

The Rev. Dr. Hillary D. Raining

Hillaryraining.com

Profile

Rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Gladwyne, PA. Mother of Delia, spouse to Kenneth Raining, author, scholar, seminary professor, professional speaker, yoga & meditation teacher, beekeeper, and musician. Founder of The Hive- online spirituality and wellness community: www.thehiveapiary.com

Selected Relevant Experience

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- Member of the Slate of Episcopal Candidates for Election of the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont, 2019
- President and member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, 2014-2019
- Member of the Commission on Ministry of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, 2013-2018
- Visiting Member of the North American Academy of Liturgy, 2015-Present
- Member of the Liturgical Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, 2013- Present
- Member of the Gathering of Leaders Steering Committee and National Presenter, 2012-2019
- Lay Deputy 2003 & 2006 National General Convention, Clergy Alternate Deputy 2012 & 2015 General Convention, & Clergy Deputy 2018 General Convention
- Theologian-in-Residence, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle, 2022
- Faculty & Presenter for the Episcopal Preaching Foundation's Preaching Excellence Program, 2022-Present
- Fellow in Resident, The Sewanee School of Theology, Spring of 2021
- Certified Daring Way Facilitator (CDWF), having trained with Brené Brown and her team, 2015
- Member of Presiding Bishop's National Moravian Dialogue Celebration Liturgical Planning Commission and Master of Ceremonies, 2010-2011
- Member of the Episcopal Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music Committee, 2003-2009 & 2018
- Member of the Episcopal Standing Committee of the State of the Church, 2003-2009
- Worked extensively with the Episcopal Church's Digital Evangelism team to produce, appear, and preach in several projects, including "[Holy Week: St. Christopher's Church, Gladwyne, PA](#)" a live-streaming video project that shared The Daily Office and our Holy Week services to thousands of viewers worldwide, first in 2018 and again in 2020 during the global pandemic.
- Popular author, retreat leader, seminary professor, and public speaker throughout the Episcopal Church.
- Creator of "The Hive" - Online community based on the community model and growth of the honey bee hive (an ancient metaphor for the church). This wellness and spirituality website supports progressive Christian's growth in their faith. The Hive can be found at www.thehiveapiary.com. The Hive was awarded an Episcopal Church Evangelism Grant, a New Genesis Grant (2018) of \$20,000, and a UTO Grant (2020) of \$25,000.
- Lead Consultant & Researcher for Berkeley Divinity School at Yale Divinity School & The Annand Program- Currently guiding a major research project aimed at studying the spiritual lives of students who have participated in the Annand program. The project will evaluate the program's effectiveness through internal surveys and qualitative data gathered from interviews with current students and alums. In addition to students--past and present—this project will also be surveying key stakeholders in seminary formation, including Diocesan Bishops, Transition Canons, and Deans in charge of formation in other seminaries to understand better the spiritual leadership needs in the wider church and how the Annand Program can address them. (2024)

RECTOR, ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH | GLADWYNE, PA | 2014 - PRESENT

- Currently serving as the first woman rector to a 400-member parish in the suburbs of Philadelphia.

- Serves as head of staff and chaplain to Parish Day School & Kindergarten Enrichment community and has increased the connection between parish and school.
- Helped to guide the creation of a new mission statement and execute a strategic long-term plan to grow in numbers and the Holy Spirit.
- Increased connections with local organizations, social justice efforts, inter-faith groups, and community members to encourage evangelism and pastoring of the community.
- Mentored several seminarians, postulants, and new priests who have served at the parish and in the wider church.
- Serves as a Spiritual Director for clergy on behalf of the Diocese of Pennsylvania
- During tenure, the parish demonstrated strong marks of spiritual, numerical, and financial growth.
- Created digital ministries such as The Hive to support Christian growth and evangelism (www.thehiveapiary.com). These creative endeavors were critical at the pandemic's rise and helped keep the parish connected, spiritually enriched, and growing.

DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY, FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF DMIN PROGRAM FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP & AFFILIATE PROFESSOR OF ASCETIC & LITURGICAL THEOLOGY | THE GENERAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY | NEW YORK, NY | 2019- 2023

- Founding Director of the Doctorate of Ministry Program on Spiritual Leadership
- Director of the Center for Christian Spirituality
- Cultivated a team of skilled and diverse faculty and advisors.
- Cultivated a strong community life for students and faculty including retreats
- Served as Affiliate Faculty teaching classes such as Ascetic Theology with the Mystics, Spiritual Leadership, Liturgy, & Homiletics (both at the Doctoral and Master Levels)
- Served as Faculty Advisor and First Reader in the DMin & STM program
- Mentor and Seminary Site Supervisor
- Helped to transition the Seminary into its current hybrid/ low residency program.

