To register, visit www.mercerschool.org or call 516-248-4800, ext 140.

A Resource and Learning Center supporting One diocese One mission.

Episcopal Diocese of Long Island / 65 Fourth Street, Garden City, NY 11530
Welcome to the Mercer School of Theology
A Resource and Learning Center for the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

In these pages may you find support, learning and empowerment to carry out the ministry to which you are called, in joy! The Mercer School is intent on developing resources that respond to the issues of our time, putting our theological tradition into living dialogue with the needs, challenges, and prospects of the 21st century.

Join us this Spring as we work to grow our parishes and ourselves.

Ted Gerbracht
Director of Academic Programs

Diane Muscarella
Director of Operations

CONTACT INFORMATION:
The George Mercer Jr. Memorial School of Theology
Address: 65 Fourth Street, Garden City, NY 11530
Telephone: 516-248-4800, ext. 140
Fax: 516-248-4883
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Website: www.mercerschool.org

The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano, Bishop of Long Island
Canon Ted Gerbracht, Ph.D., Director of Academic Programs (ext. 117)
Mrs. Diane Muscarella, Director of Operations (ext. 140)
Mrs. Aissa Hillebrand, Assistant Director, Operations/Safe Church Coordinator (ext. 150)
Librarian (ext. 139)

FALL AND SPRING OFFICE HOURS:
9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday through Saturday

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:
9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Thursday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Friday

Registration for all courses and workshops must be received no later than one week prior to the event. To register, visit www.mercerschool.org. The Mercer School reserves the right to charge late fees or to cancel classes due to insufficient enrollment. Payment in full must accompany all registrations. No refunds will be given for non-participation.
Lunch and Learn for Laity about Lambeth in Lent

Date:  Begins Wednesday, March 4, 2020
       and then meets Thursdays, March 19, 26, April 2
Time:  12:45 pm
Location: Mercer School

The Lambeth Conference approaches!
Every ten years or so, the bishops of the Episcopal Church join their sisters and brothers from the worldwide Anglican Communion for conversation and deliberation at the Archbishop of Canterbury’s palace in London. The first of these “Lambeth Conferences” convened in 1867, after Anglican bishops in Canada and Episcopal bishops in the United States urged the Archbishop of Canterbury to call a “global” meeting. Stating that this gathering was not to be a governing body for the churches whose bishops were invited, Archbishop Charles Longley suggested that they assemble for “brotherly counsel and encouragement.” Although the venue has changed since 1970, that tradition has continued. The next meeting will be in July and August 2020. But what does it mean to us?

Join our bishops and our Presiding Bishop’s envoy to the Anglican Communion for four weekly sessions in Lent. Lunch and conversation begin at 12:45 p.m. at Mercer and end no later than 2:15.
Bring your own lunch or we will order a bag lunch for you for $10 per session. At registration you can designate which option you prefer.

Schedule:

Wednesday, March 4, 2020
Canon Charles Robertson, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Beyond The Episcopal Church, will set the stage, describing the origin and meaning of the Lambeth Conference.

Thursday, March 19, 2020
Bishop Geralyn Wolf, Assistant Bishop of Long Island, who participated in the Lambeth Conferences of 1998 and 2008, will share her perspective on issues such as women bishops, liturgical change, and sexuality.

Thursday, March 26, 2020
Bishop R. William Franklin, Assisting Bishop of Long Island, will focus on the conversations at the Lambeth Conferences concerning ecumenical and interfaith relations.

Thursday, April 2, 2020
Bishop Provenzano, Bishop of Long Island, will discuss the meaning and significance of the Anglican Communion and the Lambeth Conference to The Episcopal Church and our Diocese.

You can register at www.mercerschool.org
Registration is limited.
Lenten Series

DATES: Wednesdays, March 4 to April 1
Time: 7 pm
Location: Mercer School of Theology

Join the cathedral clergy in contemplating the Passion of Jesus Christ this Lent. This series will engage ancient and contemporary reflections on Christ’s passion as ways of encountering the mystery of faith and discovering the spiritual power at the heart of the Christian message.

