

## ■ CAST YOUR NETS

# Prison Ministry awaits on the other side of the boat

BY DEACONS KIM CRECCA & GAY ROMACK

March, 2022

Jesus promised to make us fisherfolk. Our Presiding Bishop Curry reminds us that fisherfolk must “go where the fish are.” Sometimes those fish aren’t where we expected. Ministering to those affected by incarceration presents such diversity and the opportunities are so plentiful that it can involve many hands within the boat of your church. It can also be an invitation to join a whole ecumenical flotilla within your community, state, and the nation who are engaged in this richly rewarding example of reverse ministry.

Two deacons in Arizona are finding creative ways to minister to those who are behind bars, returning citizens, and their families. Gay Romack, from St. Peter’s in Litchfield Park, and Kim Crecca from St. Matthew’s in Tucson, work together with a group of individuals throughout the state to lead programs that meet a variety of needs among those who have been hard hit by incarceration. They hope to inspire other deacons to become involved in this ministry and dialog about existing programs in our U.S. churches and dioceses.

**Gay:** Hello! I’m Gay Romack. I’ve been a deacon in the Diocese of Arizona for 16 years. Several years ago, a member of my church asked me to visit her son in the Phoenix jail. That was my first exposure to the difficulties families faced and the despair those behind bars experienced as a result of incarceration. In 2009, I began seeking approval from the Arizona Dept. of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Re-entry (ADCRR) to offer worship services inside the Perryville women’s prison in Goodyear, just 10 miles from my church. Two years later, we finally got to step inside a world that no one on the

team realized existed and our lives were forever changed. We now lead several services on multiple units within the prison serving almost 600 women/month (pre-COVID) in a facility that holds around 3,600 and baptizing about 60 individuals each year.

**Kim:** Hi! I’m Kim Crecca. I was ordained as a deacon in 2016 and was part of that first worship team that Gay led inside Perryville prison. Prison ministry became important to me because my father was sentenced to 15 years for a crime he didn’t commit. His letters opened my eyes to the injustices, cruelties, and hopelessness that pervade state-run prisons in the U.S. When I moved to Goodyear, AZ in 2011, I immediately joined forces with Gay. In 2014, our Bishop formalized the Diocesan Prison Ministry Program ([www.azdiocese.org/prison-ministry](http://www.azdiocese.org/prison-ministry)) which I now coordinate. Over the past 8 years, our ministries have expanded from the initial worship teams to include 6 official programs and other ways to engage congregations in meeting the needs of those who struggle with the impacts of incarceration.

According to Pew Research Center, the U.S. incarcerates more of its population than any other country. Arizona is fertile ground for prison ministry ranking 5th in the nation for rate of incarceration and 8th in the world\*. Known for its harsh sentencing and “tough on crime” stance, 1 in 51 Arizonans is currently incarcerated or on probation. The collateral consequences of this high rate of incarceration are numerous, the burden on families is crippling, and the stigma remains for the rest of their lives. The same could be said of most U.S. states. Many of the ministries that Gay and Kim talk about could work in any state.

**Kim:** The Sunshine Club is our gateway ministry involving sending birthday, Mother’s Day and Christmas cards to the ladies in Perryville prison who have attended our worship services. We also send cards to the kids who attended our most recent Camp Genesis camp (more about that later!). The beauty of this ministry is that it engages everyone within a congregation. Kids from Sunday School often make cards for the campers. This ministry is particularly popular among individuals who are physically unable to participate in other ministries but want to make a difference. Simple to implement, the program makes a big impact on all involved!



Original Perryville Prison Worship Team: L-R: Chris Leedy, Barb Hummell, Gay Romack, Kim Crecca, and Carol Churchill

Continued on page 4

## Writing new chapters

Something I'm thinking about relating to Pentecost is the idea of emerging from a hiding place, or coming out of a storm. There's also the idea of starting to write a new chapter, not having a clear sense what it will be about. These images resonate in my life, and they seem relevant to a lot of people I know, as well as the world at large. We're wondering how to start writing whatever the next chapter is, but it's not clear what direction the story will take from here or how to begin.

