Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles



Forming Disciples Newsletter

Welcome to *Forming Disciples* — your monthly resource for Christian formation in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, a resource from the Immersed in Worship Project. Whether you're serving in a congregation, a school, a camp, or a ministry in the world, this newsletter is here to support your work of nurturing faith across all ages and stages. Each issue offers practical tools, theological reflection, upcoming events, and inspiring stories — all grounded in our baptismal call and shaped by holy imagination.

Equipping Leaders, Strengthening Congregations

Majority Adult Worshiping Congregations: Join Now!

A conversation I have fairly regularly with congregational leaders goes something like this: “I am so excited about your work…but we don’t really have many kids at church.” Does this sound like you? Guess what? Now it is your turn!

The Diocese of Los Angeles is partnering with Virginia Theological Seminary to offer The Adult Worshiping Congregations Project to up to six congregations in the diocese.

The Adult Worshiping Congregations Project will assess the impact of intentional intergenerational worship practices among adult generations by helping majority-adult congregations engage with and equally value every generation present in their worship. To accomplish this goal, the project will:

1. Ask each congregation to assemble a team of 3-4 members
2. Hold monthly Zoom gatherings from January 2027-October 2028
3. Present content on the topic of intergenerational worship and offer supplemental resources
4. Accompany congregations through the discernment, design, and implementation of small liturgical tweaks
5. Grant each congregation $3,000

Eligible churches will:

- Be majority adult worshiping congregations with no more than 5 regularly attending worshipers under the age of 18
- Be willing to recruit a team of at least 3 people to participate in the project (lay and/or ordained)
- Be willing to complete surveys and focus group interviews for the purpose of evaluation
- Be willing to attend monthly Zoom gatherings
- Be willing to try at least two worship practices/tweaks discerned through the project

The project will begin in January 2027 and conclude in October 2029.

Interested in learning more or participating? **Reach out to me** so I can share more details and see if this is the right fit for your community.

Peace,
Missy Morain - Missioner for Christian formation, children, youth

---

Register Now: Forma Annual Conference 2027 | Sanctified Imagination

Registration is now open for the **2027 Forma Annual Conference, Sanctified Imagination**, taking place January 25-28, 2027. Grounded in Ephesians 3:20, the conference will explore the vital role of theological imagination in shaping transformative ministry and helping participants perceive God's activity, embody Christian virtues, and envision gospel-rooted futures.
The conference will be offered in a radically hybrid format, with all sessions streamed online and opportunities to participate in community through regional gatherings.

We're excited to share that the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles will host a local gathering site at St. Paul's Commons for clergy, lay leaders, educators, and anyone passionate about forming disciples who wish to participate together. The entire conference will be interpreted simultaneously, and conference materials will be available in both English and Spanish.

Registration for the conference and the **local gathering** is separate.

Interested in helping shape the Los Angeles gathering? We're forming a local conference team to assist with hospitality, worship, and creating a meaningful experience for participants. If you'd like to be part of the planning team, please contact **Missy Morain**.

Opportunities for Young People

Applications open for General Convention Official Youth Presence

Episcopal teens ages 16 to 19 are invited to apply to become part of the 82nd General Convention's **Official Youth Presence**, a group whose members have a seat and voice in the House of Deputies and can testify at hearings before and during the summer 2027 convention. The deadline to apply is Nov. 20—members will be announced in February.

Up to two youth from each of the church's nine provinces will be selected to participate in the Official Youth Presence (OYP) from July 3-8, 2027, in Phoenix, Arizona. Selected youth must also attend orientation and training in Phoenix from March 4-7. The Episcopal Church budget covers travel, lodging, and meals for those attending orientation and General Convention.

Additional criteria are listed on the **application form**. Find a **nomination form here**. Nominators must not be related to the applicant.

Learn more.

Applications Due TOMORROW for Diocesan Convention Youth/Young Adult Delegates

Young people aged 16-22 are invited to participate in The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles's 2026 Annual Convention by applying to become a **Diocesan Convention Youth/Young Adult delegate (DYYAD)**. Youth/Young Adult Delegates are leaders in their congregation and the diocese and have seat, voice, and vote at convention.

Anyone is welcome to nominate a youth, and youth are welcome to apply. The formation staff will contact nominees in late September regarding the status of their applications.

There is no out-of-pocket cost for DYYAD delegates to participate. Lodging, food, and registration fees are included. Youth/Young Adult Delegates will be housed in a local hotel.

One delegate will be chosen from each of the ten deaneries.

Qualifications for Applying to DYYAD:

- Applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 22 at the time of the Convention, November 13-14, 2026.
- Applicants must be able to attend a pre-convention online training session
- Applicants are invited to attend a pre-convention deanery meeting
- All applicants must be baptized members in good standing of their church
- Each applicant must have an **application** and a **nomination** form

Applications are due by **Tomorrow, October 16, 2026**. Delegates will be notified of their selection by October 23. All delegates must be registered by October 30.

Christian Formation Around the Diocese

Connections - Share with Us

Do you want to share something about young people, formation, and discipleship from your congregation? Invite people to an event? **Let us know** so we can share in this newsletter, diocesan news, and on social media.