Pot luck meal each week at 7 pm in the Mercer Refectory.
Class from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in the Mercer Library.
Free and open to the public.

Fifth Annual Robert Capon Lecture

DATE: Wednesday, May 13, 2020
Time: 6:15 pm Reception 7 pm Lecture
Location: Cathedral of the Incarnation

“Word and Image: The Hermeneutics of The Saint John’s Bible”
Presented by The Rev. Michael Patella, OSB

A Benedictine monk of Saint John’s Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, Fr. Michael Patella is a professor of New Testament and teaches at Saint John’s University there, where he serves as seminary rector and the director of the graduate school’s Holy Land Studies Program. He has published in the areas of Luke, Mark, Paul, angels, and demons, art and theology, and also has written for The Bible Today and Give Us This Day. His most recent book, Word and Image: the Hermeneutics of The Saint John’s Bible, is the fruit of his work as chair of the Committee on Illumination and Texts for The Saint John’s Bible.

Refreshments will be served on the lawn outside the cathedral with the lecture following in the main sanctuary.

For more information, visit www.incarnationgc.org or www.mercerschool.org.
First Tuesdays Education Program
DATES: Continuing from September 2019, Dates are February 4 Winter Clergy Day, March 3, No April or May, June 2.
Time: 10 am – 2 pm
Location: Mercer School of Theology
A monthly program for clergy to gather, pray, access continuing education and enhance skills as a clericus, and build community among the clergy of Long Island. The day begins with Morning Prayer in the Cathedral at 8:45 am, Continuing Education at 10:00 am at Mercer School of Theology, Eucharist at the Cathedral with shared preaching and celebration at 12:15 pm followed by lunch.
Note: May 5-7, 2020 is the Clergy Conference.
For more information and registration contact Office of Congregational Support at 516-248-4800, ext. 134.

Winter Clergy Day – Indaba: A Way of Listening
DATE: Tuesday, Feb 4, 2020
Time: 10 am – 4 pm
Location: Mercer School of Theology
Following in the footsteps of the Anglican Communion and other Episcopal Dioceses we will be taking on the Indaba experience to deepen our friendships and build trust. We will be sharing the book “Indaba: A way of listening, engaging and understanding across the Anglican Communion” by Paula B. Nesbitt, which describes the process and outcomes of Indaba.
For more information and registration contact Office of Congregational Support at 516-248-4800, ext. 134.

Deacons’ Retreat
DATE: Saturday March 21, 2020
Time: 9:30 am – 3 pm
Location: Mercer School of Theology
A gathering of the deacons of the diocese for learning, support and fellowship.
To register, contact Canon Patricia Mitchell, Bishop's Office, pmitchell@dioceseli.org or 516-248-4800 ext. 166.

REVIVE Clergy Orientation
DATES/TIME/LOCATION:
February 28, 2020
Mercer School, Garden City 10 am
February 29, 2020
St Mary's Church, Lake Ronkonkoma 10 am
Revive is a journey taken over 3 six-week modules of spiritual formation in prayer, scripture, and ministry, to equip your leaders to be disciples who are intentional, spiritual leaders. The training this February is for clergy in best practices and uses of Revive. Many on our Vestries do not know how to come into the presence of God to be transformed and freed to do the work of the church and its ministry. Revive is a spiritual journey to take with your leadership to transform and build up your work together.
For more information and registration contact Office of Congregational Support at 516-248-4800, ext. 134.
MERCER School for Ministry

From a “School of Theology” forming men for the priesthood …

MERCER THEN

The Mercer School began in the post-WWII period to encourage men employed full time to become Episcopal priests to fill the need for pastors for churches growing in the new communities springing up during the postwar period. The model for the School was a four-year version of the curriculum offered in three-year courses of study at residential seminaries. The level of work and commitment were comparable to that of any advanced degree professional academic program.

