



A SOLITARY MINISTRY? *NOT ANYMORE!*

BY DEACON KIM CRECCA
February, 2023

AdSeg, short for Administrative Segregation, is the current “politically correct” term used by most prisons to indicate solitary confinement. Those of us who are involved in prison ministry can also feel isolated, even segregated, from mainstream ministries. The stigma of incarceration follows us home from our prison-related ministries and into our communities, friendships, even our churches. If prison ministry wasn’t so rewarding for those involved, I truly doubt we would be able to continue to face the constant struggles and overcome the many barriers to answering Jesus’ call to visit those in prison... especially, if we are alone in this work.

Last year, a group of lay and clergy members from 16 states across the Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA), formed the Episcopal Prison Ministry Community (EPMC). We gather monthly to connect and support the efforts of our community members who are living into their Baptismal Covenant to strive for justice and peace and to respect the dignity of every human being by their involvement in various forms of



The Rev. Sister Greta Ronningen visiting a woman at the California Central Women’s Facility in Chowchilla, CA.

ministering to those affected by incarceration.

Our hope is that by sharing resources and program information, we can increase the presence of The Episcopal Church (TEC) within our prisons and jails with the goal of providing spiritual support and hope for the incarcerated, plus minister to their families and the recently released. We learn from each other about how we can help educate our congregations, our Diocesan leadership, and even the ECUSA concerning our brothers and sisters who are behind bars, including the collateral consequences of incarceration. By uniting our voices under the EPMC umbrella, we seek to be a force of change within TEC and the nation by redirecting the focus of incarceration toward restoration rather than retribution, toward compassion rather than fear.

As we learn about the dynamic and varied ministries that are being led by members of our community and share our hopes and dreams for the future of prison ministry within the national church, we also pray for each other. Developing self-care is critical to continued and effective ministry, especially among those serving the incarcerated since many of us are often doing so alone with no support from our churches or even our Diocese.

Over the past several months, EPMC prison ministry leaders and participants have shared information about restorative justice; the mental health crisis in our prisons, youth, and jail ministries; the Read

We gather monthly to connect and support the efforts of our community members.

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Archdeacon Carole Maddux,
AED President
president@episcopaldeacons.org

March, 2023

An essential, inseparable part of our vows

By the time you read this, the Association for Episcopal Deacons will have installed new board members to join those continuing in service and new officers. I am so grateful that these siblings in Christ have stepped up and said, “Send me!”

Some of our board members have fulfilled their terms and will continue to support the diaconate in other ways. We all owe those who have served a great debt. It's quite a challenge to fulfill your duties as an AED board member in addition to all the roles every deacon, priest, and lay leader must juggle! Family duties, church obligations, professional requirements, civic responsibilities: all take their place in our priorities—not to mention just our everyday tasks! I am so grateful that these leaders saw the diaconate as important enough to fit into their priorities!

I am especially grateful to our past presidents. Tracie Middleton calmly and competently led us through a world-changing pandemic. Douglas Argue started the unprecedented and fruitful partnership with The Fund for the Diaconate. Maureen Hagen laid the groundwork for a comprehensive strategic plan. And all of us are standing on the shoulders of the giants who went before.

The diaconate is the better for all this work. Our order, that we so love, has a truly professional organization that supports, advances, and highlights the work of all deacons in The Episcopal Church. And, in so doing, changes both the Church and the World.

We inherit an excellent organization that is prepared to be an indispensable partner to every deacon and to the Church as we work to bring Christ's love and light to a

weary and hurting world.

The only thing that can limit us is ourselves.

On my desk is a sticky note that I look at every day. (*at left*) It shows the AED membership numbers reported a few months ago and the total number of deacons in The Episcopal Church. While I'm impressed that this organization has done so much with so little, it's time AED membership is seen as an essential and important part of living out our vows as deacons. Whether we are newly ordained or resting from years of service, being a deacon and being a member of AED should be considered inseparable.

Our new board met in March and set new goals for the organization - 1: Promote the critical need for the diaconate in The Episcopal Church, to fulfill the mandate of Jesus to love one another as I have loved you; 2: Develop clear and comprehensive structures to implement AEDs mission, including its role as a major resource portal for all aspects of diaconal work; 3: Increase AED membership to 60% of ordained deacons.

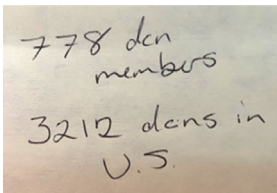
We can only do this with your help.

If you know deacons in your diocese who are not members, please encourage them to join. We are only as strong as our membership – which needs to be diverse and extensive.

Please feel free to contact me with thoughts and suggestions. But be warned: I may enlist you in the work!

Peace,

Carole president@episcopaldeacons.org



DEACON VIDEOS YouTube

Our Video Series, part of the Advancing the Diaconate campaign, was created by AED and The Fund for the Diaconate. It features deacons being interviewed about their calls and ministries, plus information on the ways AED and The Fund are working to support deacons.

Full length videos plus short clips include:

Carole Maddux, President of AED: How AED and The Fund are advancing the diaconate, plus news about events, resources and grants.

Stephen Bentley, founder of Helping Urban Bicyclists: How HUB began, with “intestinal fortitude.” Plus, *Where does God show up in your ministry as a deacon?*

Logan Taylor Augustine: Her call to the diaconate instead of priesthood, the challenges of balancing family and diaconal work. Plus, *How the Fund supported me in my diaconal ministry*; and *Where does God show up in your ministry to those suffering from dementia?*

Connie Campbell-Pearson, Housing First Village: The inside story on bringing community resources together to create tiny houses for the unhoused.

Jon Owens: The particular challenges faced by younger deacons during formation and after ordination, the future of the church, and the role deacons have in that future.

Keith McCoy, President of The Fund: *How The Fund for the Diaconate helps deacons in need.*

Robert Franken, Treasurer of The Fund: The benefits of Planned Giving and leaving a legacy. Plus, *How deacons are supported by AED and The Fund.*

Watch these and other videos on AED's YouTube channel! shorturl.at/hkuzP



CONFIRM YOUR PREFERENCES

Let us know what you'd like to receive by email?

Currently, we only email materials to those who have opted-in to receive them. This includes AED members.

In order for us to comply with consent and anti-spam email marketing rules, please visit www.episcopaldeacons.org/opt-in and update your email preferences.

If you're an AED member and have chosen to receive *Diakoneo* as a pdf, please check that box on the opt-in form.

If you've already taken this step, thank you!

Strategies for advocacy

Thoughts from AED's Life & Work of Deacons conference

In February, deacons from Western Washington and Maine, Texas and Minnesota, and places in between, participated in the Life & Work of Deacons workshop, focusing on public policy advocacy. We had a rich conversation with Mr. Alan Yarborough, from the Office of Government Relations of The Episcopal Church. We learned about successful ways to advocate, and how to care for ourselves in the tiring work of advocacy.

One key takeaway for me related to hints on how to identify strategies for engagement, based on the situation. There are many strategies that have a lower level of effort – things like action alerts, social media, or sign on letters. Then there are actions that require significantly more effort, such as building relationships with policy makers, developing coalitions, and contributing to drafting legislation. In general, the harder things may take longer, but also may have a greater impact, long-term. When determining which kind of strategy, assess the possible returns. If your impact is likely minimal, don't pick one of the harder strategies, and vice versa. It makes sense, but I'd not thought about it that way.

