

August 4, 2020

From the Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Beaumont, Texas:



As I promised during our worship together on Sunday, here is my invitation and reminder for you to join us for this important call to serve our community: *In Common* on September 21-23!

St. Stephen's has been partners with the Episcopal Health Foundation for several years now, working on improving health in our community. *In Common* is a series of events (usually done in person, though this one will be entirely online via Zoom) featuring guest speakers, discussion groups, and action planning. There are always two major topics each *In Common* and this September's *In Common* will be on Racial Justice and Mental Health. These are two major social determinants of broad-based community health. We at St. Stephen's are answering the call to do our part in word and deed to improve Racial Justice and Mental Health.

I cannot express to you how excited I am about inviting y'all to this event. *In Common* features some inspirational guest speakers and always results in thought-provoking and engaging discussions. The attendees come away from the event empowered and equipped to get to work building a healthier world. *In Common* is open to everyone at no cost (the entire cost is underwritten by the Episcopal Health Foundation) and you are encouraged to invite others to join us.

IN COMMON 2020

Congregations and Communities in Action



Open and **FREE** to all clergy, lay leaders, parishioners,
and community partners working with Episcopal
churches

The event will take place via Zoom (which I am happy to help anyone learn how to download and use) for about two hours on the evenings of Monday, September 21 through Wednesday, September 23. The event speakers will be recorded so you can watch later if you cannot attend live, but please try to join us live if you can so that you can be a part of the discussion groups and planning.

There are still many details we are planning out and the registration page will be available soon, but in the meantime you can express your intent to be a part of this work together by clicking the following link: <https://forms.gle/aLefPWa5TfrFrSmy5>

I look forward to sharing more news about this event with you in the coming weeks. Thank you for taking an active role in supporting the health of our community!

Don't forget you can reach me by email (sbalke@ststephensbmt.org), telephone (409-892-4227), schedule an appointment at <https://stevenbalke.youcanbook.me>, or drop in *Coffee with the Rector* at <http://www.ststephensbmt.org/buildingfellowship.html>

God bless y'all!

The Rev. Steven M. Balke, Jr.