During Lent, I've been participating in a virtual group engaging with and reflecting on labyrinths. The Worldwide Labyrinth Locator website ([labyrinthlocator.com](http://labyrinthlocator.com)) identified one at a Disciples of Christ church near my house, so I went to find it. When I parked behind the church, there were a couple of guys standing outside talking, and I asked them if they knew where the labyrinth was. They said they weren't very familiar with the property; they mainly came to the church for AA, but one of the men, Jim, offered to go with me to find it.

We didn't go far before I spotted a circular area of brick on the ground, and we walked over to look more closely. Jim was curious about its purpose, so I was trying to explain that it's not a maze; you can't get lost, because there is only one path in and back out again, and that many people walk as a way of meditating or praying. Looking over the twists and turns of the design, he said "I wonder where it starts." He didn't see the entrance, because he was actually standing on it. I pointed down at his feet and said, 'right here.' He immediately started in, and I started in after him. He commented on how the path went back and forth, sometimes toward the middle and sometimes away, and he started thinking out loud about how it reminded him of a phrase from AA - "Easy does it." He thought it would be good to help him focus his attention, to slow down and not rush, and he planned to make use of it when he came for meetings in the future.

When I was driving away afterwards, part of the conversation came back to my mind, and I have been thinking about it in terms of whatever these new chapters will be about in our various lives, collectively and individually:

"I wonder where it starts..." Right where we're standing.



Deacon Tracie Middleton,  
AED President

March 10, 2022

## AED NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

### JOIN AED'S BOARD!



See pages 8 and 9.

We invite passionate, enthusiastic individuals who desire to offer their gifts and leadership skills for *Engaging the Diakonia of All Believers*.

Skillsets needed: development, public policy/legislative advocacy (inside and/or outside the church institution), community organizing, law, accounting and experience with non-profits.

We are also committed to increasing the geographic, ethnic, age, and gender diversity of our Board.

### GENERAL CONVENTION WITH AED

#### Join the AED Gala

You're invited to our in-person Gala at General Convention. Tickets will be available this summer.

#### Volunteer at AED's Booth

Wednesday, July 6 - Tuesday, July 12

Register by June 1st. Details & registration at [www.episcopaldeacons.org/general-convention](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/general-convention).

#### TOTAL DEACONS

##### US & Central America

2,075 Active  
975 Retired  
180 In formation

##### Canadian

342 Active  
90 Retired  
8 In formation

#### AED MEMBERS

##### Individual Memberships

673 US  
65 Canada

##### Diocesan Memberships

58 (of 111 Dioceses in Prov 1-9)

(as of 3/7/22)

### AED'S WEBSITE | RESOURCES SECTION

#### Resources >Diakonia & Deacon Supervision

- Handbooks, Letters of Agreement, Bishop search questions, Archdeacon materials

#### Resources >Practical Training

- Lifelong Learning, Advocacy, Liturgy

#### Resources >Deacon Formation

- Diocesan programs, Competency-Based Approaches, Iona Report, CPE

#### Resources >Academics

- Holy Scripture, Theology, Tradition of the Church

## An exciting leadership transition!



The Rev. Deacon Lori Mills-Curran has decided that, after nine years as Executive Director of AED, she would like to retire. She and the Board have collaborated on planning for her transition over the past year, and the Rev. Mills-Curran concluded her work on March 31, 2022. The Board has hired The Rev. Carter Hawley as Interim Executive Director, beginning work on March 25, 2022, to serve in that role for a nine-month period through the end of the calendar year.

AED annually gathers all those interested in best practices for deacon formation, and at AED's recent Archdeacon and Deacon Directors Conference, a video of appreciation messages from all the Presidents of

AED that the Rev. Mills-Curran has worked with was shared. (At [www.episcopaldeacons.org/aed-blog](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/aed-blog)) Noting some of Lori's accomplishments in the role, the Rev. Canon Tina Campbell, President of AED 2013-15, asserted that Rev. Mills-Curran's tenure as Executive Director "has marked a real maturing of AED as a professional organization." The Rev. Lauren Welch, President from 2015-17 added that "It's been through Lori's perseverance, collaboration, and her passion for justice - passion for justice for deacons especially - that has enabled AED to move forward." The Rev. Maureen Hagen, President from 2017-2019, thanked Rev. Mills-Curran for efforts to engage fruitful dialogue with the Church Pension Group, as one example of her effective collaborations in the wider church, and The Rev. Douglas Argue, AED's most recent Past President, shared that because of Rev. Mills-Curran's leadership, "AED is better positioned than ever in the past to advocate for the ministry needs of the diaconate and ensure that deacons have a voice in the bigger picture of the Church."