MERCER NOW

Today’s classes feel very different. We gather around a table seminar-style, or for larger classes in a horseshoe arrangement. Some students interact with their instructor via video conference. There are both lay learners and men and women preparing for ordination side by side. In some classes lay students significantly outnumber ordinands. As during “Mercer Then,” tuition for classes is largely underwritten by the Mercer Scholarship Fund, with laity paying $25 per course to cover administrative expenses.

The School for Ministry meets in the School's building at the Diocesan Center one Saturday each month, from February through June.

The spring semester dates are: 2/15; 3/21; 4/18; 5/9; 6/20 2020. Class sizes are limited. Lunch is provided.

Fee for each course is $25.

The School for Ministry seeks your suggestions and feedback about our programs.

In addition to our scheduled meetings as a school, watch for the return of our popular mid-day short “Lunch and Learn” courses in Lent and Easter.

Follow the School for Ministry tab on the Mercer website, or contact Canon Ted Gerbracht, Director of Academic Studies, at 516-248-4800 ext. 117 email: tgerbracht@dioceseli.org.
NT1 – Synoptic Gospels
Time: 9 am – 10:15 am
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Michael Hull
A first course in the New Testament, introducing the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). The course examines their structural similarities and considers their geographical, socio-political, and religious contexts to expose and explain themes and issues in the Synoptics. Selected passages from each of the Synoptic Gospels are exegeted in detail. (taught via Skype at Mercer)

CH2 – Ecclesia Anglicana
Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm
Instructor: Canon Ted Gerbracht
Broad historical overview of Anglican Christianity, focusing on the growth and development of our mother church, the Church of England, and what would become a loose Anglican Communion and a unique American Episcopal Church.

OT1 – Pentateuch and Historical Books
Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Michael Hull
The Pentateuch and the Historical Books of the Old Testament, including a synopsis of their literary, ideological, historical and theological contexts. These books of the Bible are covered in detail. (Note: class sessions taught via Skype at Mercer).

TH2 – Yesterday and Tomorrow
Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm
Instructor: Rev. Canon Dr. Bruce Griffith
Historical and systematic analysis of Anglican theology, focusing on perennial themes in Anglican writing, ecumenical missiology, and David Ford’s The Future of Christian Theology. Finally, we will consider a short section from the South African Reformed theologian David Bosch’s Transforming Mission.

LT2 – Book of Common Prayer
Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am
Instructor: Right Rev. Dr. R. William Franklin
The 1979 Book of Common Prayer in light of the evolution of Anglican Worship. Having established the context for our conversation, we will cover the spirituality and practicality of the book. With “Prayer Book Reform” discussion and forums active on social media, we will also consider which parts of our Prayer Book tradition should be retained as well as what might be discarded.

Coming in the spring:
“Lunch & Learn for Laity about Lambeth in Lent”
Every ten years or so, the bishops of the Episcopal Church join their sisters and brothers from the worldwide Anglican Communion for conversation and deliberation at the Archbishop of Canterbury’s palace in London. The next meeting will be in July and August 2020. But what does it mean to us? Join our bishops and our Presiding Bishop’s envoy to the Anglican Communion for four weekly sessions in Lent. Lunch and conversation beginning at 12:45 p.m. at Mercer and ending no later than 2:15.

To register, visit www.mercerschool.org or call 516-248-4800, ext 140.
DIOCESAN TRAINING WORKSHOPS

How to Host a Safe Church Training at Your Parish?

There are instances in which trainings may take place off-site of the Mercer School Campus. There are a number of trainers authorized by the Diocese of Long Island to travel to your parish and lead an onsite training session. In total, trainings usually last between 4.5 hours accommodating no more than 40-50 people. The trainer’s fee is $400. Parishes may not charge participants for these sessions, but may want to partner with a neighboring parish to share the cost. During sessions, a member of clergy, staff, or vestry should be available for pastoral purposes or if any questions or concerns regarding your specific parish arise. Parish training sessions will be listed online on the diocesan and Mercer website’s calendars, and are open to all members of the diocese. Host parishes handle the registration process, and may give priority to their own parishioners.