One other thing we discussed was the relatively new Episcopal Public Policy Network Ambassador Program. For those of you interested in public policy advocacy and wanting to get others engaged, I'd encourage you to look into this great program. Launched in 2020, the Ambassador Program is a group of Episcopalians across the Church who help spread and strengthen the message of advocacy, education and civic engagement – all integral parts of striving for justice and peace, and respecting the dignity of every human being.

Ambassadors would assist their communities to follow the Episcopal Public Policy Network updates, and point people to the resources of the Office of Governmental Relations. They would be encouraged to participate in monthly conference calls for the Ambassadors, and help share information about federal policy and advocacy opportunities.

If you are interested in applying, use this link tinyurl.com/yt6c63ss (or google Episcopal Church Advocacy Ambassadors). If you know of someone interested, please encourage them to apply.

AED's next Life & Work workshops will be June 9/10, focusing on Racial Reconciliation, and October 13/14, focusing on deacons in the missional and changing church.



Deacon Carter Hawley,
AED Executive Director
director@episcopaldeacons.org

February, 2023



LIFE & WORK OF DEACONS - CONFERENCE MATERIALS

- Action Alerts for Congressional Advocacy from EPPN
- Ambassador Volunteer Program from EPPN
- Civil Discourse Curriculum
- Preparing Deacons for Public Policy Advocacy
- Self-care and Advocacy

Visit www.episcopaldeacons.org/events



Your new AED board, all deacons unless noted. Front: L Sue von Rautenkranz, Beth Sandoval (dinner guest, lay) Carole Maddux, Denise LaVetty, Tracie Middleton, Carter Hawley (Executive Dir); Back: Jon Owens, Kristi Neal, Frank Alton (priest), Brad Peterson (lay, outgoing), Ruth Elder, Leann Culbreath (priest), Kate Harrigan (priest, outgoing), Juan Sandoval, Terri Hoffmann (lay). Absent: Jan Grinnell, Geoff Smith, Phyllis Jones (lay), Brendan Barnicle (priest).

CONNECT

LIFE & WORK OF DEACONS CONFERENCES
June 9 & 10 and Oct 13 & 14, virtual
 Visit episcopaldeacons.org/events for details.

IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE: A FESTIVAL FOR THE JESUS MOVEMENT with PB Michael Curry
July 9-12, in person and virtual
 Baltimore, Maryland
 Church-wide festival of worship, learning, & action. episcopalchurch.org/its-all-about-love/

"GATHER AT THE RIVER" DOTAC CONFERENCE
August 14 - 18,
 Minneapolis, Minnesota
(Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean)
 A gathering of ecumenical and international deacons, with workshops, site visits, worship, and more. dotac.diakonia-world.org

ANGLICAN DEACONS CANADA'S 2024 CONFERENCE
June 13-16, 2024
 Sorrento Centre, British Columbia
anglicandeacons.ca

HOW DO I... Submit news & events or write articles?

All submissions are welcome. Possible ideas:

- Reflections on ministry or new ministry
- Discernment & formation experience
- Events, books, photos, mission trips

Contact communications@episcopaldeacons.org or visit www.episcopaldeacons.org/diakoneo-magazine.

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Me a Story ministry; The Prison Story Project; Raising My Voice ministry; prison art exhibitions; and Kairos Prison Ministry International. EPMC is also engaged in planning a Prison Ministry Conference for late this September or early October to be held near Jacksonville, FL. The Conference will feature nationally-known speakers in the field of prison ministry/advocacy and we hope to include an opportunity for attendees to enter a local prison facility. More information about the Conference and videos of past gatherings can be provided by contacting epmc.usa@gmail.com. A follow-up article about the Conference will appear in the August issue of *Diakoneo*.

It's exciting to see new faces each month as we gather via Zoom. At the close of our time together, we spend a few minutes in mindful meditation. By the time I click on "Leave Meeting," I feel refreshed, inspired, invigorated, and ready to tackle the next challenge that prison ministry drops at my door. Plus, I have a whole community that I can reach out to when I need support or just a friendly conversation about a topic that is often avoided by most people. I encourage you to join us on the 2nd Friday of each month from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm (Pacific) and see for yourself what we're all about. Then, please share your experience and the news about EPMC with others in your diocese. Prison ministry doesn't have to be a solitary pursuit anymore!

For the Zoom link contact epmc.usa@gmail.com.



Deacon Kim is retired from the workforce. She is the Convener of the robust Diocese of Arizona Prison Ministry program (www.azdiocese.org/prison-ministry) and is currently serving at the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew in Tucson.

Go ahead, make my day LETTING THE SPIRIT BE MY GUIDE!

BY DEACON BILL CUSANO
Fall, 2022

This Spring, I will reach a mini-milestone. May 4, 2023 will mark the tenth anniversary of my ordination as a deacon, and I have to admit that the expectations I had then were nothing compared to what I see before me now. The ministry I am currently involved in and all that lies ahead are not even close to what I thought I was being called to do. Thank God for that!

Each year that I manage to attend the ordination of new vocational deacons, I am reminded of that sense of wonder I had when the Bishop and entire congregation present were calling upon the Holy Spirit to come, like a spiritual download of the latest version of me, equipped with the right upgrades and new apps to enable me to tackle the plethora of new challenges that are about to come my way. The software the Spirit installs, though, is always being modified and enhanced, and from time to time, a window will pop up to let me know something new is ready to install. Am I ready?

For the first three years serving as a deacon, I felt it was my job to chart the course and steer the bus on my ministry journey. I sought out opportunities to use my time and talents (I was low on treasures at that time) for what I saw as true deacon work within the community. I taught Bible Study, trained people in bringing the Eucharist to the homebound, made hospital visits, attended to the dying to pray with family members, and even performed a couple of weddings. I was on fire. But I soon realized what I was doing. I was focusing on Matthew Chapter 25, checking off the boxes.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty

and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

I was doing the right things, but I was being intentional. I was giving the Holy Spirit the thumbs up as I accomplished each task on my spiritual To-Do List, but I wasn't listening to what God had in mind for me. I was calling the shots, and I imagine that He was shaking His head and smiling the whole time.

Each year at our deacons' conference, we take some time out to talk about healing. Not the healing of others, but taking care of ourselves, because the work of steering and charting and driving is hard. What we don't talk about, or not enough, anyway, is letting go of the wheel. That is where the journey truly begins, when we let go and let God. Be Still and Know That I Am God. Not you. Not me. God.

When we cut ourselves out of the earthly demands on us, that puts us in conflict with everyone around us, but it opens us up to God in a way that I can't describe in words. For me, accepting the guidance from the Holy Spirit is like having a chauffeur who can take me from one amazing opportunity and connection to another. I still have to do the work of building the relationships, working out the details of whatever program we are going to tackle or problem we are going to try to solve. The work is just as hard as it is if I plodded through on my own, but there is a huge difference. With God's Spirit within me, around me, and working through me, help comes from everywhere. People just show up and offer it. Doors open. The lost become found. The hidden become revealed.

Jesus is here to be a super disrupter, but it is only to shift us back onto the right path, the one with a guide and the key to everything we need to be successful. Here I am. Lead me.

Deacon Bill serves at St. John's Wilmot in New Rochelle, Diocese of New York.