Resources For Ministry

Try This This Month: A Litany of Gratitude

October offers an opportunity to notice the people who make our congregational life possible. This month, invite people of all ages to share something or someone in your church community for whom they are grateful. Encourage children, youth, and adults to talk together about the people, relationships, and ministries that make their congregation a community.

You might set out colorful paper leaves and markers at coffee hour, inviting people of different generations to write or draw their gratitude on a leaf together. Gather the leaves on a bulletin board or wall to create a growing tree of gratitude throughout the month. For an even simpler approach, place a basket with slips of paper and pencils on each coffee hour table and invite people of different ages to share their thanksgivings in conversation before writing them down.

At the end of October, use the responses to create a litany of thanksgiving during worship. Invite children, youth, and adults to take turns reading the thanksgivings aloud, pausing after each one for the congregation to respond, **"We give you thanks, O God."** Together, the congregation offers a prayer shaped by the voices and experiences of every generation.

Diocesan Resource Bank

The **Diocesan Christian Formation Resource Bank** is available in a shared Google Drive. Inside you'll find ready-to-use resources created by congregations across the diocese: lesson plans, intergenerational activities, retreat outlines, seasonal liturgies, prayer stations, and workshop materials. These are practical tools you can download, adapt, and use in your own context.

This is a shared space for our collective wisdom. If you have a resource that has worked well in your parish, we would love to include it. Please submit your materials with a short description of how you used them so others can imagine adapting them to **mmorain@ladiocese.org**

Explore what's there. Borrow freely. Contribute generously.

Explore A Godly Play Membership for Your Congregation

Does your congregation have a Godly Play program? Would you be interested in joining the Godly Play Membership program? Membership offers valuable benefits designed to support your storytellers and enrich your children's ministry, including:

- Select discounts on Godly Play materials
- Reduced registration for virtual workshops, trainings, and conferences
- Access to an archive of conference and webinar recordings
- Opportunities to connect through networking and affinity-focused Circles forums

Strengthen your team, deepen your practice, and connect with a vibrant Godly Play community.

Email Missy Morain, Missioner for Christian Formation, Children, Youth, **mmorain@ladiocese.org** to learn more and get your congregation signed up.

Curious how intergenerational your worship is?

Take the Roots & Wings survey, explore five key traits, and receive practical ideas you can use right away.

Take the survey:
https://buildfaith.org/hallmarks-of-intergenerational-worship-toolkit/

Roots & Wings, a ministry of Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary, equips churches to create a worship where every age is engaged and valued.

Stay Connected

Looking for simple ways to practice faith across generations? Follow us on social media for ideas you can use right away—intergenerational practices, book and resource recommendations, and stories of what's unfolding around the diocese.

Find us **https://www.instagram.com/edla_myp**.

Safe Church/Whole and Healthy Church Policies

The Diocese of Los Angeles is pleased to share our **Whole and Healthy Church policies** designed to support our commitment to creating healthy, nurturing, and accountable ministry environments. These revised guidelines reflect current best practices and provide clearer tools for prevention, training, and response across our congregations and ministries.

A new Safe Church webpage is now live, featuring the full set of updated policies, an online Confidential Notice of Concern form, and step-by-step training guidance for use with the Praesidium platform.

We invite all clergy, lay leaders, and ministry volunteers to review these materials and ensure your congregation is aligned with diocesan expectations.

Visit the Safe Church page on the diocesan website to explore the new resources.

Annual Safe Church Audit for Congregations

Need to have your staff and volunteers Live Scan Background Checked? The **diocesan website** has that information too.

Prayer Site for Youth & Adults

d365.org is a daily devotional written for youth and adults that follows a five step format - Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go. The devotions are written by people from all walks of life who work with and care for young people. d365.org is supported by The Episcopal Church and easy to access from your computer or phone.

Training and Formation Opportunities

Write Your Own Curriculum Workshop with Meredith Miller

October 21 | 10:00–11:30 a.m. Pacific | $27

Want to write or adapt curriculum to better reflect the children and community you serve? Join Meredith Miller for a 90-minute workshop designed to help children's ministry leaders write their own lessons or adapt existing curriculum. Participants will explore how to establish learning goals, create reusable lesson templates, encourage children's participation, and develop lessons that work for their particular ministry context.

Learn more and register.

Discover practical tools to create neuroinclusive churches where every person belongs, learns, and fully participates. **More information and registration**

Two Thursdays, November 5-12, 2026 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. ET.*

Forma members get 25% off this workshop. Not a Forma member? We are offering free Forma memberships to members of the diocese. Reach out to **Missy Morain** now to get yours.

Explore how healthy boundaries can sustain a life-giving vocation and help ministers serve without becoming consumed.

Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 11:00 AM - Noon. **More information and registration**

This program takes place online via Zoom meeting. Registrants can receive access to the recording afterward if the live session is missed.

Live Spanish interpretation will be available.

Forma members get this workshop for free. Not a Forma member? We are offering free Forma memberships to members of the diocese. Reach out to **Missy Morain** now to get yours.

Scholarships Available

Interested in any learning opportunities but need some financial help to participate? Apply for an Immersed in Worship Scholarship, available for laity and clergy in the Diocese of Los Angeles. **Apply now**

Did you receive this message as a forward? Want to be on the mailing list? Sign up for this newsletter and other information about Christian formation and ministries with young people in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.