential newcomers (30 of our 45 newcomers since March 2020 reported joining us online prior to visiting)
- Led the parish effectively through the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a current return to pre-pandemic levels of attendance, participation, program and finances
- Heightened the visibility of the congregation in the neighborhood and local community through creative ventures, relationship-building and effective social media use, leading to a school mentoring partnership, development of a Parents' Day Out program for neighborhood families, a partnership with the public library for fresh produce distribution, increased non-church volunteers for Community dinners, and increased church Facebook page engagement by non-church members
- Enhanced an existing ethos of welcome and acceptance which brings healing to spiritual refugees; 75% of newcomers over the past 4 years report coming from another Christian tradition where they felt mistreated, misunderstood or ignored
- Reversed a downward trend in attendance and giving; during the last 5 years; attendance has leveled and giving has increased 10%
- Reimagined and redesigned unused third-floor space into a community, art, music and event venue, partnering with local artist in art shows, providing studio space for local music teachers, and hosting regionally and nationally known musicians for concerts
- Revitalized ministry to Children and Youth
 - Grew Sunday school attendance from 0 to 25 through direct engagement with parents and data-gathering to determine Sunday School needs
 - Hired effective and committed Children's Ministry Directors in response to staffing mismatches
 - Design and teach Confirmation/Reception classes for 15-20 youth and adults biannually
- Collaborate with Treasurer and Vestry in the oversight of a \$550,000 annual budget

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Leadership Trainer, Mentor and Consultant

August 2015-Present

- Fresh Start Program small group mentor for first-time Rectors – 2017-Present

- College for Congregational Development trainer – 2016-Present
 - Recruited as one of six people in the Diocese to teach/train one week-long and 4 weekend sessions per year that equip lay and clergy teams in congregational development skills.
- Diocesan Congregational Development Consultant
 - Facilitate Mutual Ministry reviews for Rectors, Wardens and Vestries
 - Assist parish leadership teams in identifying current parish trends, realities and needs, including data collection and analysis, vision discernment and articulation, designing and implementing planning processes, and conflict resolution
- Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI, LLC) Qualified Administrator – 2018-Present
 - Provide this tool to lay and clergy leaders of the diocese who desire to increase the level of their intercultural competence

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ellicott City, MD

July 2011-July 2015

Associate Rector for Adult Formation, Worship, and New Member Ministries

- Designed rich, varied liturgy for 6 worship services each week, including traditional and contemporary styles
- Shepherded Verger, Acolyte, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Usher, Greeter, Altar Guild volunteer heads and ministries
- Preached relevant Scripture-based sermons twice a month at multiple services which foster the faith-life connection
- Offered compassionate spiritual support to parishioners in times of joy, sadness and personal crisis
- Supervised Director of Music and part-time Parish Assistant, as delegated by the Rector
- Oversaw design and production of bulletins/print material for all services
- Developed small group and Bible Study offerings which stimulate the mind, shape the heart, and deepen spiritual life
- Identified and equipped competent lay adult faith formation leaders for small group studies
- Facilitated Adult Forum offerings based upon felt spiritual needs (resulting in a 400% increase in attendance over a three year period)
- Developed and managed newcomer tracking scheme from first-time visit through active involvement
- Made contact with new guests within 24 hours of first visit (over 150 annually)
- Planned and implemented regular new member classes, liturgies of welcome and receptions

LeaderResources, Leeds, MA

1997-2011

Publisher of educational resources and a training/consulting service provider to the Episcopal Church

Director of Consultant Services (2002-2005)

- Presented 20-25 training and consulting workshops (8-10 hours each) per year for adults working with youth; curriculum organization and development, effective teaching and mentoring methods, volunteer recruitment and training, leadership development
- Facilitated organizational development consulting with Vestries and church leadership boards
- Interviewed by and quoted in TIME Magazine (August 8, 2005 issue) on the spiritual development of adolescents
- Delivered keynote addresses for groups of up to 200 on effective leadership with adolescents and adults
- Managed sales and follow-up procedures for 50 training/consulting events annually
- Served as educational resource and support person for youth curriculum used in 1300 churches nationwide
- Created and developed training materials for national youth ministry training events
- Designed and conducted training-of-trainer processes for new training team members
- Oversaw 10 trainers and consultants, primarily in the area of youth ministry
- Created and managed annual budget of \$55,000 for training and consulting services

Senior Training Specialist / Consultant (1997-2001; 2006-2011)

- Facilitated 10-15 training events per year for adults working with youth

Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, PA

March 2006-July 2008

Coordinator for Christian Formation

- Oversaw all aspects of Christian formation ministries for 60 children, 20 youth and 75 participating adults
- Guided 15-member Christian Formation Committee in development and implementation of formation ministry programs and initiatives
- Fostered and supported effective lay leadership in each formation ministry area
- Developed and maintained effective communication strategies, networks and materials
- Managed annual budget of \$10,000 for Christian formation ministries and programs

EDUCATION

- Master in Divinity, *Cum Laude*** Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria VA 2008-2011
- Specialized area of study in New Testament, specifically the Gospels
 - Field Education parish – St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Burke, VA
 - Completed Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at the National Institutes for Health (NIH), working on stem cell transplant and pediatric oncology units
 - Class President, 2008-2009
- M.A.** Social Science, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA 1994
Leadership Studies, emphasis in College Student Affairs
- B.A.** Christian Education, Taylor University, Upland, IN 1986
Certificate Minor in Church Music

DIOCESAN AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE WORK

Bishop’s Assessment Team, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland – 2012-2013

- Selected by the Bishop as part of a team of three sent to a distressed parish to gather data, assess viability and/or sustainability, and make recommendations to the Bishop for potential actions

Standing Committee, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland – 2013-2015; President – 2014-2015

Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP) – 2003-2015

- Presented workshops to 80 Rectors, Deans, Vestry and stewardship professionals on organic models of systemic change at 2015 Annual CEEP Conference