Preaching for Spanish speaking deacons

BY DEACON MAUREEN HAGEN

November, 2022

In The Episcopal Church, deacons occupy a unique space. Ordained to take Christ's redemptive love into the world, especially to those on the margins, deacons are also charged to interpret to the Church the hopes, needs, and concerns of the world. Because of that intersection, their often prophetic voices require a forum, a pulpit. To preach effectively they need training as part of their formation and ongoing ministry. Increasingly, dioceses understand this necessity and are looking for ways to provide it.

In the past few years, the Episcopal Preaching Foundation has partnered with the Association for Episcopal Deacons to provide this training. Deacons attending EPF events in Province VIII and V, recognize the high quality of EPF offerings.

Last year, AED approached EPF with an audacious request: Would it be possible to provide the same high-caliber training to the fast-growing numbers of deacons serving Spanish-speaking congregations? The challenges were considerable: many dioceses had only one or two Spanish-speaking deacons; many of the Province IX dioceses had no deacons.

And EPF said yes!

Peter Wild met monthly with AED leaders Deacon Tracie Middleton, President, Deacon Juan Sandoval, Board Member, and myself, Past President to design an online program, held over two weekends. We assembled a team of major leaders from the Latino community, including plenary speakers The Rt. Rev. Rafael Morales (Bishop of Puerto Rico), The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell (Connecticut), The Very Rev. Anthony Guillén (TEC Ethnic Ministries), and The Rev. Nancy Frausto (Seminary of the Southwest). Everyone said yes.

We knew we had to find high-quality small-group mentors to ensure an excellent experience for the participant. We assembled some of the best Spanish-speaking preachers throughout North America, including The Revs. Hernán Astudillo (Toronto), Ricardo Avila (El Camino Real), David Chavez (Arizona), Yoímel Gonzalez Hernandez (Washington), Marivel Milien (SE Florida), Alex Montes-Vela (Texas), Ema Rosero-Nordalm (Massachusetts), Janet Suiero Rodman (East Carolina), Nelson Serrano Poveda (San Joaquin), Fabio Sotelo (Atlanta), and Ale Trillos (El Camino Real).

Worship played an integral part throughout our time together, highlighted by the Rev. Nancy Frausto's beautiful meditation and Dr. Sandra Montes' wonderful closing service.

Deacon Iñaki Guevara moderated the two weekends masterfully, extending hospitality to those coming from all parts of The Episcopal Church.

These EPF conferences have been very well received by the deacon participants. Everyone conveyed gratitude for the high quality of instruction, the value of the small groups, the interesting plenary sessions and group discussions, and the lovely liturgies. There is a quality to an EPF event that sets it apart. As Juan Sandoval wrote, it is "more like a gathering of friends than a sterile conference." One way



Clockwise from top left: the Rev. Ema Rosero-Nordalm, the Rev. Nora Cruz Diaz, the Rev. Nancy Frausto, and the Very Rev. Miguelina Howell.

this happened was when Dean Howell used most of her plenary time talking with Deacon Bonnie Matthews about their relationship and the central role deacons play in church life.

The small-group leaders uniformly felt blessed by the invitation to participate in this conference. Padre Hernán Astudillo said this conference was "one of the great ways to build a church as a community in our times," and hoped there would be future offerings. Many indicated it was a privilege to work with deacons from so many different locations. Those involved with diaconal formation were especially appreciative.

As someone committed to encouraging the formation of many more Spanish-speaking deacons, I am so grateful for the forward thinking of EPF.

Deacon Maureen Hagen serves in the Diocese of Oregon and was President of the Association of Episcopal Deacons in 2017 and 2018.



Read this review in Spanish at episcopaldeacons.org/provinces-dioceses-tec.

The Scottish Episcopal Diaconate: A Profile

BY DEACON DR. REBEKAH SIMS

November, 2022 (This article was mistakenly omitted from February's issue)

Led by a Diaconal Working Group, the diaconate in the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) has been on a decade-long journey of renewal that reconsiders and celebrates diaconal theology and practice. The renewal is informed by ecumenical conversation and links with other Anglican provinces. The SEC is transitioning to a focus of being a missional church with an emphasis on living out faith in community settings. As an order whose call and charism is to be the hinge between the church and the world, the diaconate is well-positioned to encourage and grow this missional emphasis.

Part of this renewal is implementation of a revised deacon formation pathway in the Scottish Episcopal Institute (the theological seminary for SEC clergy and lay reader candidates). This new educational pathway features outward-focused modules on community development and organising, as well as modules on biblical perspectives on social justice and equality, and mission entrepreneurship in practice. Diaconal ordinands also experience Field Education placements that are specific to their calling, and are mentored by experienced deacons through their three years of formation. A Mixed Mode (contextual-based) training is also open to them. These educational efforts also support raising the profile of the diaconate and develop the diakonia of all believers across the entire SEC.

Currently, the SEC has fourteen vocational deacons and two candidates serving across six of the seven dioceses. As in the United States, deacons serve in ministries including and beyond parishes, carrying the Christian witness for justice into communities, with a special focus on vulnerable people and on those who might not

otherwise access pastoral care at critical moments. Scottish Episcopal diaconal ministries include coordinating food bank ministries as well as working with people experiencing homelessness, addiction, domestic violence, and incarceration.

Scottish Episcopal deacons also serve as chaplains in hospices, care homes, public schools, and universities. Some deacons are engaged in faith-based climate action, with a particular emphasis on identifying the role of churches in addressing climate change's impact on vulnerable communities. As always, each deacon is also responsible for equipping their congregations to leave the walls of the church and engage in work for peace, justice, and community care. Both directly and through equipping parishioners for service, SEC deacons model diakonia across many community settings.

These diaconal ministries, alongside the changes to diaconal formation and the entire process of renewal, have inspired revisions to the Ordinal for the ordination of deacons. New language includes that deacons "declare the Kingdom of God" and that they are "called to build bridges between the Church and the world, and to be an expression of the unconditional love of God." This renewed ordination service emphasizes the connection between service and proclamation, showing that deacons are agents of transformation toward a missional church.

Read *The Vocational Diaconate in the Scottish Episcopal Church* at www.episcopaldeacons.org/formation.

Deacon Rebekah serves at Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church, Stirling (Diocese of St. Andrew's, Dunkeld, and Dunblane). She was ordained in January 2021 in the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, IN, USA.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Mondays in May Seminar Series

Perspectives on the Diakonia of All Believers

- May 1: Deacon Darryl W. Stephens, PhD
- May 8: Deaconess Norma Dollaga
- May 15: Pâsteur Parfait Ekoume
- May 22: Man-Hei Yip, PhD
- May 29: Deacon Mary Elizabeth Moore, PhD

Attend one or all. Details and registration at www.episcopaldeacons.org/lifelong-learning.

Deacons Talking on the Road to Emmaus

2nd Mondays, 8:00-9:00pm ET, virtual

Conversations with deacons sharing stories from their ministries, to inspire and support fellow deacons.



Sign up for notices about coming talks, or watch recordings of prior talks. Visit www.bexleyseabury.edu/pathways/. (Scroll down to the image of Jesus and the disciples.)