"AED is in a great position to step into its next chapter," agreed The Rev. Tracie Middleton, AED's current President, "and we owe so much of that to [Rev. Mills-Curran's] efforts."

Lori indicates that her proudest accomplishment is the development of a close collaboration between AED and The Fund for the Diaconate. "We are now united with a common vision to seek to serve all deacons' wellbeing from discernment to grave," Lori stated, noting that their first joint development campaign Advancing the Diaconate, which seeks to fund spiritual and wellbeing supports for all deacons in The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada, is well underway. (<https://www.episcopaldeacons.org/advancing-the-diaconate.html>)

The Rev. Mills-Curran is already embarking on new ventures as she continues her efforts on behalf of deacons. After a road trip to the "quilting capitol" of Paducah KY, she will explore opportunities for teaching and writing. "I have been a deacon for 35 years, which I think is an uncommon story that may need telling," she stated.



As AED moves into this next chapter, the Board is pleased to help pass the baton to the Rev. Carter Hawley. The Rev. Hawley has a bachelor's degree in social work, an associate's degree in criminal justice, and a master's degree in public administration. She has worked in state, county and city management, and for United Way. In her previous diocese, she served as Canon for Administration and as Archdeacon. Rev. Hawley has three kids and four grandchildren. She lives with her husband and youngest daughter in Homestead, PA. In her spare time, she likes to sing and bike.

"We are excited to begin working with Carter," said Rev. Middleton.

"Our Succession Committee shared with the Board that they sensed God's guidance throughout the search process and felt confident about proposing this Interim plan to the Board, and we felt the same way, especially knowing some of Carter's extensive gifts"

"I am so honored to be serving as the Interim Executive Director of AED," Rev. Hawley said.

"Deacons serve at the crossroad between the church and the world, between the secular and the religious worlds. That crossroad can be a lonely place, neither fish nor fowl. I imagine a national association that supports and convenes deacons to strengthen this critical ministry in the world, and to our Church. As Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said, '[T]he deacon is the primary witness to who we are to be as the baptized followers or disciples of Jesus.' AED will equip deacons serve that critical role."

## CONNECT

### SPANISH PREACHING CONFERENCE

A two-weekend preaching conference created specifically for Spanish speaking deacons of Episcopal and Anglican Churches  
Oct. 7-8 and Oct. 14-15, 2022, via Zoom  
See page 12.

### GENERAL CONVENTION

July 7 - 14, 2022  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Volunteer at AED's booth and attend the Gala.  
See pg. 2.

### WHAT DO THE CANONS SAY? WORKSHOP

**Saturday, May 7, 2022.** Online, free.  
[www.episcopaldeacons.org/aed-events](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/aed-events)

### LIFE AND WORK OF DEACONS CONFERENCE

**Saturday, June 4 2022.** Online, free.  
[www.episcopaldeacons.org/aed-events](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/aed-events)

### How do I...

#### submit items for publication in *Diakoneo*?

All submissions are welcome - from clergy, those in formation and laity. Possible ideas are:

- Reflections on ministry
- Discernment & formation
- New leadership roles
- Events, Books, Photos
- and other deacon news

To submit materials, contact Deacon Anne at [communications@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:communications@episcopaldeacons.org).

### MAY 2022

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Note: With advancing technology, we're now able to provide this issue of *Diakoneo* in color, using a digital press. The cost is equal to that of printing our usual two-color *Diakoneo* on offset presses.