FOUNDER OF THE HIVE | 2015-PRESENT | WWW.THEHIVEAPIARY.COM

- Registered 501c3 Non-profit based on a model of community and growth of the honey bee's hive (an ancient metaphor for the church) wellness and spirituality website will support progressive Christians growing in their faith.
- The Hive has been awarded several grants for its innovation and impact, including two Evangelism Grants from the Episcopal Church, a New Genesis Grant New Genesis Grant of \$20,000, and a United Thank Offering of \$25,000. The Hive includes a monthly membership community.
- Includes members from all over the world and has an ever-growing library of classes taught by seminary professors and spiritual leaders spanning the country. It is governed by diverse scholars and leaders from around the country.
- It has brought programming to such partners as UTO, The Episcopal Church, The Diocese of Pennsylvania, The General Theological Seminary, The Virginia Theological Seminary, Berkeley Divinity School, The Shift Network, The Trinity Wall St. Retreat Center, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, The Wild Goose Festival, several parishes nationwide, and the women inmates at Perryville Prison in Litchfield Park, AZ as an outreach offering.

ASSOCIATE RECTOR, ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | WAYNE, PA | 2011- 2014

- Clergy Support for the Pastoral Care Committee (over 16 ministries, including coordinating the clergy pastoral visits), the Fellowship Committee (12 ministries), and the Discipleship Committee (14 ministries)
- Severed as clergy in charge of worship during the Rector's sabbatical for one of the largest Episcopal churches in the nation, 2013

- Designed and taught many classes, including a six-week course on Reconciliation in conjunction with Doctoral Thesis
- Certified in the Walking the Mourner's Path Curriculum and in Stephen's Leader Training
- Served as a key leader in a capital campaign that raised over \$4 Million

CURATE, TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH | BETHLEHEM, PA | 2008 – 2011

- Certified in the Godly Play Curriculum and Journey to Adulthood Curriculum
- Served in the Soup Kitchen in both a pastoral and administrative function, including temporarily acting as the Soup Kitchen Coordinator while Deacon was on sabbatical.
- Served as "Priest-in-Charge" during Rector's four-month sabbatical, 2011

SEMINARIAN INTERN, ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | NAUGATUCK, CT | 2006 – 2008

- Designed liturgies for the Children's Defense Celebration
- Served as official Pastoral Presences while the Rector was on sabbatical, 2007

CHAPLAIN INTERN, GRIFFIN HOSPITAL | DERBY, CT | SUMMER 2007

- Provided pastoral care to patients of all kinds, including Emergency room and Hospice care
- Designed and led an outpatient substance abuse support group and created a meditation guide for that group
- Earned one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education credit

Select Recent Publications, Research, and Presentations

- *Joy in Confession: Reclaiming Sacramental Reconciliation*- Book including a robust toolbox for clergy, congregations, and individuals with insight on what to expect during confession, how to incorporate confession into the life of a congregation, and how to hear a confession. Published by Forward Movement, 2017.
- *Faith with a Twist- A 30-Day Yoga Journey*- Book & video series co-authored with Amy Dolan blending yoga and Christian faith. A guide for those who are seeking to grow in their love of God, blending different meditation, prayer, and practice for each day in a month-long journey. In addition to the core material, there are a series of suggestions on how this series could be used to complement different seasons in the church year. Published by Forward Movement, 2018.
- *Revising the Rite of Reconciliation: All May, Come Should, None Must...But What if We Did?* "WORSHIP" VOL 92- Academic article featured in a liturgical peer-reviewed journal, July 2018. First featured as a paper presented to the Liturgical Theology seminar at the North American Academy of Liturgy Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2017.
- *"Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent"*- Authored a series of adult forums, quiet day retreat, video series, sermon series, and podcast series for The Episcopal Church, which served as the 2019-2020 Lenten Offering worldwide. This set of teachings ties the Easter Vigil readings to the seven practices of the Way of Love. Presented this work at St. Christopher's Church, the Diocese of Bethlehem, and the Clergy Retreat for the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, 2019.
- *Miiqwech & Blood Memory: Gratitude as a Multi-Lineage Spiritual Practice*- Award-winning Essay & Peer Reviewed article in "The Anglican Theological Review" Spring 2021- This journal article was chosen by an anonymous peer review of multidisciplinary scholars to be a part of The Convocation and Scholars Conference on the Theology of Gratitude hosted by Bexley Seabury Seminary and the United Thank Offering. Using the lens of generational, psychological, and theological studies, this article took the gratitude worldview and practices of the Ojibwa Native Americans as its entry point into the study of blood memory. It also offered suggestions for church communities looking to reclaim gratitude as a spiritual practice in modern times, drawing from the Church's institutional "blood memory."
- *Spiritual Practices for Modern Day Mystic*, Featured on the Shift Network's 2022 Mystic Summit, this talk helped listeners engage the great mystic lineage and the lessons we can take from their guidance today. (2022)