BOOKS

The Gospel People Don't Want to Hear: Preaching Challenging Messages

by Lisa Cressman, founder of Backstory Preaching
Cressman offers preachers tools to craft difficult messages that can be heard. Provides preparatory work, sermon tools and suggestions on what to say and how to say it. Available on Amazon, Fortress Press and others.

Ministry to the Incarcerated

by Dr. Henry G. Covert, UCC minister
Covert uses his experiences as a police officer and state prison chaplain to examine the environment of the incarcerated. Available on Amazon.

The Book of Common Prayer, Spanish and French translations, 2022

Download at www.episcopaldeacons.org/liturgy.

Lifelong Learning at VTS

Learn at your own pace with their on-demand courses on Teachable. Includes: The Theology of 'being with' each other and God in Digital Formats; Dwelling Places for God; etc. lifelonglearningvts.teachable.com.



Deacon leads parish response to multiple tornadoes

BY DEACON JULIE O'NEILL

February, 2023

On Thursday, January 12, 2023, around 4pm, tornadoes battered Griffin and greater Spalding County, Georgia. Radar reports showed that 3 tornadoes were on the ground simultaneously in the area, at some points reaching EF3 levels with sustaining winds at 150 miles per hour. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that “at least twelve tornadoes touched down across the state killing three people.” The wreckage left behind was devastating for nearly 2,000 residential and commercial properties. Even for those whose homes and businesses were unscathed, the loss of electricity during one of the coldest months posed an additional crisis.

St. George’s church building sustained very little damage: a downed tree and a few roof shingles lost. Our parish administrator, the only one still at the church, had hunkered down in the basement when the storm came through. Although power and WIFI were lost, there was simply too much for which to be grateful! It would be a few days before power was restored (just in time for Sunday’s baptism), and a couple of weeks before the WIFI was back. Many of St. George’s parishioners suffered damages to their homes but thankfully no lives were lost.

As a newly ordained and newly assigned deacon still learning about the community, I wasn’t sure what to do. I got in my car and set out to survey the damages but quickly realized that my presence was undoubtedly contributing to the workload of police officers manually directing traffic intersections and first responders reaching out to a community in need. So I turned around, went home, and started making phone calls. Our priest utilized Facebook to keep lines of communication open, in addition to phone calls, texts, and visits. The pastoral care team divided the roster of congregants between them and called each and every member. The vestry liaisons stepped up in their roles, as did the ministry leaders. By Saturday morning, I was feeling helpless when our priest, Reverend Kirk LaFon asked me to research a way that our church, St. George’s, could serve the community, and present it to both Sunday services the next morning.

I checked in, to no avail, with neighboring churches that had become shelters or donation centers, then began following the Facebook pages of local government agencies and community centers. As Saturday afternoon rolled in, I wondered if I would actually have something to present on Sunday morning! That’s when a Facebook post from the Chamber of Commerce went out asking for help providing meals to the visiting First Responders and Georgia Department of Transportation folks. Without hesitation, I responded to the post via Instant Message by saying, “Yes, St. George’s would be happy to provide the meal! No

problem! Can you just let me know how many people it will be? And which day?” They said they expected 300 people and Tuesday would be great. (Gulp)

My experience in food ministry began many years ago at another church, with a backpack weekend food program called Friday Friends. Every week during the school year, our church would pack bags for food insecure children at our partner school that included hearty food, fresh fruit, a home-baked goodie, and a handwritten note of encouragement. We also used this template in a Blessing Bags ministry for those experiencing homelessness. Once again, this template was coming in to use, but this time it would be to feed the Helpers. The “template” includes food for sustenance, fresh fruit for wholesomeness, home baked goodie (muffins, cookies, brownies) for comfort, and a hand-written note for connection. The template also includes strategic groupings like 10 people baking 30 muffins; 10 people writing 30 note cards; donations of just fruit or just chips; monetary donations to purchase the meal; people who can sort and pack; people who can deliver the food. In this way, church members of all ages, abilities, and financial backgrounds have the opportunity to participate.

So this was the proposal on Sunday morning at the 8:30 am and 11 am services, and to my relief, the church was excited to make it happen. Over the next couple of days, more than 50 parishioners donated time, talent, and resources. With an ASA of about 120, that’s a good many folks! As it turned out, about half the meals went to the first responders and DOT helpers, some went to displaced residents at the shelter, and a portion went to the soup kitchen. As for the handwritten notes of gratitude, the Chamber of Commerce claimed they meant just as much as the food!

Natural disasters have a way of tearing down the landscape and building up the community. And nature takes no account of where you are on your life’s journey... old or young, rich or poor, novice or expert. As a deacon, what I learned is that whether you’re directly serving the marginalized or serving the ones who are serving the marginalized – in the aftermath of devastation what’s most important is to show up and serve where the need is. And in doing so, *God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, [will] accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*

Deacon Julie serves at St. George’s, Griffin in the Diocese of Atlanta. Read more about her efforts at: episcopalatlanta.org/news/st-georges-tornado



Denise with Pam Brazis from St. Marks Highland, Maryland.

WHAT IS YOUR DESTINY?

BY DEACON DENISE SCHIAVONE

February, 2023

A Saint Bernard crashes the Gospel reading during a sunset Eucharist on the beach. A home-renovation crew clad in paint-splattered work clothes does morning yoga stretches. Roosters crow: at 2 a.m., 3 a.m., 4 a.m. Cars swerve every 50 feet to avoid crater-like potholes on sand-encroached roads. A pack of stray dogs scarf down sandwich crusts alongside a crocodile-infested river. A young man with a broad smile inquires, “What is your destiny?”

Sound like a bizarre night of dreams?

Well, “dreams” were involved, in a way—DreamBuilders, to be specific. But these actual memories evolved from my mission trip to Puerto Rico in January. All told, 16 “deacons” traveled from Maryland to this U.S. territory to repair homes devastated by hurricanes.

Okay, not all technically or officially deacons, but certainly deacons in the most essential part of the title: people called to serve the various needs of the world, especially outside the doors of the church.

Those needs were painfully evident in the Puerto Rican towns of Luiza, Carolina, and Juncos, where our group worked alongside the staff of SBP, the disaster relief organization charged with helping to rebuild homes in these underserved communities. Communities where blue tarps still sit atop wind-ravaged rooftops, thousands still await promised insurance money and FEMA funding, and hundreds remain on SBP’s wait list since Hurricane Maria struck in 2017.

Our mostly unskilled but mighty DreamBuilders team comprised members from five Maryland congregations: Christ Episcopal Church Columbia, St. Mark’s Episcopal Highland, Temple Isaiah Fulton, Trinity Episcopal Elkridge, and Ascension Episcopal Westminster. We worked for five days: chipping concrete, laying tile, installing cabinets, and painting fences, among other tasks. We cooked, dined, and cleaned up together, commiserated with each other about 2:30 a.m. trash pickups, worshiped together at an Episcopal Eucharist and a Jewish Shabbat service, and enjoyed the beauty of the tropics.

I used muscles I forgot I had. And I do not exaggerate in saying I performed more manual labor that week than possibly ever before in my life. Each night, I collapsed into bed, sore and exhausted. But each morning, roused by squawking roosters and squalling cats, I awoke refreshed and ready to return to work.

Christian, our SBP leader who asked us each day, “What is your destiny?”, is, at the tender age of 24, one of the most inspiring people I’ve served with. His infectious energy and enthusiasm eased even the misery of scraping and painting and repainting an aged and battered wrought iron fence with intricate curves and hard-to-reach surfaces.

