

THE REV. PHIL LABELLE

EPISCOPAL PRIEST

EDUCATION

Fuller Theological Seminary

Doctor of Ministry (Expected June 2024)

2019-2024

Christian Spirituality cohort taught by Tony Jones and co-taught by Lauren Winner, Brian McLaren, and J. Ryan Parker. Thesis title: "Embracing *Zimzum*: Making Space in Overly Busy Lives for God, Others, and the Whole of Creation."

Yale University

Master of Divinity

2001-2004

Berkeley Divinity School at Yale

Diploma in Anglican Studies

2001-2004

Northeastern University

Master of Arts in English, Concentration in Rhetoric & Composition

1995-1998

Gordon College

Bachelor of Arts in English and Minor Concentration in Theological Studies

1988-1992

CERTIFICATES

The Preaching Congregation Program,
Episcopal Preaching Foundation –
2023-2024

Lake Institute on Faith and Giving
Executive Certificate in Religious
Fundraising – 2018

Colorado Congregational Development
Institute – 2008-2009

Clinical Pastoral Education, Carolinas
Medical Center, Charlotte – 2003

MINISTRY STATEMENT

I believe the call to ordained ministry is to make disciples of Jesus Christ through the preaching of the gospel and in sharing the sacraments, so that these Christ-followers can in turn go out into the world to proclaim his message of good news. In this way, the mission of Christ's kingdom is furthered, and both our lives and the lives of those we encounter are transformed by Jesus' love, mercy, and grace.

ORDAINED EXPERIENCE

Rector

St. Mark's Church, Southborough, MA

2011-Present

- Priest for pastoral-sized congregation in the Diocese of Massachusetts focusing on discipleship and providing pastoral care and faith formation
- Presided at three distinct morning services through Spring 2023
- Successfully transitioned to two Sunday services in fall of 2023, combining different music worship styles and increasing attendance
- Revitalized youth ministry program, creating a Youth Director position
- Completed \$850,000 capital campaign to restore historic clock tower during COVID-19 pandemic, including receiving preservation grants
- Established Open Plate outreach program, giving away non-designated offerings to a monthly local charity, and inviting hands-on opportunities
- Pivoted to streaming worship the week the pandemic began, working with my son to integrate music, readings, and prayers from parishioners
- Addressed significant budget deficits with the vestry both upon my arrival and following the pandemic
- Worked with vestry to navigate issues around same gender marriage, tower restoration, ministry during COVID, and transition to two services
- Began monthly Messy Church in Spring of 2023 to address declining attendance of young families post-pandemic
- Oversaw and managed staff of up to eight part-time employees
- Added Assisting Priest role post-pandemic to strengthen pastoral care for those unable to attend church in-person
- Established yearly community-wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- Co-led six youth mission trips in both urban and rural settings

Rector

The Church of Christ the King, Arvada, CO

2007-2010

- Priest for pastoral-sized parish in the Diocese of Colorado
 - Preached and celebrated at two Sunday services, mid-week Eucharist, and monthly alternative evening worship
 - Addressed issues of significant conflict due to the then recent sexual abuse by a long-time member and previous clergy sexual misconduct
 - Extensively restructured the organization of all parish ministries and groups from fifty committees to five connected parish communities
 - Taught adult education, new member orientation, and Bible studies
 - Provided pastoral care to parishioners facing life transitions
 - Co-led two summer youth mission work trips
 - During my ministry, pledging, membership, participation in faith formation, and outreach offerings increased
-

THE REV. PHIL LABELLE

DIOCESAN SERVICE

Diocese of Massachusetts

- Mission Strategy Committee
Co-Chair: 2018-2022
- Executive Committee: 2019-2021
- Diocesan Council: 2016-2021
- Assessment Coordinating Committee: 2020-2021
- Racial Reconciliation Exploration Committee: 2021
- Resolutions Committee of Diocesan Convention: 2016-2017
- Mission Strategy Visioning and Writing Team: 2015-2016
- Fresh Start/New Call Program Director: 2015-2018
- Fresh Start Facilitator: 2012-2015

Diocese of Colorado

- Commission on Ministry: 2007-2010
Assistant Chair: 2010
- Colorado Congregational Development Institute Facilitator Intern: 2009-2010
- Cathedral Ridge Camp and Conference Center Initial Communications Team: 2010

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Southborough Neighbors for Peace
Co-Founder: 2015-Present
- Central Mass. Connections in Faith
Core Team: 2018-2022
- Boy Scouts: Charter Representative for Pack 926: 2011-Present
Den Leader: 2011-2016
Troop 92 Committee Rep: 2017- 2022
- Southborough Clergy Association
- Board Member, Person to Person, Darien, CT: 2004-2007
- Habitat for Humanity Carter Work Project Volunteer, South Africa: 2002

CONTINUING ED

- Building a Second Brain Conference, Online 2023
- Gathering of Leaders: Boston 2011, Sewanee 2014, Malibu 2013 & 2019
- Frederick Buechner Writer's Workshop, Princeton 2017
- Festival of Homiletics, Denver 2016
- CREDO: 2007 & 2012
- Poets, Prophets, & Preachers Conference, Grand Rapids 2010
- The Institute for Youth Ministry Conference, Princeton 2000

ORDAINED EXPERIENCE (CON'T)

Associate Rector

- Saint Luke's Parish, Darien, CT 2004--2007
- Part of clergy team at resource-sized parish in Diocese of Connecticut sharing in all areas of the liturgical and spiritual life of the parish
 - Oversaw youth director, youth programs, extensive outreach ministries, and new member program
 - Led multiple domestic and international missions for both youth and adults
 - Created the "Come As You Are" evening service and served as the primary priest for this intergenerational congregation
 - Designed curriculum and coordinated confirmation programs for more than 100 6th-8th grade students
 - Sought reconciliation with Native American community in Navajoland in response to an incident on a youth mission trip prior to my arrival

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Seminarian

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Milford, CT 2003-2004

Sacristan

Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, New Haven, CT 2002-2003

Collaborative Ministry Summer Intern

Central Berkshires Episcopal Community, Dalton, MA 2002

Youth Minister

St. Francis Church, Holden, MA 1997-2001

Marketing Communications Manager

FairMarket, Inc., Woburn, MA 1999-2001

SELECT PRESENTATIONS & HONORS

"Meeting God in Our Busy Lives: The Theology and Practice of *Zimzum*"
Six session course offered through the St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer, 2023

"Living Into Our Mission with Intention"
Diocese of Massachusetts Diocesan Council Retreat, 2020

"Exploring the Basics of an Episcopal Understanding of Christianity"
Central Mass. Connections in Faith Presentation, 2018

Lily Endowment Clergy Renewal Grant
"Finding Renewal in the Wilderness: The Spiritual Practice of Wilderness Hiking."
Together with St. Mark's Church, awarded \$50,000 sabbatical grant in 2017

PERSONAL

My wife Melissa and I have been married since 1995. Melissa is an Assistant Professor of Secondary Education at Bridgewater State University. Together we have two children: Noah is currently on a bridge year program and will begin his college studies next fall, and Olivia is a high school senior who has been recruited to run track next year. We also have a beagle-lab-shepherd rescue named Charlie Brown.

I enjoy hiking, camping, paddling, bread making, cooking, photography, film, reading, writing, board games, and laughing with my family.

Together we've walked the Camino Francés to Santiago and hiked numerous trails in Acadia National Park and the Rockies. Noah and I have also climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro.
