

HOLY HIKES™

“There is no such thing as ‘human community’ without the earth and the soil and the air and the water and all the living forms. Without these, humans do not exist. In my view, the human community and the natural world will go into the future as a single sacred community or we will both perish in the desert.” –Thomas Berry

Since 2010, Holy Hikes has been inviting people into a relationship with creation in a Communion-centered way through liturgical hikes. Once a month we gather for a 10am hike during which we celebrate a stational Eucharist in the beauty of the great outdoors. These hikes tend to be fairly flat and generally no more than three miles round-trip to accommodate hikers of all skill levels.

Holy Hikes–San Francisco Bay Area is established under the fiscal sponsorship of All Saints, San Leandro, 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 The Bishop’s Ranch, Land’s End, East Creek Slough (Oakland), Indian Rock, Fort Funston, and UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, to name a few places.

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). Holy Hikes has been working on establishing chapters around the country, and we are pleased to have six chapters including: Holy Hikes–San Francisco Bay Area, Holy Hikes–Bayfield (Wisconsin), Holy Hikes–Central Pennsylvania, Holy Hikes–Northeast Ohio, Holy Hikes–Southern Indiana, and Holy Hikes–Vermont.

This year, we also partnered with San Francisco Baykeeper (www.baykeeper.org), a nonprofit that has been advocating since 1989 for the health of the San Francisco Bay. We conducted the first Bay Clean-up Mass with Bishop Marc presiding, and look forward to many Clean-up Masses to come. We will also work in the years ahead to partner our chapters with their own local water keeper nonprofits for collaborative work as modeled by our partnership with SF Baykeeper.

To support Holy Hikes or to learn more visit www.holyhikes.org.

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