As a deacon, I could offer a ready answer for his question. But I sensed in its origins a broader challenge: to stretch outside our comfort zones, to reflect on our motivations, to search deep within for more. More than the usual. More than ordinary. More than self.

That challenge resonated throughout my time there—and transpired for me one particular day when we met one of the homeowners, 77-year old Orlando. Orlando has been staying with relatives since 2017, when Hurricane Maria’s rage rendered his home uninhabitable. He greeted us with a smile as he walked into his house to inspect the progress. He nodded as he passed from room to room. And finally, he said, “I am the king of this castle.” And we heartily agreed, grateful to play a small part in restoring his castle to its full glory.

Indeed, we are all the kings and queens of our own castles, no matter how small or large, cramped or spacious, simple or adorned. But we are also all beloved children within God’s great kingdom on Earth—co-inhabitants in this vast yet interconnected Creation—all called to help each other live our best lives.

We plan mission trips to help those in need. But I can say with certainty that I received as much blessing as I gave during this trip, perhaps more. Blessing in connections with passionate young people dedicated to serving their neighbor, proud of their homeland, and welcoming of all. Blessing in work alongside fellow Christians and Jews and non-affiliated missionaries who yearn to serve those waiting so long for restoration and healing. Blessing in a sense of community that transcends borders, crosses oceans, and embraces differences in

Continued on page 9

continued from page 8

race, religion, ethnicity, and culture—all working together for the common good.

We are all deacons in a sense, members of the Diakonia of all Believers, as the brochure from AED states, “Diakonia is a Greek word which means caring for those in need, carrying out God’s vision in word, action, and in attending to all of God’s creation. In today’s world where power can be determined by wealth, but resources only available to some, healing and transformation are possible if we examine that call to diakonia.”

Even in our disconnected and divided world, healing and transformation *are possible*, if we are open to examining the call. They are also mutual: As we minister to those in clear need, they minister to us, in ways perhaps harder to put into words. What blessings we create when we resist labeling things “impossible”—and open ourselves to the possible.

Deacon Denise Schiavone serves at Christ Episcopal Church Columbia, Maryland. She is a retired U.S. Navy officer and currently works as a writer for MITRE, a not-for-profit company working for the public good. Visit SBP at sbpusa.org and Dream Builders at dreambuildersmd.org.



Pam and Denise with Christian Vicenty, SBP Team Leader.

Training lay Eucharistic Visitors

Canons III.4.6 and III.4.7 state, “A Eucharistic Minister should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy ...”

SUBMITTED BY DEACON BONNIE LLOYD-DOWNS

February, 2023

The re-inaugural Deacon Seminary Program in the Diocese of Tennessee included four of us, who were asked to do a project at the end of our program. Realizing that there was no formal training for lay Eucharistic Visitors and lay Eucharistic Ministers, we decided to make that our project. We developed a full training program with handbooks, which are currently in use. Both handbooks follow a 4-week process.

Handbook for lay Eucharistic Visitors

This training handbook covers topics including: Differences between LEM and LEV; Theology and spirituality of service; Understanding ourselves and others; Practical information, equipment and materials; FAQs; Comfort literature; Healing prayers; Forward Day-by-Day booklets and Role-playing activity.

Handbook for lay Eucharistic Ministers

This training handbook covers topics including: Introduction to Lay Ministries and Canon Law; Historical and theological background; The nature of the Liturgy; Sacramental theology—“Real Presence” and

its implications; The spirituality of ministry at the altar; The shape of the liturgy; Practical issues; Liturgical decorum; “Nuts & Bolts”; On intinction; FAQs; A final exam at the altar, and Suggested reading.

A Prayer of the Chalice

Almighty God, to you I raise my whole being - a vessel emptied of self. Accept, Lord, this my emptiness, and so fill me with Yourself - Your Light, Your Love, Your Life - that these Your precious Gifts may radiate through me and over flow the chalice of my heart into the hearts of all with whom I come in contact this day, revealing to them the beauty of Your Joy and Wholeness and the Serenity of Your Peace which nothing can destroy. Amen.

Both handbooks are available at www.episcopaldeacons.org/liturgy.

Deacon Bonnie serves at St. Peter’s Church in Columbia, TN. She recruits and trains lay EVs and EMs. She was ordained in 2014; prior to that, there had been no deacons ordained in the diocese for over 25 years.



A young deacon's challenges & rewards

Plus, HOW THE FUND FOR THE DIACONATE PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT

BY DEACON LOGAN TAYLOR AUGUSTINE

In January, Deacon John Ray interviewed Deacon Logan Augustine about her call, work as a chaplain and the unique challenges she and her family face as a young deacon. Excerpted below.

John: Talk about your journey.

Logan: That was a real jump from visiting church to going to seminary. But there I was, and I got my Master's in Theology, and my focus was in pastoral care... I was working in the hospital during my clinical pastoral education during my residency and kept feeling this pull to ordination, but the priesthood just didn't make sense. I didn't feel called to be grounded in the parish... I pulled up the Diocese of Virginia's webpage and... something about the diaconate came up and... there was some language from the Book of Common Prayer on the ordination of a deacon. And the more I read that language about being out in the world with people caring for the sick and the marginalized, it was like, "Oh, my gosh. I'm home. I think it's what I'm supposed to be doing." Because I knew without a shadow of a doubt that I was supposed to be doing chaplaincy. For a little while, I thought maybe I'm just called to be a lay chaplain. And I kept coming back around and feeling this push and this nagging feeling and reading those words, I thought, this is something I really need to explore.

J: Talk about the priesthood and why that wasn't the call for you.

L: I think I have a heart for the diaconate and I belong out in the world. And I do feel called to the language about interpreting to the church the needs of the world. That's been one of the great things about working at Westminster Canterbury, particularly within the memory support community, and offering the care to those folks. I also have a particular call for taking care of people who are not churched or people who have been hurt by the church. I feel like I have a place beyond the church walls that makes sense for me, to be out caring for people for whom maybe traditional religion doesn't resonate or who have been hurt in some way, but to act as a person of love and deep abiding presence for them in the midst of whatever pain or struggles they're going through.

J: You're also called to motherhood and family, balancing that with your diaconal responsibilities.

L: It's hard. And I'm still figuring it out every day. You know, I got married to my husband two weeks before I was ordained to the diaconate. I remember my bishop telling me at the time, it's interesting that you're taking vows to your husband two weeks before you're taking vows for the diaconate. She talked about holding both of those sets of sacred vows and how they're equally important. And that God calls us to take care of ourselves and our marriage and our family, just as we're called to also take care of other people. That's been kind of a helpful grounding and guiding thing for me, that if I'm not well and I'm not taking care of myself and my family, then I'm not going to be any good to anybody else.

J: What about the unique issues of a younger deacon?

L: I was in my late-20s when I was going through discernment and deacon school. Funding those things, school and books and all of that

is hard. It's certainly a challenge, especially when you're younger and your salary is not quite as great. And chaplaincy is wonderful, but it's not a high paying career. I think the financial aspect can certainly be a challenge for a younger person. It's [also] being a young adult and perhaps having a relationship, or a new marriage, or a new family, and trying to balance all of those new things at the same time is really challenging. As a couple, there are times where [my husband] has felt like I've neglected him because a lot of my emotional time and presence and effort goes to the care of my residents. So, I think open communication and being really clear about what our needs are and taking time away for just the two of us is so important.

