

The Rev. Canon Nurya Love Parish

EXPERIENCE

Director for Mission & Community Engagement

Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes · *September 2025 - present*

Within the diocese

- Preach and/or celebrate at least 3 Sundays a month with churches across the diocese
- Provide pastoral care and strategic consulting support to clergy and lay leaders across the diocese
- Program Director, [Holy Ground for Whole Communities](#)
 - Developed program with Program Manager, Plainsong Farm, Partners for Sacred Places
- Staff liaison to multiple Diocesan Committees & Ministries
 - Property Stewardship, including Local Discernment (Mio) and Local Discernment (Muskegon); Becoming Beloved Community: Dismantling Our Divisions; Migrant Ministry Network; Creation Care; Indigenous Human Needs Grants; Mission & Community Engagement Grants; St Stephen's Diaper Project; AuSable Inclusion Center

On behalf of the diocese

- Co-Chair, [Michigan Palm Sunday Path](#)
 - Initiated Palm Sunday Promise; coordinated ecumenical planning team
- Co-Convenor, Michigan ecumenical collaboration for voting rights and election integrity
 - Recruited United Methodist and ELCA Lutheran collaborators
 - Identified and collaborated with secular voting rights organizations
- Pastoral visitor and facilitator of pastoral visitation, North Lake Detention Center
 - Secured Episcopal Church Center funding for locally-based detention center ministry

Canon for the Northern Collaborative, Beloved Community & Creation Care

Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes · *March 2024 - August 2025*

- Regional canon for 30 counties including 32 congregations
 - Visited every congregation in the region, generally to preach and celebrate
 - Recruited clergy to serve congregations, coordinated multiple clergy transitions
 - Supported and strategized with clergy and congregations managing emergent crises
- Initiated parochial report data analysis and reporting with staff, region and Diocesan Council
- Sought, received, implemented \$1.25M grant for Holy Ground for Whole Communities
 - Working with Standing Committee, hired and onboarded Program Manager
- Managed staff for the Primary Convention of 2024, coordinating with planning committee
 - Developed and implemented communications strategy during staff transition
- Staff liaison to Creation Care and Dismantling Our Divisions Committees

Founding Executive Director

[Plainsong Farm & Ministry](#), Rockford Michigan · 2014 - 2024

- Secured Bishop's approval; donated use of property; volunteered time; recruited founding team
- Obtained Episcopal Church Mission Enterprise Zone grant, fundraised from initial donors
- Co-created and managed fundraising and accounting administrative systems and processes
- Initiated young adult fellowship program, recruited participants for pilot summer program
- Raised funds from individual donors (grew to over 200 annually) and grantmakers
- Secured Michigan and Episcopal Church legal tax-exempt ecclesiastical corporation status
- Secured churchwide Episcopal Service Corps program approval, expanded staff in response
- Developed & offered "ChurchLands" and "Ministry Innovators" programs churchwide
- Provided leadership in a national movement of Christian sustainable agriculture and land care
- Identified a strategic goal for the organization to own its property; created a seller-financed mortgage and sold property to the ministry, enabling long-term sustainability

Priest-in-Charge / Rector

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Belmont Michigan · 2016 - 2022

- As quarter-time clergy, preached and celebrated two to three times a month
- Worked collaboratively with vestry, licensed lay preachers and licensed lay worship leaders
- Provided pastoral care, including weddings, funerals, hospital visitations
- Initiated dialogue with diocesan leaders so Holy Spirit's vestry could receive clarity on the mortgage given to them in their founding period (2003-2009)
- As priest-in-charge, supported congregational leaders as they completed requirements to achieve canonical parish status; called as rector following the achievement of parish status
- Pre-pandemic, led growth from average attendance of 30 to 45

Christian Education Director / Associate Priest

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids Michigan · 2008 - 2016

- Organized and provided family ministry and programs for children and youth
- Regular preaching, teaching, pastoral care, rites of passage
- Collaborated with Grand Rapids area congregations; co-led youth Chicago mission trip
- Developed church website; developed central database; initiated videography in youth ministry

Executive Director

Grand Rapids Area Council for the Humanities, Grand Rapids Michigan · 2008 - 2010

- Led collaborative development of new strategic vision; wrote grant proposals, secured funding
- Produced *Eating in Place*, an hour-long documentary on West Michigan's local food movement
- *Eating in Place* premiered to a live audience of 400 and was broadcast statewide on PBS

Organizational Development Consultant

Venture International LLC, Hudsonville Michigan · 2007 - 2009

- Consulted to congregations, institutions of higher education, health care, social service
- Designed and facilitated governing body strategic planning sessions
- Conducted organizational assessment interviews, analyzed data, provided reports

Associate Minister

Fountain Street Church, Grand Rapids Michigan · 2002 - 2006

- Served independent church in transition with average Sunday attendance of 550 people
- Second seat on three-person Executive Team; worked with three senior ministers in four years
- Co-created \$1 million church budget, hired and supervised clergy and lay staff
- Initiated regional Beyond Sunday Shared Ministry and lay pastoral care BeFriender ministry
- Preached, led worship and rites of passage, taught children, youth, and adults