*Sunshine Club Signing Cards at St. John the Baptist*

**Gay:** Worship services continue to be a powerful ministry though the pandemic has affected attendance and limited the services we can offer. But we have found an exciting new way to continue contact with those on the inside: Videocasting. In a videocast, participants actually see the person conducting the training as opposed to a podcast. A woman author who has done videocasts for the prison believed we could adapt our Inside the Gates Mentoring Program and make it available on the computer tablets each inmate is issued. Once the program had been approved by the Programming Director for ADCRR, I worked with the ADCRR-IT to get it running on the software platform used by the prison. The pre-recorded videocasts are now being broadcast and are very popular, especially among individuals who aren't allowed to take regular programming. Videocasting could be used for existing programs within the Episcopal Church such as EFM classes, Becoming Beloved Community, etc.

**Kim:** Another successful ministry is Camp Genesis. Because we are blessed with a wonderful camping facility in the mountains of Prescott, AZ; we worked with the Camp Director and our Canon for Children's Ministries to add a special camp for children of those who are or have been incarcerated. Many of these children come from foster homes and have never been inside a church. We provide full scholarships for every child who registers each year as well as a backpack filled with camp items and a Children's Bible thanks to the generosity of congregations throughout the state.

**Kim:** A traveling art exhibition featuring art from the ladies in Perryville (and soon from men's prisons) helps families as well as those behind bars. Churches throughout Arizona contact me about hosting an exhibition. All donations received from the sale of art benefit the artists, their families, and various prison ministry programs. We even created notecards featuring their artwork that



we sell and use to engage others in conversations about incarceration and our ministries. This is a great way to raise awareness about advocacy issues and the impact of incarceration on our communities.

*Art Exhibit with Kim Crecca*

**Gay:** With the help of a grant from the New Episcopal Communities, we were able to implement a new Mentoring Beyond the Gates program that connects those about to be released with a mentor who lives in close proximity. Although the primary goal for this 1-year program is to help the releasee overcome major challenges to successful re-entry, give her the support she needs and encourage the healing of mind, body, and spirit, there's a flip side. As mentors develop open minds, hearts, and compassion for these returning citizens perhaps they can become ambassadors for changing attitudes toward the formerly incarcerated. Mentees must complete the mentoring program offered inside the prison (now by videocast) to be considered for this program upon release. Mentor training is held twice a year.

**Gay:** Our most impactful accomplishment has been our transition home, Magdalene House West, based on the models created by Rev. Becca Stevens from Thistle Farms. In 2017, we formed a 501c3 organization called Bridges Reentry ([www.bridgesreentry.org](http://www.bridgesreentry.org)). Using funds from a National Episcopal Church grant, a UTO grant, and a matching grant from our Diocese plus private donations and a private loan made the purchase of Magdalene House West a reality in 2019. Our residents help create a personalized plan for their healthcare and therapeutic needs. For the first 6 months, individuals focus on their recovery, medical appointments, therapy, spiritual development, and educational courses. After 2 rent free years, residents will have saved enough money to become fiscally responsible and more independent. Our first graduate has saved \$15,000! My hope is that women who experience the Magdalene House environment will gain the strength, security, and support they need to be successful in society and not return to prison.



*Magdalene House Christmas Party with Gay Romack*

There's so much more to share! You are invited to join the national Episcopal Prison Ministry Coalition that meets at noon on the first Friday of each month via Zoom. Contact Kim to receive the link. You are encouraged to check out the Diocese of Arizona Prison Ministry webpage: [www.azdiocese.org/prison-ministry](http://www.azdiocese.org/prison-ministry) to read more about these and other programs. And please reach out to Gay and Kim via email: [prison.ministry@azdiocese.org](mailto:prison.ministry@azdiocese.org). Prison ministry offers opportunities for all ages, abilities, and locations to make a difference in the life of someone affected by incarceration. As Gay and Kim can personally attest, "We have received an abundance of blessings for our investment of time and compassion and you can too!"

\*Prison Policy Initiative 2021 Incarceration Report by State ([www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2021](http://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2021)).