GRANT ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND

J: You have a special intersection with The Fund for the Diaconate.

L: In the middle of COVID, I was pregnant with my daughter, and I continued in my chaplaincy work. That was quite tough with COVID and being pregnant, but I'm fortunate I was able to... keep my job. But my husband was working in the music industry, and so naturally when COVID happened, all shows and entertainment were completely shut down. His small business really took a big hit. I was talking with [Theresa, the Fund's grants administrator] who's in my diocese and she said, "You know, you might consider applying for this," and so we did. It gave us some much needed relief with a newborn baby over the course of a good number of months. It was really helpful when we were pretty much depending on my chaplain salary alone. It was tremendously helpful. One of the things that was also a challenge was I had just gone back to work from maternity leave. And in my work, we have to use all of our PTO, or paid time-off, for our maternity leave. And so, I had accrued about three or four weeks worth of time and I had to use it. When I got back to work, my daughter went to daycare. And, of course, it was COVID, so her classroom would shut down every so often for two weeks at a time. And so, if I was home with her and I didn't have any PTO, I didn't get paid. So, that certainly contributed to some of the financial stress we were experiencing as well. It was very stressful. Really, really hard. It truly was.

J: How do you see God in your ministry?

L: One of my residents passed away...her daughter looked at me and said, "I know this sounds crazy, but I'm wondering if you have any magic words that could fix this for me." My heart kind of broke for her. It occurred to me, there are times when we can't fix that kind of pain and grief. But we do show up and we hold presence for people.

Deacon Logan was ordained in 2018. She is a Board Certified Chaplain working at the retirement community, Westminster Canterbury Richmond. Logan also serves as a deacon in the worship and life of this community. Watch her full 33 minute interview at tinyurl.com/2p9af7du on AED's YouTube channel.

Manifestations of the Great Commandments*

BY CANON DEACON NANCY FORD

*Reprinted with permission from Salt & Light, the newsletter for Anglican Deacons Canada.
September 2022*



I have spent time this summer reflected in the light of back lit screens. The screens provided a platform for casual reading, cursory theological exploration, and “news”. This “time-filler” became a habit during the worst of the pandemic when interpersonal contact was limited. While many of us learned to navigate Zoom to work from home or connect with others it was not what we craved.

However, my habitual voyeurism turned into excitement when I saw the first images from the James Webb telescope. The pictures provided a window into life in the cosmos. We saw the images of ancient galaxies dancing with each other as they moved through their cycle of life. It did not show distant stars whirling in their own orbits. What one saw was complex relationships between immense star laden galaxies. This beautiful and incomprehensible reality was awe inspiring. It should have put paid to the egoistic mythology of human dominance over creation.

Something else interrupted my casual reading, it was the work of Dr. Suzanne Simard. She provides another window into life at a microscopic level. Simard is a Canadian researcher and professor at UBC. She is best known for the research she conducted on the underground networks of forests. Her work has shown how fungi and roots facilitate communication and interaction between trees and plants within an ecosystem.

This communication between trees and plants is complex. It includes the exchange of carbon, water, nutrients, and defense signals between trees. She has described how when one species of tree is negatively impacted how another species will provide the nutrients needed and how at other times of year it becomes reciprocal.

This is but one example of unseen relationships creating health and support without human intervention. I would suggest the findings of the Webb telescope and Simard’s work point to a Creator concerned with relationships. It is as if love and service are written into the very nature of creation no matter where one looks. Jesus too brought the impossible. Resurrection! He pointed to life beyond the grave, eternal life beyond our gravity-laden ideas of existence. He proclaimed a gospel of love, inclusion, and connectedness always in context of his

relationship with the Creator God. He knew that loving God with all one’s being and loving one’s neighbour with equal fervour could be found in ancient stories. These stories pointed to the necessity and naturalness of the relationship between and with all creation

What does this mean for Deacons? For me as a deacon, the notion of our cosmic interconnectedness affirms my understanding of vocation. I see my calling as one who connects with the unexpected and joins in the creation of connections where possibilities and hope are found.

What do our relationships look like within the ecclesiastical hierarchy? While our stories are varied, we know the devastation and alienation experienced when communication, service and love are lost. Our work outside of liturgy is intended to reflect not only the gospel proclaimed within liturgy but to highlight and learn about fundamental relationships with each other. However, when one relationship is broken the entire system is broken. I believe that we, grounded in the delight and challenge of the Creator, can help grow new connections and new relationships.

The reality is deacons are called to work with the broken people and broken systems. The church is broken. We must be unafraid to name the brokenness, affirm the pain and seek not mere reconciliation but nurture new pathways of connection, relationships building and hope. We are to bring the church with all its difficulties and brokenness into the world not the other way around. **We are not alone; our vocation is the stuff of stars and soil.**

“Mark 12: 30 -31 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’ (NRSV)

The Rev. Canon Deacon Nancy Ford is an honorary assistant at Christ Church Cathedral in the Diocese of Islands and Inlets (British Columbia) in the Anglican Church of Canada.

STAYING CONNECTED

AED WEBSITE

www.episcopaldeacons.org; Materials on discernment, formation, events, lifelong learning, books and more.

E-NEWSLETTER

Sign up at www.episcopaldeacons.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

YouTube: Association for Episcopal Deacons

Facebook: Association for Episcopal Deacons; Young Episcopal Deacons; Archdeacon & Deacon Formation Leaders

SUBMISSIONS

communications@episcopaldeacons.org

MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

www.episcopaldeacons.org

PLANNED GIVING

www.fundfordiaconate.org

ANGLICAN DEACONS CANADA

www.anglicandeacons.ca

QUESTIONS / VOLUNTEER

director@episcopaldeacons.org • 346-266-2577

The Fund for the Diaconate

Assisting deacons - working, retired, in formation or disabled - who have insufficient funds for their needs.



WINTER 2023 REPORT

The board of the Fund reorganized virtually on January 10. All the officers were re-elected to one year terms: Keith McCoy, president; Pamela Nesbit, vice-president; Robert Franken, treasurer; Larry Green, secretary; Brian Nordwick, asst. secretary/asst. treasurer. Deacon Margaret Thor was welcomed to the board for a three year term. Staff, committees and task forces were re-authorized and appointments made. YPTC (Your Part-Time Controller) is the new bookkeeping firm. A Personnel Committee was created, as the Fund now has three part-time employees. Side agreements with AED are being developed, to put into words some of the informal arrangements we have developed in recent years. A special board meeting was held in February to promote Trish Stukbauer to the new part-time position of Operations Manager. (She continues in her role as PT coordinator for the Advancing the Diaconate campaign.)

The Fund issued an RFP in mid-December for investment management services, with responses due at the end of March. We have not re-bid this service since the early 1980's, and are seeking a firm with more experience in ESG (environmental, social, and governance).

The board's Spring meeting will be May 9-10 at the Church Center in Manhattan. In addition to some grant reviews, we plan to meet with representatives of Episcopal Relief and Development, and to make a decision on the replies to the RFP.

GRANTS FOR DEACONS

- Regular Grants
- Emergency Grants
- Diaconal Formation Grants

Applications and eligibility details are available at www.fundfordiaconate.org/apply-for-aid. Applications are accepted at any time and reviewed at the next meeting. Emergency requests are reviewed monthly.