New Congregation Minister

Epiphany Community Church, Fenton Michigan · 1997 - 2001

- Appointed full-time to plant a new Unitarian Universalist Christian church
- Selected lectionary-based worship practices, preached and taught weekly
- Provided pastoral care, nurtured youth and adult leadership, supported program development
- Advised board and committees on fundraising, recruitment, leadership and administration
- Led growth from 19 members to 66 members and annual budget from \$65K to \$98,550

Campus Ministry Developer

Wellesley College, Wellesley Massachusetts · 1996

- Called part-time to start new Unitarian Universalist campus ministry
- Recruited participants & leaders, co-created weekly worship and fellowship programs

Administrator

Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, Boston Massachusetts · 1995

- First seminarian to work at denominational headquarters in Office of Ministry
- Managed membership dues payments, maintained records, advised elected leaders

Campus Ministry Developer

Tufts University, Medford Massachusetts · 1993

- Called part-time to start new Unitarian Universalist campus ministry
- Recruited participants & leaders, co-created weekly worship and fellowship programs

ORDINATION INFORMATION

Ordination to Transitional Diaconate and Priesthood, The Episcopal Church · 2011

Postulancy for Priesthood, The Episcopal Church · 2009

Voluntary Resignation from Fellowship as Clergy, Unitarian Universalist Association · 2008

Full and Final Fellowship as Clergy, Unitarian Universalist Association · 2000

Ordination and Preliminary Fellowship as Clergy, Unitarian Universalist Association · 1997

EDUCATION

Certification · College of Congregational Development · 2024

Certificate of Anglican Studies · Seabury-Western Theological School · 2011

Master of Divinity · Harvard Divinity School · 1996

Bachelor of Arts · University of Redlands · 1992

DIOCESAN SERVICE

General Convention Deputy · Western Michigan / Great Lakes · 2018 - *present*

- Co-Chair, Legislative Committee for Environmental Stewardship & Care of Creation (2024)
- Co-Sponsor, “Review the Presiding Bishop's Office of Pastoral Development & Title IV” (2022)
- Member, Legislative Committee for the Care of Creation (2018)
- Sponsor, D-053, “Call for Model Policies for Sustainable Church Land Use” (2018)

Vice-Chair · Diocesan Council · Western Michigan · 2023

- At the Bishop's request, created and managed meeting agendas
- Managed diocesan budget and nominations processes when Bishop's attention was elsewhere
- Co-initiated bi-diocesan meetings with Eastern Michigan to implement season of practice

Member · Diocesan Council · Western Michigan / Great Lakes · 2011 - 2014 & 2021 - 2024

- Sought & received Episcopal Church grant for a new Young Adult Missioner position (2014)

Member · Evangelism Commission · Western Michigan · 2018 - 2020

Member · Bishop Search Team · Western Michigan · 2012 - 2013

- Communications Liaison: developed search website, profile document, and social media

CHURCHWIDE SERVICE

Board Member · Forward Movement · 2025 - *present*

Client Council · Church Pension Group · 2025 - *present*

Advisory Council for the Stewardship of Creation · The Episcopal Church · 2016 - 2018

SELECTED TEACHING, SPEAKING AND WRITING

Writing & Editing

- Personal Essays · www.nuryaloveparish.com · *ongoing*
- “[From One Small Seed: The Story of Plainsong Farm](#)” · ECF Vital Practices · 2023
- [Easter People: Faith Practice & Climate Justice](#) · Lesson Plans that Work · Episcopal Church · 2021
- [Resurrection Matters: Church Renewal for Creation's Sake](#) · Church Publishing Inc. · 2018
- “[In the Lectionary](#)” columnist · *The Christian Century* · 2017
- Founding Editor · [Grow Christians website](#) · Plainsong Farm & Forward Movement · 2016-2018

Speaking

- “Christian Discipleship & Climate Crisis” · Tippy McMichael Lecture · Arkansas · 2022
- “Faith Practice in Climate Crisis” · Seminary of the Southwest · Texas · 2022
- “Christians, Creation & Climate” · Grand Valley State University · Michigan · 2021
- Diocesan Convention Keynote Speaker · Arkansas · 2020
- “A Calling to Steward our Lands” · Duke World Food Policy Center · North Carolina · 2018
- “Neighbors Together: Creating Partnerships and Collaborations” · Michigan State Univ. · 2016
- “Next Steps for the Christian Food Movement” · Harvard Divinity School · Massachusetts · 2016

Interviews

- Blog · [Whole Faith Living Earth](#) · 2024
- Podcast · [The Gift of Food](#) · 2024
- WGVU · [Roving Microphone](#) · 2023
- Documentary · [Join or Die](#) · 2023
- Podcast · [Food and Faith Podcast](#) · 2021
- Webinar · [Forward Movement](#) · 2019
- BBC · [Heart and Soul](#) · 2018

Teaching & Workshop Leadership

- “[Risk-Taking and Discipleship](#)” · Forward Movement Online · 2026
- “Land, Food & Faith Practice” · Memphis Theological Seminary · Tennessee · 2019
- “Church Land & Health for All Creation” · Wake Forest Divinity School · North Carolina · 2018
- “Entrepreneurial Ecological Ministry” · Wake Forest Divinity School · North Carolina · 2018
- “Troubling the Waters” Clergy Day · Diocese of Eastern Michigan · 2016
- An Online Classroom in a Faith Formation Context · Virginia Theological Seminary · 2016