*Deacons Gay Romack and Kim Crecca are both retired from the workforce and are solely devoted to their work as deacons serving in prison ministry and at their respective churches.*

# Advancing the Diaconate is going to General Convention!

*Hope to see you there!*

JULY 7-14

- Visit our centrally located booth, housing the Association for Episcopal Deacons, The Fund for the Diaconate, and our joint campaign, Advancing the Diaconate.
- Attend our reception on the evening of July 7.
- Enter our special raffle for beautiful icons of two early deacons: St. Phoebe and St. Lawrence.
- View the latest version of “Deacon Competencies,” pick up copies of *Diakoneo* magazine, and other materials.

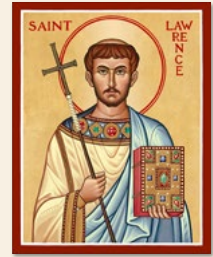
*If you're not attending, please remind your diocesan deputies to visit our booth!*



[www.episcopaldeacons.org/advancing-the-diaconate](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/advancing-the-diaconate)

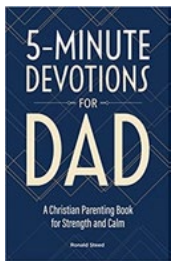


[www.fundfordiaconate.org/advancing-the-diaconate](http://www.fundfordiaconate.org/advancing-the-diaconate)



Visit our booth for a chance to win  
a beautiful icon  
of St. Phoebe or St. Lawrence

## BOOKS & PAPERS



**5-Minute Devotions for Dad: A Christian Parenting Book for Strength and Calm**  
by Deacon Ron Steed

75 dad-centered devotions to help strengthen your connection to God, reflect on the gifts you've received, and set a good example for your children. Simple exercises provide ways to act on the Bible's lessons and

apply them to your life as a father. Available on Amazon.

### The Diaconate in the Anglican and Lutheran Traditions: An Anglican Perspective

by Deacon Canon Michael Jackson

The Anglican and Lutheran Churches have similar views of *diakonia* and the diaconal church. Its vocation is “mercy, healing and justice in the world, especially those living at the margins of systems and society, restoring the image of Christ who came to bring good news to the poor”. However, the two Churches have very different approaches to the ministerial order of deacons – the diaconate. This paper explores these approaches in their historical and ecumenical context.

Published in *Consensus: A Canadian Journal of Public Theology*. Link available at [www.episcopaldeacons.org/papers--reports](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/papers--reports).

 on our **WEBSITE** Deacon books, papers, book reviews, blogs and sermons

## IN THE WORLD

- **Seeing in the Fog: A story on homelessness, the deep woods, and wonder**, by Deacon Lydia Bailey

“A truck was idling nearby, the smell of diesel and cigarette smoke mixing with our conversation. Across the street, barely visible, was Clarence, quietly cursing to himself. We took it as a matter of course. Then Marco commented, “Some people you see ranting and raving, they just want respect. Being [at the shelter], I’ve learned not to put myself above others...to be sensitive to others’ beliefs and needs.”  
~ excerpt Read at [parabola.org/2022/01/30/seeing-in-the-fog/](http://parabola.org/2022/01/30/seeing-in-the-fog/) and at [www.episcopaldeacons.org/homelessness--hunger](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/homelessness--hunger).

- **David MacDonald** was sworn in as a Chaplain for the City of Newburgh, NY Police Department. “*There are 10 of us across various faiths, caring for the spiritual and emotional well being of the officers, their families. We also act as a liaison to the public they serve.*”
- **Deacon Lisa Chisholm-Smith** of Kingston, Ontario, was elected president of Anglican Deacons Canada.
- **Deacon Maylanne Maybee** has retired as interim principal of the United Theological College in Montreal, Canada.
- **Deacon Anne Tomlinson**, principal of the Scottish Episcopal Institute, explained that deacons in the Scottish Episcopal Church now meet regularly in a Deacons’ Chapter, led by Deacon Norma Higgott.
- **Deacon Gill Kimber**, Diocese of Exeter, has stepped down as warden of the College of Deacons; Deacon Phil Wales is her successor. Gill is carrying on her national work in the Church of England, where she reports promising developments in training for distinctive deacons.