If you are interested in this option, please email Safe Church Coordinator Aissa Hillebrand at ahillebrand@dioceseli.org

Did you know that Safe Church is available online?

Though in-person Safe Church training is required initially in almost all cases, there is the ability for those previously trained to renew their training online. This requires each parish to have an online administrator who will be in charge of maintaining that parish’s Safe Church records.

If your parish does not have an online administrator and wishes to set one up, you should designate a person, then contact Diocesan Safe Church Coordinator Aissa Hillebrand at 516-248-4800, ext. 150 or ahillebrand@dioceseli.org

Safe Church

DATES: Saturdays, Feb 22, 2020; April 25, 2020; June 13, 2020
Time: 9 am – 3:30 pm
Location: Mercer School of Theology

Topics covered include the legal, ethical, and theological foundations for the prevention of sexual abuse or harassment and the development of safe working and learning places. New church employees and lay leaders are encouraged to register for these workshops. The training is required for vestry and church staff, including Sunday School teachers and all parishioners who work with children. Safe Church workshops are offered in English and Spanish throughout the academic year, both at Mercer School and locations throughout the diocese.

Class size is limited. There is no fee for this event.
Lunch will be provided.
To register, contact the Mercer Office 516-248-4800 ext 140 or merceroffice@dioceseli.org or visit www.mercerschool.org.

Safe Church en Espanol

DATE: Saturday May 2, 2020
Time: 10 am – 2 pm
Location: St. Andrew’s Church, Brooklyn

For information and to register, contact the Very Rev. Antonio Checo stmarksjh@gmail.com or 718-639-8893 or the Mercer Office.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

DATE: Thursday, March 5, 2020
Time: 6 pm – 9 pm
Location: Mercer School of Theology

This workshop will prepare those nominated by their clergy to act as Lay Eucharistic Visitors to those hospitalized or confined to rehabilitation and nursing institutions, as well as the homebound. Content will include Eucharistic theology, role-playing for visits, and the required Safe Church training. Those who participate in this workshop, with their rector/clergy-in-charge’s support, can then be licensed by the Bishop’s Office as Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

There is no fee for this event.
For registration, assure first that you are sponsored by your parish clergy, then contact the Mercer Office 516-248-4800 ext 140 or merceroffice@dioceseli.org.

Racism Awareness Training

DATE: Saturday, June 6, 2020
Time: 10 am – 4 pm
Location: Mercer School of Theology

Awareness of racism and response to it in our individual lives and in our communities remains as crucial as ever to the health of both Church and society. Participants will be led from an awareness of discrimination to an understanding of racism and other forms of oppression on the personal, interpersonal, institutional and systemic levels.

There is no fee for this class. Class size limited.
To register, visit www.mercerschool.org or call 516-248-4800, ext.140.
Training for Lectors:
THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELLS AMONG US
DATE: Saturday, March 7, 2020
Time: 10 am – 12 noon
Location: Cathedral of the Incarnation
This half-day workshop will focus on the responsibility and the role of the Lector in worship. Together we will explore preparation, pronunciation, projection, and the ministry of the Lector. This hands-on workshop is taught by the Rev. Michael Delaney, Canon Pastor at the Cathedral of the Incarnation and the Liturgical Coordinator for the Diocese of Long Island.
To register, visit www.mercerschool.org or call 516-248-4800, ext.140.

Education for Ministry (EfM) in the Diocese of Long Island
EfM
Education for Ministry, or EfM, is a four-year ecumenical program designed to prepare you for lay ministry within the diverse contexts of contemporary life. Students sign up one year at a time for the four-year program. The curriculum is centered on theological reflection, which is the artful spiritual discipline of putting our life experiences into conversation with the living God of our faith. It's a practical skill that will provide a way for you to experience greater meaning in your day-to-day life and a more tangible sense of God’s loving presence in the world.