HALLENBECK FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Awards that make it possible for deacons to attend conferences or other educational events related to the diaconate and/or The Episcopal Church.

PLANNED GIVING

You can help deacons in need by naming The Fund for the Diaconate as a beneficiary of your retirement account, will, or trust. See page 13, and visit www.fundfordiaconate.org/planned-giving.

VIDEOS

Leaving a Legacy; How The Fund assists deacons and those in formation. (See pg 2)

2022 SURVEYS ~ RESULTS & NEXT STEPS

In February of 2022, The Fund for the Diaconate undertook a survey of the deacons in the Church. A board task force, led by Deacon Fatima Yakubu-Madus, developed an eleven question instrument, which was emailed to almost 2,800 deacons and persons in the process to be ordained as deacons. (There are another 500+ deacons who do not have email addresses on record with AED, and we chose not to mail a survey to those persons.) We received back 546 responses - about a 20% response rate - which was good. The Survey Task Force then decided to do a follow-up survey just for those in the process. Extrapolating from data from the Church Pension Group, we believe we had about a 25% response rate to that second survey.

In the first survey, to deacons, over half the respondents were active, even if past the official retirement age of 72. Just over 80% received no financial support from their parish or diocese to conduct their ministry. Of those that did receive some money, attendance at conferences, continuing education, and mileage were the categories most likely to be reimbursed for. When asked where they would like to receive financial support, the top two choices by far were continuing education and conference attendance. There was significant interest in financial planning, too.

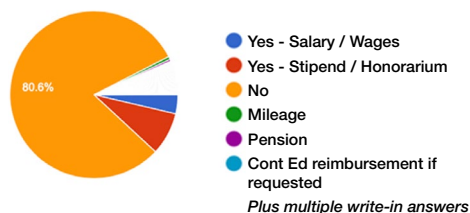
When asked how their deacon formation was paid for, 54% responded that they paid for all or most of it; less than 10% said that the diocese or parish paid all of the costs. That prompted the second survey just to those in formation.

Of those in the formation process, over 70% were retired or secularly employed; most of the others held some sort of church-related employment. As to the costs of formation, only 12% had those expenses completely covered by the parish or diocese; 43% paid all or most of it themselves (the other 45% had a variety of expenses partially covered, or had not incurred any expenses yet).

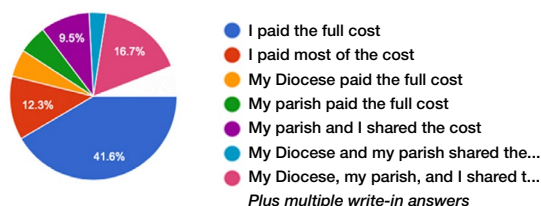
The clear message from these two surveys is that the church expects prospective deacons to cover the bulk of the costs of their own formation, and then expects them to finance their own ministries once ordained. Those conditions will not encourage younger people or persons of limited economic means to pursue the diaconate.

The Fund will raise these issues with the diocesan bishops in its annual letter to all dioceses. In addition, a Financial Literacy Task Force has been appointed to discuss how we can help those in process or already ordained manage their money and their ministry.

Do you receive remuneration from your Parish, Diocese or extension of ministry?



How did you pay for (or are currently paying for) your diaconal formation?



Dear Archie,

Dear Archie,

My spouse is in discernment for the diaconate. We've been married for 15 years and, while I support her dedication to her church, I never imagined being a clergy spouse when I said, "I do!"

What am I in for?

With trepidation,

Uneasy Spouse

Dear US,

Marriage *is* a ride, isn't it?!

I wish I could say that you have nothing to worry about but I would be lying and the many clergy spouses I know would throw pillows at me. (Pillows because they are all really nice people!)

While ordination, like all sacraments, changes life forever, when we are married it changes another's life, too. In my opinion, the Church does not do a very good job at supporting these very important people in the lives of our clergy.

Part of the work begins now, during your spouse's discernment. You both need to have honest talks about what may change and the boundaries needed between church life and home life.

If your spouse hasn't already done this, she needs to determine what the demands on a deacon in her diocese actually are. This can vary from diocese to diocese and include things as varied as how often a deacon is moved to whether there is any mandatory compensation. The demands on you and your family during formation can also vary from diocese to diocese.

In addition, you should both know about possible support services and resources for deacons such as The Fund for the Diaconate and the Church Pension Group.

Knowing this before ordination is prudent and should inform your conversation.

As someone who has been married for over 30 years and ordained for roughly half of them, I can attest to how important a supportive spouse is to a joyful diaconal ministry. I also acknowledge the sacrifices that my spouse has made—in time together, our inability to worship together, and even having to hear my sermons more than once! Our ability to navigate this part of our life together has required attentiveness and firm boundary setting. It can help to have good role models for this among colleagues.

Finally, someone once told me that God will never ask you to break one vow in order to fulfill another. When guiding married aspirants, I remind them of this.

Love,

Archie

Dear Archie,

Should we honor Martin Luther King, Jr., on his birthday or on the day he entered glory?

Confused,

Picayune Deacon

Dear PD,

Yes. Celebrate whenever you can.

Firmly,

Archie

"Archie" is Archdeacon Carole Maddux, in the Diocese of Atlanta. She was ordained in 2006 and has 11 years experience as an archdeacon. Answers are Carole's opinion only, based on personal experience, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either the Diocese of Atlanta or AED. She may not always know the answer but she's always up for a friendly conversation! Letters may be edited for brevity.

"Archie" welcomes questions about the funny, frustrating and serious issues of being a deacon. We accept submissions from everyone.

Send *Dear Archie* queries to president@episcopaldeacons.org.

3 EASY WAYS TO LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Benefiting deacons today and into the future



1

Bequests

Next time you're working on your estate plans, please include The Fund for the Diaconate in your will. If you've had any changes in your family – marriage, divorce, death, children born or reached maturity, relocation – it is time to revisit your estate plans.

2

Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA

If you're at least 70½ years of age, you may direct your retirement plan manager to send up to \$100,000 of your IRA to The Fund for the Diaconate, as an IRS qualified charity. If you're at least 72 years old, doing so will avoid your having to pay income tax on that portion of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Visit www.irs.gov and search for "qualified charitable distributions."

3

Beneficiary Designation

Naming The Fund for the Diaconate as the beneficiary of your retirement account can be a tax-efficient way to make a legacy gift to support future deacons in financial need, thus supporting a diaconate that is so important to you. It's relatively simple to make a gift using the beneficiary designation form provided by the financial institution that serves as your retirement plan administrator or custodian.

Details at www.fundfordiaconate.org/donating--planned-giving. Or contact treasurer@fundfordiaconate.org.

This is not intended as legal or financial advice. Please contact your own legal or financial advisor before making these decisions.