# Writing as Diaconal Service

BY DEACON LORI ERICKSON

February 2022

Many deacons do a lot of writing in the course of their ministries, but I'm unusual in that writing is the primary focus of my diaconal service. That's because I'm an author who writes about the intersection of travel and spirituality. In other words, I write about pilgrimage, one of the oldest of all spiritual practices.

I started writing in my mid-20s and through the years have done a wide variety of projects, from travel guidebooks and a children's book to articles in publications that include the Los Angeles Times, National Geographic Traveler, Better Homes & Gardens, and Travel + Leisure Magazine.

About 15 years ago I decided to focus more specifically on the area of spiritual travel. This led to the launch of a blog called Holy Rover, which after several years morphed into the website Spiritual Travels, which describes sacred sites around the world. Then my focus shifted again when I started writing books that reflect on some aspect of travel and spirituality. *Holy Rover: Journeys in Search of Mystery, Miracles, and God* is a memoir built around trips to a dozen holy sites around the world. *Near the Exit: Travels with the Not-So-Grim Reaper* is an examination of places that have taught me about mortality. And my newest book, *The Soul of the Family Tree: Ancestors, Stories, and the Spirits We Inherit*, is about the spiritual lessons of genealogy and travels in search of my Scandinavian roots. The first of these books was published by the Lutheran publisher Fortress (now known as Broadleaf Books), and the other two by the Presbyterian publisher Westminster John Knox Press.

The changes in my writing career have been mirrored by changes in my spiritual life. My visits to holy sites around the world ignited a longing to go deeper in my spiritual practice and commitment to the Episcopal Church. I was ordained as a deacon in 2005, serving first at Trinity in Iowa City, Iowa, and currently at New Song in Coralville, Iowa. There I serve at the altar, help with healing ministries, and am on the preaching roster, but my primary ministry is writing.

My focus on travel and spirituality springs in part from the fact I grew up on a dairy farm, which meant we never traveled anywhere. But once the travel bug bit me, I was off on a lifetime of exploring. Wherever I go, I seek out holy places, in part because they reveal so much about a place and its people. I'm also moved by how welcome I feel at such places, even if they're in a tradition different from my own. There is a sense of community between pilgrims that transcends differences of dogma.

Much of my current work revolves around the ways in which travel can be transformative. Especially in an age of jet travel, I think it's good to be reminded of the power of journeys that are taken deliberately and slowly. In my work I also try to expand the definition of pilgrimage. It's not just about churches and shrines and it's not just for the devout. Holy sites can be found anywhere, and all those who have a seeker's heart are pilgrims. The true test of a pilgrimage, I believe, is whether it changes your life once you are home.

In reflecting on my writing career, I'm reminded that part of our role as deacons is to stand on the boundary between the Church and World. I think that task is especially important right now, in a world so fraught with division and anxiety. Fewer people are showing up in our pews,

but many are still searching for spiritual meaning and sustenance.

In my writing, I hope to reach those who may have more questions than answers, especially those who have followed a winding religious path like mine. I spent my childhood as a Lutheran and then wandered through a variety of traditions, from Wicca and Buddhism to Unitarian Universalism, before eventually returning to Christianity. And while I have a deep commitment to the Episcopal Church, I continue to draw inspiration from other faiths.

One of my writing models is Anne Lamott, whose work is funny, irreverent, and very relatable. She writes movingly about her Christian faith, but her writing also appeals to people of all faiths, and to those of no faith. I hope my work shares some of those characteristics.

One of the most enjoyable things about my work is the feedback I get from readers. I'm especially pleased to connect with people who tell me they're disillusioned by organized religion, but that they find some spark in my books that they can relate to. In sharing my own doubts and questions, I try to show that being a person of faith doesn't mean you have all the answers.

In addition to writing books, I have a monthly free newsletter (you can sign up at [lorierickson.net](http://lorierickson.net)) and lead workshops and presentations. I often speak about inner and outer journeys, spiritual transformation, and (courtesy of my most recent book) the spiritual lessons of genealogy. I love these one-on-one interactions with people, which I miss while isolated in my office. I'm also happy to do Zoom appearances for book groups that are reading my work.