The program grants a certificate at the completion of the four years and 18 Continuing Education Units for each year’s work. There are EfM groups meeting currently throughout the diocese.

More details, including sample lessons, can be found on-line at: http://www.sewanee.edu/.

Join us…
EfM Mentor Training June 4-6, 2020
Location: Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, NY
No EfM experience required! Learn skills in leadership, leading group discussion and theological reflection. Fee required.
For more information, please contact John Musco, the Diocesan Coordinator: johnmusco@gmail.com, 917-519-0422 or visit the Mercer website http://www.mercerschool.org/efm.php.

Invite Welcome Connect
Newcomer Ministry
Regional Trainings!
85% of people come to church because someone invited them. These workshops will teach authentic engagement skills to invite the people in your life to your church and a new relationship with Jesus Christ and his people.

Building on the program introduced in Spring 2019, three locations will host this workshop. Get your team there!

DATE: March 14, 2020
Time: 10 am – 3 pm
Location: Mercer School of Theology

DATE: March 21, 2020
Time: 10 am – 3 pm
Location: Church of St. James, St. James

DATE: March 28, 2020
Time: 10 am – 3 pm
Location: St. Stephen and St. Martin’s, Brooklyn

To register and for more information, contact The Rev. Canon Claire Woodley cwoodley@dioceseli.org 516-248-4800, ext. 134

To register, visit www.mercerschool.org or call 516-248-4800, ext 140.
The Path: A Journey Through The Bible

Building on RenewalWorks, in the Fall of 2019 a Diocesan wide reading launched of The Path: A Journey Through Scripture. This selection of the stories and scriptures show the arc of God's path to restore us to the full embrace of God's love in Jesus Christ. Beginning with Creation, right on through the Book of Revelation, The Path shows God's long commitment, a living plan to restore our relationship with God, here and now, in this life.

This intergenerational reading of scripture means the whole family, at home and in church, can see how the Old and New Testaments hang together and show a clearly intelligible Path and what is says about our story in God's story. With adult, youth and children's curriculums, coloring books, and a suite of resources available on-line, we can open scripture in a variety of creative and thought-provoking ways. Available through Audio books, all ages and reading proficiency levels can enjoy The Path/La Senda. We'll grow together in our understanding of God's love and our ability to encourage one another and the world that God cherishes.

To see a preview of The Path go here:
https://www.forwardmovement.org/Products/2418/the-path.aspx

New Congregational Development Website

Learn more about the Path and other Congregational Support Programs in the Diocese of Long Island! Visit the new online resource page at: https://www.congsupport.info/.

Godly Play® Memberships

[VISIT www.godlyplayfoundation.org]

The Diocese of Long Island through the Mercer School partners with the Godly Play Foundation to provide a blanket membership in the Foundation for our churches. Membership includes many benefits and discounts for trainings and supplies. Visit the Godly Play Foundation Membership page to register using Promotional code circle 2018. Register for a training session with special discount code membersrock.

Questions? Contact Teresa Phares at membership@godlyplayfoundation.org or 931-636-3993.

SAVE THE DATE!
Parish Administrators Day

Tuesday May 19, 2020

For more information visit www.mercerschool.org after April 1st.
THE REV. J. CLARENCE JONES LIBRARY
at the George Mercer, Jr. Memorial School of Theology

The Library
The primary mission of the Mercer School library is to support the educational programs of the Mercer School of Theology as well as the library needs of the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Long Island. Circulation is open to all who register with the library. Members of the diocese may register without restriction; those outside the diocese may register with certain preconditions to ensure return of materials. The library’s stacks host 35,000 books on a variety of theological subjects, most of which are cataloged according to the Library of Congress classification system, the scholarly norm. The library uses The Library Company (TLC) as host for its print material operations, with the catalog located in West Virginia.

