

HOLY HIKES™ Report to Diocesan Convention 2015

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God”

– Romans 8:19

Since 2010, Holy Hikes has been inviting people into a relationship with creation in a communion-centered way through weekly liturgical hikes. Almost every fourth Saturday of the month we gather for a 10:00 a.m. hike during which we celebrate a stational Eucharist. These hikes tend to be fairly level and generally no more than three miles round-trip to accommodate hikers of all skill levels.

Holy Hikes in the San Francisco Bay Area is established as a ministry of Saint Giles, Moraga, serving the Diocese of California and the wider San Francisco Bay Area. We hold hikes throughout the diocese in Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Marin County, San Francisco County, and San Mateo County. The location changes monthly in order to reach people throughout the diocese. This year we have visited Tilden Regional Park, Land’s End, Indian Rock, Del Valle Regional Park, Portola Redwoods State Park, Roberts Regional Recreation Area, and we had a contingent hiking with Woods-to-Waves, a fundraiser hike to support St. Dorothy’s Rest.

I have been serving as director of Holy Hikes since I began this ministry in 2010 and am joined by a very supportive team of associates for our San Francisco Bay Area ministry including Wesley D. Capps (associate lay minister), David Romain (associate geographer), and Matthew Lanier (associate music minister). This year, Holy Hikes began a national expansion with established chapters around the country. We are pleased to welcome the following chapters:

Holy Hikes– Adirondacks

Holy Hikes– Central Virginia

Holy Hikes– Mid-Michigan

Holy Hikes– Southeast Michigan

In addition to these new chapters, Holy Hikes has two ministry affiliates including The Garden Church, San Pedro, and Forest Church. Discernment is underway for forming new chapters in West Virginia and Atlanta. Details about becoming an affiliate ministry or founding a chapter can be found on our website. We still hope support for Holy Hikes might grow so we can someday offer environmental service projects, retreats, and overnight camping trips. We are excited about the growth of this ministry and invite you to learn more or consider making a gift to support our work at www.holyhikes.org.

Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Justin R. Cannon, founder and director, Holy Hikes™