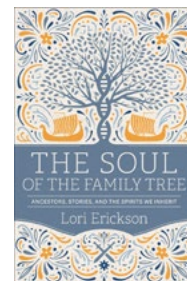
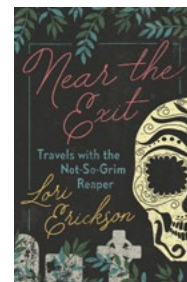
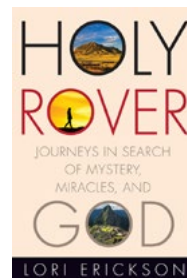
I'm currently writing a new book about spiritual sites and experiences in the United States. Part of my motivation is to emphasize the fact that while it's wonderful to go to Jerusalem or Rome, holy sites exist all over the world, including in our own country.

All of these writing activities are diaconal in nature, I think, going back to that idea of standing on the border between the Church and the World. I try to invite others to explore the riches and insights of the Christian faith as well as deepen their connection to Spirit in all its many forms.

One of my favorite Bible verses is John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word." Most writers like that one, I suspect, because it points to the power of words. We're not writing scripture, of course, but I like to think that all writers of good intent contribute something to the world. It's certainly what I try to do in my work.

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*Lori Erickson serves as deacon at New Song Church in Coralville, Iowa. Her books include *Holy Rover*, *Near the Exit*, and *The Soul of the Family Tree*. Her website *Spiritual Travels* describes holy sites around the world. [www.spiritualtravels.info](http://www.spiritualtravels.info)*



# INDEPENDENCE MANOR: Our Missional Community of Christ Church, Nacogdoches

BY DEACON WANDA CUNIFF

February 2022

When our Diocesan leadership began to challenge deacons to ask themselves “What keeps you up at night?” and to look around our neighborhoods for possible sites of missional communities, I began to think and pray about establishing one at Independence Manor, a low-income HUD property designated for people with mental and physical disabilities in our town. It encompasses accessible apartments for about 60 people, with a community gathering room, and a laundry room, an office, and a disability assist van to transport folks to appointments, grocery shopping, etc.

In 2017, my church, Christ Episcopal, began our association with Independence Manor. We started with providing hot lunches and sandwich bags every Saturday to the 18 folks in the residence who were not served Meals on Wheels on weekends. We began to offer a monthly service of Holy Communion followed by a delicious lunch. Our parish clergy provided the celebration of Communion, and volunteers set up, served, cleaned up, and visited with our new neighbors.

All were welcome to participate in the Eucharist, and we usually had about 20-25 participants. We also provide Ash Wednesday imposition of Ashes to residents, and Christmas caroling.

Through a Strategic Mission Grant provided by the Episcopal Health Foundation, I was able to hire a part time Missioner for the community. He was a blind resident there, with a background in social work, and a member of our church. He provided bi-weekly Bible studies, coffee mornings, accompanied me on pastoral care calls to ill residents in the hospital, and generally was a great liaison between Independence Manor and the church.

As we got to know the folks at Independence Manor, we found out other ways we could offer our parish resources to enrich their lives.

Our Daughters of the King had ice cream socials, and craft workshops for Christmas, and made “Welcome Baskets” of handy cleaning and laundry items for new residents. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew did a grill-out for the Fourth of July and helped with hauling,

difficulty transporting animals to local vets.

In every effort, we work with the residential Service Coordinator to plan and carry out events and services. He notifies us of special needs we can supply such as electric wheelchairs and batteries, dental work and



*Deacon Wanda distributing ashes to residents.*



*Residents' pets receive care from the pet clinic.*

*Building community gardens with residents.*

eyeglasses, electric beds, moving services, etc.

Our missional community work at Independence Manor has given Christ Episcopal many new friends, and opportunities to reach out beyond our walls to folks we would otherwise never have met. We have learned much about the needs of disabled and mobility-impaired folks who live only a couple of miles

from our church, up a steep hill that inhibits their joining into the life of our town. We have made lasting friendships, and always include our neighbors at Independence Manor in the Prayers of the People at church.

Questions? Contact [wcuniff@gmail.com](mailto:wcuniff@gmail.com).

