



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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May 8, 2023



Canon Ashley Hubbard

The Bishop of South Dakota, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jonathan H. Folts, is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Ashley Hubbard, who graduates from Virginia Theological Seminary on May 11, as the new Canon for Formation.

As an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, Canon Hubbard is passionate about Indigenous theology and holding Indigenous spiritualities alongside the Christian faith.

“I am committed to Indigenous ministry and find it particularly important to build relationships within The Episcopal Church that highlight TEC’s rich history among Indigenous communities (over 500 years), promote reconciliation, honor cultural diversity, and emphasize the uniqueness found within each member of the Kingdom of God,” Canon Hubbard says. “I very much look forward to the idea of returning to the *Oceti Sakowin* – the Lakota, Nakota, and Dakota peoples – where I began ministry on Standing Rock, North Dakota.”

“We are so grateful to the Holy Spirit for Ashley’s acceptance of this staff position, and I am looking forward to having her as part of our Diocesan Staff,” Bishop Jonathan says. “Along with her faith, Ashley possesses the gifts, the traits, and, most importantly, the passion this position requires. It will be wonderful to have Ashley, Joe, and their children as part of our diocesan family.”

In addition to her Master of Divinity degree, with a concentration on New Mission Practices, Canon Hubbard holds certificates in Ecotheology from the Washington Theological Consortium, and in Indigenous Studies from the Vancouver School of Theology. During her time at seminary, she worked with the Episcopal Church’s Department of Reconciliation, Justice, and Creation Care to develop a nine-session curriculum on Creation Care; served as the Godly Play Coordinator for the campus; and took classes in Camp and Conference Centers. She holds a Masters in Secondary Education, General Science, from Auburn University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Huntingdon College. Professionally, she has been a high school science teacher and worked as a microbiologist for the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Within The Episcopal Church, Ashley is a secretary for the Indigenous Liturgies Taskforce and a curriculum writer for *Loving God, Loving God’s Earth* – an ecotheology formation tool that will be available to the church July 2023.

In calling her to this position, Bishop Jonathan adds, “It should be noted that the description for this ministry was the product of some very valuable input from Robin Bowen, the Rev. Shaneequa Brokenleg, Carol Cloud Eagle, Warren Hawk, and the Rev. Pat White Horse-Carda. When Ashley told me that she heard the position speaking to her, she heard all our voices inviting her to apply. And I am thankful to God that she did!”

As Canon for Formation, Ashley’s responsibilities will include overseeing the ministry and work for the Thunderhead Episcopal Center; being responsible for the facilitation of the Diocese’s Niobrara School for Ministry; coordinating and implementing Priest/Deacon/Catechist Information Days and Discernment retreats; work with the Archdeacon on the Diaconal Formation Program; work with the Bishop on the Discernment process, Clergy Conference and Clergy Retreats; and serve as the Safe Church Administrator for the Diocese.

An Alabama native, Canon Hubbard is married to The Rev. Joseph Hubbard; together, they have three children – Hill, 14; Hattie, 11; and Hannah, 10 – and two dogs.

Canon Hubbard’s start date will be arranged after her graduation ceremonies are completed.