- [*"Hive Christianity Class"*](#)- The Shift Network has a reach of over 3 million members worldwide. In this 7- part class, Hillary helped participants transform fear and spiritual trauma with wisdom from the great mystics, Indigenous spirituality, and trauma-informed research. Students from all over the world and from many different faiths joined this class. (2023)
- [*"Developing a Rule of Life"*](#)- 4-part digital class developed for Church Next. (2020)
- [*"Innovation on the Daring Way: A Pathway for Brave Ministry"*](#)- Four-part class taught as a part of The Leader's Way Initiative from The Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. (2023)
- [*"Returning and Becoming: A Retreat with Pádraig Ó Tuama"*](#)- Kanuga Retreat Center- featured presenter at this powerful retreat experience leading a workshop on creating and sustaining a spiritual practice. Also taught daily meditations, yoga classes, and forest bathing opportunities. (2023)
- [*"The Wisdom of Proverbs: An At Home Retreat"*](#)- Trinity Wall St. Retreat Center- This five-part retreat journeys through some of the best-loved and little-known passages in the biblical Book of Proverbs to hear what wisdom they have for our modern life. (2023)
- [*"Developing a Rule of Life"*](#)- Diocese of Bethlehem at the Daughters of the King with the Daughter- Workshop for annual fall assembly. This workshop will invite participants to build a Rule of Life using the Native American concept of Blood Memory. (2023)
- [*"Vulnerability, Creativity, & Innovation: A Pilgrimage Through the Heart of the Universe: The Leaders Way"*](#) - Yale Divinity School- Workshop offered as part of the faculty for Berkeley Divinity School at Yale's inaugural year-long cohort-based learning immersion for Episcopal and Anglican clergy leaders. This workshop focused on the vital connection between vulnerability and creativity to begin a journey into the heart of the God of love. (2023)
- [*"Innovation on the Daring Way: A Pathway for Brave Ministry"*](#)- Berkeley Divinity School at Yale- These workshops examined the thoughts, emotions, and behaviors that hold leaders back in the innovation process. (2023)
- [*"A View from the Beehive: Exploring the Evolution of Christianity"*](#)- Wild Goose Festival- Presentation introducing participants to the guiding principles of Hive Christianity that pulled from the natural world, mystic wisdom, Indigenous spirituality, and trauma-informed research to help plant the seeds of the spiritual revolution in our own time. (2023)
- [*"The Confessing Church Sings her Song"*](#)- Lecture given at The Diocese of Pennsylvania's History Committee's Seventh Annual Fall Forum on "Music and the Liturgy." The Forum explored, through a historical lens, the broad topics of how music and liturgy combine. (2023)
- [*"Being Grateful in All Things"*](#)- Keynote theological talk opening the Diocesan Convention for the Diocese of WNY & NWPA. (2023)
- [*"A Sacred Cycle"*](#)- Trinity Spiritual Center- Women's Health Summit- Workshop exploring practices that enable women to align and optimize their physical and spiritual health according to life cycles and the seasons. (2023)
- [*"Blood Memory and Spiritual Inheritance"*](#)- In this two-part series as a part of Saint Mark's 2022, Theologian-in-Residence explored the role of our ancestors in shaping our lives and how we might help heal ourselves and others. (Lent 2022).
- [*"Mary Magdalene: A Tower of Lineage"*](#)- Saint Mark's 2022 Theologian-in-Residence, workshop sharing research on Mary Magdalene's lasting impact and engaging in spiritual healing practices based on her towering lineage. (Summer 2022)
- [*"Spiritual Practices as Balm for the Soul"*](#)- Saint Mark's 2022 Theologian-in-Residence, workshop exploring some of the deep spiritual practices of our ancestors of the Christian faith. These practices—new and old—can bring wisdom and joy to our souls. (Spring 2022)
- [*"Liturgy & Intersectionality: Appropriation or Appreciation?"*](#)- Saint Mark's 2022 Theologian-in-Residence Workshop exploring how we pray and worship in a way that fully reflects the fullness of the Kin-dom of God while also honoring the integrity of identity. Conversations centered on shaping liturgies with appreciation of all people vs. appropriation without true integration. (Fall 2022)
- [*"Living The Virtues"*](#)- Opening Retreat designer and leader for The General Theological Seminary's 2021-22 academic year.

