

ADVENT GIVING GUIDE

2021

ADVENT FOR AFGHANS

Statewide

“The ministry of offering welcome to those fleeing violence is nothing less than God’s work—one that calls us to walk the way of love as Jesus of Nazareth taught us, through compassion, through practical care, showing to our newest neighbors that we are neighbors.”

- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

The Commission for the Diaconate invites all faith communities in ECMN to take part in Advent for Afghans: Welcoming Our Newest Neighbors. During the four Sundays of Advent, the deacons will awareness across the diocese for our Afghan friends that have made their way to safety here in Minnesota. All of ECMN is invited to support the efforts of Episcopal Migration Ministries and their local partner, the Minnesota Council of Churches, to achieve this goal. To learn more about how you and your faith community can support this good work, and to find further resources, please [visit the ECMN website here](#).



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CIRCLE OF THE BELOVED

North Minneapolis



“Without community, there is no liberation. [. . .] But community must not mean a shedding of our differences, nor the pathetic pretense that these differences do not exist. [. . .] Difference is that raw and powerful connection from which our personal power is forged.”

- Audre Lorde

Circle of the Beloved, Minnesota's Episcopal Service Corps chapter, gathers young adults for a year of service and sharing life together deeply in intentional community. The young adults of Circle commit to being the loving, liberating community that Audre Lorde speaks of, both in the home they share in North Minneapolis and in the service work they do across the Twin Cities, as they build "Kinship Across Lines of Difference."

Learn more about Circle of the Beloved at their website: www.circleofthebeloved.org. To learn how to support their work, [click this link](#).



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GOOD COURAGE FARM

Hutchinson



GOOD COURAGE
— F A R M —

Good Courage Farm in Hutchinson is an agrarian ministry for all of ECMN. The Episcopal tradition's commitment to Creation Care is reflected in their work at the intersection of food, farming, and faith. Your support of the new thing the God is doing in Hutchinson will bear fruit in so many ways:

- sharing the Good News of God's renewing love in Christ, which strengthens us to face the suffering of Creation and to live in hope
- building a just and equitable food system in Minnesota, and providing a model for other communities
- creating innovative and Creation-affirming worship practices for Christians and neighbors of all faiths
- restoring ecological systems and forging a path toward climate resilience through regenerative agricultural practices
- providing opportunities for spiritual and vocational formation, particularly for youth and young adults
- offering hospitality to weary pilgrims and hopeful seekers
- connecting the rural, urban, and suburban communities of ECMN together through food and faith
- living into a true theology of abundance and a deep commitment to Sabbath-making

To learn more, visit www.goodcourage.farm. To give, [click this link](#).



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SCHOOL FOR FORMATION Statewide



School for Formation
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MINNESOTA

The School for Formation is the diocese's offering of online courses and workshops to help you deepen your call to ministry, whether as a lay or ordained leader.

At the onset of the pandemic, the School for Formation began an experiment, removing the tuition barrier to ensure that anyone in ECMN can access those courses, and instead asking School for Formation participants and other supporters to give money as they are able to support the good work and excellent teaching of School for Formation instructors and administrators. The experiment, in its initial months, was extremely successful. We're excited to continue this experiment in removing the tuition barrier, to continue learning, to continue evolving to best serve ECMN's congregations and people. If you are in a position to make a financial donation, your gift will help us continue to offer robust learning opportunities at accessible rates for ECMN leaders in the future.

To learn more about the School for Formation or to explore courses, please visit their website: www.schoolforformation.org. To make a donation, please [click this link](#).



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EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CUBA

Havana, Cuba

In 2014, the Council of ECMN authorized the creation of a Commission on Cuban Ministry to partner with the Episcopal Church in Cuba for the creation of mutually beneficial ministries. This ministry grew out of a relationship between Saint Mark's Cathedral, the Episcopal Church in Cuba, and the Episcopal Cathedral in Havana.

In the past several years, the work of the commission has centered on helping Cuban congregations on the east end of the island, in Santiago de Cuba and the surrounding areas, to install and maintain UV water filtration systems for the use of the congregation and their mission partners, as well as the local community. Cuba's congregations provide vital support and resources to the communities in which they reside.

In 2018, the 79th General Convention voted unanimously in both houses to readmit the Episcopal Church of Cuba as a diocese by passing Resolution A238, after more than 50 years of separation brought about by a decision stemming from of the House of Bishops in the wake of the Cuban Revolution.

Conditions remain harsh under Cuba's communist dictatorship and under the US embargo. The pandemic, as well as steps the state has taken to respond to the pandemic, have resulted in particular hardship for the Episcopal Church in Cuba. In October of this year, Bishop Griselda wrote to ask for emergency support.

For more information and to get involved, contact Archdeacon Rena Turnham, Vice Chair of ECMN's Commission on Cuban Ministry, at rena.t@episcopalmn.org. To support the diocese of Cuba directly, please email admin@friendsofeccuba.org.