AED Board Reports

BY BRADLEY PETERSON, SECRETARY

December 7, 2022 via Zoom: The Board reviewed and adopted the budget for 2023 as presented by the Executive Committee and Finance Committee. Executive Director Carter Hawley emphasized the role of a budget as the expression of an institution's mission. She pointed out that a draw down on AED's reserves of over \$106,000 was incorporated in the budget to cover AED's plans for 2023. She noted that unless revenue were increased or program decreased, this state of affairs could only continue for a few years. She also noted the need for time commitments from board members inherent in some expenditures: participation in World Diakonia and Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean (DOTAC), decisions and administration of funds available for provincial events, Young deacons events, and Hispanic ministries events. The board made one amendment to

include the cost of an events planner for the annual Archdeacons and Deacon Directors Conference (A3D) and AED's next Triennial. The board also applauded the work of AED Treasurer, Phyllis Jones, the Finance Committee, and especially Deacon Ed Richards, who was retiring from the committee after several years of work as AED treasurer and Finance Committee member.

February 3, 2023 via Zoom: The board took no action, but proceeded to review what AED and its board had worked on and accomplished in the recent past, and what tasks still lay ahead for the board and its newly elected leaders and members. A digest of the discussion was presented to the new board at its meeting on March 11-14, 2023, in Oklahoma City.

ON AED'S WEBSITE

www.episcopaldeacons.org

AED's website includes content for discerners, those in formation, and deacons. Competencies, events, lifelong learning and more.

In Resources

- >**Formation:** Diocesan programs, Competency-based approaches
- >**Academics:** Scripture, theology, and tradition
- >**Diakonia & Deacon Supervision:** Handbooks, discretionary funds, questions to ask in a bishop search
 - **Deacon Compensation:** Text from the seventeen dioceses that have passed a resolution regarding deacon compensation.

In Publications: Deacon blogs, books and sermons

In Events: Gatherings from AED, Provinces, The Episcopal Church, Anglican Deacons Canada, DOTAC and more

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY

Materials from AED's recent Life & Work of Deacons conference

- EPPN Action Alerts for Congressional Advocacy
- EPPN Ambassador volunteer program
- Civil Discourse Curriculum

www.episcopaldeacons.org/life--work-of-deacons

DEACON MINISTRY CHANGES

Miguel Bustos is serving as The Episcopal Church's Manager for Racial Reconciliation and Justice.

Dominique Piper was appointed to serve on the Task Force on the State of Membership in The Episcopal Church.

Beth Drew was appointed to serve as a Western Michigan Global Mission Advocate.

Natalie Conway was named one of 25 Black Marylanders to watch, by The Baltimore Sun.

Hailey McKeefry Delmas was hired as Bexley Seabury's Director of Deacons Formation Collaborative.

Gene Bourquin and the The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf agreed on a 1-year study on approaches to deaf ministry.

Cecily Sawyer-Harmon was appointed as the Diocese of Delaware's Missioner for the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission.

Susan Phillips was appointed to The Episcopal Church's Task Force on Ministry with Individuals with Mental Illness.

The Ven. Carolyn Bolton, Archdeacon Emeritus of the Diocese of California, was installed as a Canon in February.

IN MEMORIAM

Deacon deaths are listed alphabetically by name, with date of death, diocese, age and year ordained. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

Paul Bates, 9/4/2022, Niagara, 71, 2016

D. Michael Jackson, 11/23/2022, Qu'Appelle, 82, 1977

Katherine (Kathi) Jacobs, 1/23/2023, Alabama, 79, 2002

Teresa Crawford Jones, 12/15/2022, New York, 73, 1999

John Lane, 1/3/2023, Georgia, 89, 1990

William Martinez Maldonado, Puerto Rico, ordained 2009

Fred Thomas (Tom) Mills, 2/5/2023, Kentucky, 95, 1987

Antonio Loza Sardinias, Puerto Rico, ordained 2018

Franklin Mills Sterling, 12/11/2022, California, 90, 2007

Carolyn Lee Stockwell-Tangeman, 1/21/2023, West Missouri, 77, 1993

Notices are listed as we receive them. Every effort has been made to provide accurate information and we regret any errors. Please send notifications, including diocese, date of ordination, age and date of death to membership@episcopaldeacons.org.

AED MEMBERSHIP

AED Membership is open to anyone interested in supporting deacons and diaconal ministry.

Members receive *Diakoneo* magazine 4 times per year; enjoy a discounted rate for AED events, resources and course, including CALL classes; support the ministry of deacons in the US, Canada and around the world; enable the website materials and sharing of diaconal resources; and receive our monthly *Deacon Update* newsletter.

AED also facilitates communication among deacons and all ministers; provides online platforms to share information; provides leadership and resources for workshops and conferences; and represents the diaconal voice in the leadership structures of the Episcopal Church.

YES, I'D LIKE TO JOIN (OR RENEW) AT THE ANNUAL LEVEL OF:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular: \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life: \$1,000 (<i>A 24 monthly payment plan is available online.</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining: \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Extended Life Membership: \$400+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Low Income: \$30 | <i>(Additional payments by check of \$300 ea., due at 12 and 24 months. Not available online.)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting: \$150 | Canadian deacons - Please purchase a "Blended Membership" |
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Planned Giving: Support the life and work of deacons through estate planning. Please contact our sister organization, The Fund for the Diaconate, at www.fundfordiaconate.org.

AED is a membership association of persons and dioceses within The Episcopal Church and The Anglican Church of Canada. Our mission is to increase participation and involvement of all baptized persons in Christ's diaconal ministry, especially by promoting and supporting the diaconate.

AED is a registered 501(c)(3) non profit.
1321 Upland Dr., PMB 20214,
Houston, TX 77043
Phone: 346-266-2577

WEBSITE: www.episcopaldeacons.org

Resources on formation, lifelong learning, events, etc

FACEBOOK GROUPS

AED; Archdeacon/Deacon Directors; Young Deacons

YOUTUBE

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To advertise in *Diakoneo*, please contact us at communications@episcopaldeacons.org.

Note: Advancing technology allows us to affordably print *Diakoneo* in color, using a digital press.

CONGRATULATIONS NEW DEACONS!

6/22/22	Rupert's Land	Joan Merton	12/9/22	Minnesota	Chelsea Kay Stanton, Kim Heise, Vicki Lambert
10/20/22	Algoma	Norman Blanchard, Elizabeth Kingston, Joyce Foster	12/10/22	Fond du Lac	Barb Foster
11/20/22	Athabasca	Kevin Peterson, Peter Clarke	12/10/22	Michigan	Michael Anthony Stutso
11/27/22	Niagara	Larry Collinson	12/10/22	Montana	Corinne A. B. Denegre, Henry O. (Hank) Tuell III
12/3/22	Kentucky	Jan Scholtz	1/8/23	Western New York	Diane Cox, Robin Kozlowski
12/3/22	Pennsylvania	Andrea Gardner, Joseph German, Kristin Waskowicz Woods, Stacey Carmody	1/21/23	North Carolina	Sherry Storrs, Kate Wisz



Bishop Terry Allen
White, Jan Scholtz.
12/3/22. Kentucky.



Archdeacon Tim Spannaus, Michael
Stutso and Bishop Bonnie Perry.
12/10/22. Michigan.



Corinne Denegre, Bishop Marty Stebbins,
Hank Tuell. 12/10/22. Montana.



Robin Kozlowski, Bishop Sean,
Diane Cox. 1/8/23. Western New
York.



Bishop Sam Rodman, Sherry
Storrs, Assistant Bishop
Jennifer Brooke-Davidson,
Kate Wisz. 1/21/23. North
Carolina.

Ordinations are published as we receive them. Send ordination notices, and photos, to membership@episcopaldeacons.org.