Use of Special Collections and the Diocese of Long Island Archives are by appointment only, because of the need to gather and prepare materials for researchers.

The catalogue of the library is available on the Internet: http://mercer.tlcdelivers.com:8080. Circulation is only to registered patrons.

The main floor of the Jones Library also serves an event space for the diocese. Because of this, readers should contact the Mercer Office (ext. 140) before coming to the library to make sure that the space is available for their use.

WORSHIP AND STUDY

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd
The Chapel of the Good Shepherd lies at the heart of the Mercer School. Attendance at Chapel services is a vital expression of the corporate life of the Mercer community as well as a means of assisting each individual in his or her spiritual formation. It is hoped that all who study at Mercer will avail themselves of the Chapel and its services and will assist in their conduct. The Chapel of the Good Shepherd is always available for quiet meditation and prayer and is open to groups wishing to gather together to pray morning/evening or other prayer services.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Since members of the faculty and students at Mercer come from many locations throughout the Diocese, occasions when the weather is threatening or hazardous will vary within the area. Each instructor will have the responsibility of deciding whether or not to cancel his or her class in the event of inclement weather and the instructor will make every effort possible to contact students in the event that such a cancellation takes place.

Note that whenever the Bishop’s Office is closed due to poor weather, Mercer School will close as well.

When cancellation becomes necessary Mercer School will make every attempt to communicate the news to all those registered for any affected gathering. Please assure that in registering, your contact information is provided and is correct and up-to-date.
# CALENDAR SPRING 2020

## February
- 2/1: Postulancy Conference
- 2/4: Winter Clergy Day
- 2/8: Absalom Jones Celebration in Brooklyn
- 2/12: Renewalworks Fall Debrief Gathering
- 2/15: *School for Ministry*
  - Spring semester classes begin
- 2/22: Safe Church Training @ Mercer
- 2/26: **Ash Wednesday Masses @ Cathedral**
- 2/28-29: REVIVE Event with Dawn Davis
  - (2/28 @ Mercer; 2/29 @ Lake Ronkonkoma)

## March
- 3/3: First Tuesday - Clergy Continuing Education Day
- 3/4: Lunch & Learn
  - “Lambeth Conference Series”
  - (3 more Thursday sessions: 3/19; 3/26; 4/2)
  - Cathedral Lenten Series
- 3/5: Eucharistic Visitor Training @ Mercer
- 3/7: Day of Discernment Commission on Ministry
- 3/9: Lectors’ Day @ Cathedral
  - with the Rev Michael Delaney
- 3/14: Invite, Welcome, Connect for Evangelism
  - Events at Mercer
  - (3/21 in St James; 3/28 in Brooklyn)
- 3/21: *School for Ministry*
  - Diakonia Retreat
- 3/28: Episcopal Church Women Quiet Day

## April
- 4/3-4: Nightwatch @ Cathedral/Mercer
- 4/5: **Palm Sunday**
- 4/7: Chrism Mass @ Cathedral
- 4/10: **Good Friday Liturgy in Cathedral**
  - Children’s Stations of the Cross
  - Stations of the Cross
- 4/12: **Easter (Closed April 10-13)**
- 4/18: *School for Ministry*
- 4/23: Commission on Ministry Opening Event
- 4/25: Safe Church Training @ Mercer

## May
- 5/2: Ministry Support Day
- 5/5-7: Clergy Conference
- 5/13: Capon Lecture
- 5/9: *School for Ministry*
- 5/19: Parish Administrators Day
- 5/22-25: **CLOSED Memorial Day Holiday/Cathedral Fair**
- 5/27: Day Schools Day
- 5/30: Mass in the Grass Youth Event

## June
- 6/2: First Tuesday Clergy Education Day
- 6/6: Racism Awareness Training @ Mercer
- 6/13: Safe Church Training @ Mercer
- 6/20: *School for Ministry*

Visit [www.mercerschool.org](http://www.mercerschool.org) and our new website congsupport.info!