

Soul Shop Suicide Prevention

Report to Diocesan Convention 2025

Submitted by the Rev. Canon Bobbe Fitzhugh

1. Mission / Purpose Statement

The Soul Shop initiative equips faith community leaders and congregations with the tools and knowledge to effectively minister to individuals and families impacted by suicide. This program reflects the Diocese's commitment to faith-based suicide prevention, compassionate support, and advocacy for improved mental health resources statewide and within our congregations.

2. Summary of Current Year's Activities

At the 57th Diocesan Convention in 2023, a resolution was adopted supporting faith-based suicide prevention and awareness efforts. This resolution affirmed the Diocese's theological and moral call to engage this issue directly. In response, the Diocese contracted with Soul Shop, a national faith-based training program focused on suicide prevention.

Soul Shop programming has operated under the Mission and Innovation Program budget and was supplemented in 2025 by funds remaining from a grant provided by the Episcopal Foundation.

In July 2025, a full-week Train-the-Trainer session was held in Casper. Eleven Wyoming-based trainers completed the training and became certified Soul Shop Trainers. These trainers are now available to provide Soul Shop for Faith Leaders or Soul Shop for Communities workshops in their regions.

Trainers are based in Evanston, Thermopolis, Pinedale, Buffalo, Douglas, Saratoga, Casper, Powell, and Hudson. In 2024, 100 participants completed the day-long Soul Shop for Faith Leaders training, enabling them to lead the shorter two-hour Soul Shop for Communities program.

3. Financial Report

****Training the Trainer – Casper (July 2025)****

Expense Item	Amount
Flat Fee for weeklong training	\$25,000.00
Meals/snacks for trainees	\$1,000.00
Lodging for trainees	\$2,500.00

****Total Cost: \$28,500.00****

4. Plans and Projections for the Coming Year

It is hoped that the Diocese will establish a regular line item in the diocesan budget to support ongoing Soul Shop programming and training. Trainers will continue to provide regional workshops, expanding the reach of suicide prevention and faith-based mental health support throughout Wyoming.

5. Membership / Leadership

The Rev. Canon Bobbe Fitzhugh oversees the coordination of Soul Shop programming under the Mission and Innovation Program.

6. Gratitude / Acknowledgments

Special thanks are extended to the Episcopal Foundation for grant support, to diocesan leadership for ongoing advocacy, and to the eleven newly certified Soul Shop Trainers who will continue this vital ministry across Wyoming.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Bobbe Fitzhugh