

Disaster Resilience Plan for Trinity
June 28, 2024

The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles has initiated a Climate Connections Program, which began with a Climate Summit held last September. Two members of Trinity's Justice and Outreach Parish Council (JOC), Bill Leahy and Jean Davis, attended an engaging and informative summit over Zoom to learn more about the Program. The keynote speaker was Dr. Lucy Jones, formally of Cal Tech and currently with the Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society. Additionally, Lucy is the Senior Warden at South Pasadena's St. James Episcopal Church.

Understanding that climate change leads to more frequent and destructive weather-related disasters, she and the Diocese want to promote a more proactive, collaborative approach to developing disaster-resilient communities. With churches, they note that people naturally are already coming together. Churches can be a good starting place for disaster planning. Trinity will participate in the Climate Connections Program as part of a cohort of churches in the Diocese. (This is the second cohort to participate.) The Program will serve as a helpful framework and learning process for Trinity as we develop our disaster resilience plan. An effective Plan will prepare our congregation by increasing our capacity and knowledge to respond to future disasters, advocate for resources to address risks before disasters and work with the wider community in these efforts.

To that end, the Center has provided a planning template to guide our development of A Disaster Resilience Plan (DRP) specific to Trinity. This planning guide, attached, lays out a process for forming a committee and working groups, considering the hierarchy of disasters we face here in Santa Barbara, such as fires, earthquakes, etc., and the steps that we might take to achieve a more prepared and resilient community of our own.

Under the auspices of the JOC Climate Environment Action Circle, a DRP team has been formed at Trinity to support this effort. Their first meeting was on Sunday, June 23, 2024. Part of the DRP Committee's charter is to facilitate the participation of our entire Parish, which will be critical to the effort's success. Our community can support this effort in many ways, and you will hear from us soon about how you might participate and contribute.

If you would be interested in helping out with this project, or for more information about it, please contact Bill Leahy, wleahy2@gmail.com, or Jean Davis, jeanlangedavis@gmail.com.

Attachment:

[Climate Connections Program: A Disaster Resilience Plan for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles](#)