- *Planning for Rites and Rituals: A Resource for Episcopal Worship, 2020 & 2022*- Contributed to theological and liturgical “Ideas of the Day” through Eastertide. Published by Church Publishing Incorporated.
- Blood Memory Research Trip completed as part of sabbatical studies. This two-month research endeavor included studying with traditional healers at the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Native Americans (Michigan) and studies of ancient Christian and indigenous spirituality in Ireland and Scotland. Awarded a grant from the Diocese of Pennsylvania for this endeavor. (2019)
- Contributed an article in *Reclaiming Christianity: A Practical Model for Spiritual Growth and Spirituality* by The Rt. Rev. Claude E. Payne", Published by Forward Movement. (2018)
- Contributed an article in *Invite Welcome Connect: Stories & Tools to Transform Your Church* by Mary Parmer, Published by Forward Movement. (2018)
- *"To Hell and Back: Trauma and Liturgy"*- Presentation for The Diocese of Pennsylvania Clergy Day. (2020)
- *"Wisdom in Wonder: Evangelism for Modern Mystics"*- Plenary Co-Speaker at the Episcopal Church's National Evangelism Matters Conference, Cleveland Heights, OH. (2018)
- *"Spiritual Bee Keeping Master Class"* – eight-part digital class focusing on the ritual history of beekeeping and teaching the concept as an act of eco-stewardship, The Hive, <https://the-hive-learning-community.thinkific.com/courses/spiritual-bee-keeping>. (2018)
- *"Beyond Numbers: Sharing Stories in the Missionary Church"* & *"Vitality & Effectiveness: Sharing Stories in the Missionary Church"* - Keynote speaker at the Invite, Welcome, Connect Summit, Navasota, TX. (2016)
- *"Called to be a Pilgrim"*- Presenter, Diocese of Bethlehem’s Daughters of the King Lenten Quiet Day, Douglassville, PA. (2016)
- *"Daring Parenting: Vulnerable Bravery for Families"*- Co-Presenter of workshop, Chestnut Hill, PA. (2015)
- *"Reclaiming Reconciliation"*- Presentation for Diocese of Bethlehem Clergy Day, Scranton, PA. (2015)
- *"By Whose Authority?- Faithfully Exercising Authority in the Missionary Church"* –Theme Presentation, Gathering of Leaders Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico. (2016)

Education

DOCTORATE OF MINISTRY | MAY 2014 | DREW UNIVERSITY

- “Worship, Preaching and Spirituality” concentration
- Traveled to Wales to study Celtic spirituality, liturgy, and to temporarily reestablish the 15th century. Monastery of St. Cadfan.
- Thesis focusing on Reconciliation as both a theological concept and a sacramental grace resulted in a highly successful and transformative Lenten program on Reconciliation. Thesis was later turned into a book from Forward Movement Publishing.

MASTER OF DIVINITY | MAY 2008 | YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL

- Berkeley Divinity School, Diploma of Anglican Studies (May 2008)
- Institute of Sacred Music, ISM Certificate (May 2008)
- General Ordination Exam (GOE): Passed all seven exams with high marks.
- Completed an Honors Thesis for the ISM entitled "Words of Storm and Calm: An Exploration into the Trauma of Hurricane Katrina Survivors"

BACHELOR OF ARTS: RELIGION AND PSYCHOLOGY | MAY 2005 | MORAVIAN COLLEGE

- Graduated *cum laude* and with Honors in Religion
- Completed an Honors Thesis entitled "Crossing the Aisle" (Dealt with the history and current status of women clergy in the Episcopal Church- included interview component of several "first generation" clergy members), 2005
- Resident Advisor and Director, 2002-2005
- Psi Chi (National Honor Society in Psychology), 2004-Present

CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY | MAY 2024 | UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

- Projected graduation: May 2024
- Studied the application of Positive Psychology for use in pastoral and organizational settings.

Additional Information

- Member of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Native Americans
- Certified Daring Way Facilitator (CDWF), having trained with Brené Brown and her team, 2015,
- E-RYT® 200, RYT® 500 Certified Yoga Teacher through Yoga Alliance and Yoga with Spirit, 2014- Present
- Certified Meditation Teacher 2021-Present
- Certified Forest Therapy Guide 2022-Present
- Currently studying to become a Gestalt Therapist- projected completion of program, 2026
- Center for Action and Contemplation Living School Graduate, 2023