*Wanda Cuniff has served for 15 years as deacon at the parish of Christ Episcopal Church in Nacogdoches, Texas. She is a former librarian in academic, public, and school libraries.*

# Join AED's Board | BE PART OF STRENGTHENING THE DIACONATE!

The Association for Episcopal Deacons Board of Directors elects new members every two years. We invite passionate, enthusiastic individuals who desire to offer their gifts and leadership skills for *Engaging the Diakonia of All Believers* as a missional church in the 21st century to work with us.

Specific skill sets needed are: development, public policy/legislative advocacy (inside and/or outside the church institution), community organizing, law, accounting and experience with non-profits. We are also committed to increasing the geographic, ethnic, age, and gender diversity of our Board.

Please read the Board of Directors Responsibility and Covenants (*next page*) and complete the Nominee Profile, below.

## Open Board Positions

- Vice President/  
President-elect
- 3 deacons
- 1 priest
- 1 lay
- 1 bishop

**TERMS:** Vice President term is 6 years: 2 yrs each as VP, President, and Past President. All others terms are 4 years.

Those elected will begin their terms at the in-person meeting, March 12-14, 2023 at a location to be determined. Remaining meetings will be held remotely, via Zoom.

## Only current members of AED are eligible to vote.

If your membership (or your diocesan-paid membership) has expired, please contact [membership@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:membership@episcopaldeacons.org) before 9/29/22. To become a member visit [www.episcopaldeacons.org](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org).

Ballots will be sent by email on 10/24/22 to all AED members for whom we have an email address. Those without email will be mailed paper ballots. You will only receive a ballot in one kind. *Your email will be used ONLY for this election and not shared.*

## AED Board of Directors Nominee Profile

Complete this form, or use our online form at [www.episcopaldeacons.org/2022-election](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/2022-election). Questions? Contact Archdeacon Carole Maddux at [vicepresident@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:vicepresident@episcopaldeacons.org).

**All submissions (online and paper) must be received by June 1, 2022.**



### I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position desired: ☐ Deacon ☐ Lay ☐ Presbyter If Deacon, office desired: ☐ Board member ☐ Vice-President/President-Elect

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese of Canonical Residence: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Ministries: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Church Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Positions: \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Background: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior Board Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Skill sets (e.g. development, public policy/advocacy, community organizing, accounting, non-profit experience): \_\_\_\_\_

### II. PERSONAL STATEMENTS *Please save as a pdf, named with your last name and first initial, in this way: JonesM-nominee.pdf*

**Note:** Personal statements that are longer than the designated word count will be edited. Your responses will be included with the ballots sent to AED members in the Fall of 2022. They will also be circulated on AED's website, social media and in Diakoneo.

1. How do you envision contributing to the AED Board? What are your special talents and gifts? (125 words max.)

2. What is your vision for the future of the Association for Episcopal Deacons? (250 words max.)

It is essential for the Nominee to have a thorough understanding of Board responsibilities before submitting a Nomination Form.

☐ I have read and, if elected, agree to conscientiously perform the duties of a working member of the Association of Episcopal Deacons Board of Directors as referenced in the statement of the Board of Directors Responsibilities and Covenants.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# AED Board of Directors Responsibilities and Covenants

*Please read this prior to completing the Board Nominee Profile form.*

*This document provides information about what AED requires from its Board members. Doubts about ability to commit the required time or comply with these requirements should be resolved in consultation with the Nominating Committee. Download this at [www.episcopaldeacons.org/2022-election](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/2022-election).*

## Term of Office

The term of office is four years. Directors may serve a maximum of 8 years.

## Election Process

Directors are elected by the general membership ballot. Nominees' Profiles are presented to AED's full membership in various media. The President, with the approval of the Board, may appoint Directors to fill vacancies until the next election. In addition, up to three additional Board members may be appointed in this way to maximize diversity of talents and representation.

## Time Commitment

A primary time commitment is attendance at a three-day board meeting in February or March each year. There are also quarterly conference call meetings lasting approximately 1.5 hours, additional budget-related conference calls in the fall, committee conference calls, and occasional special events, such as our Triennial Assembly and General Convention (which Board members are strongly encouraged to attend). Executive Committee members (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) make an additional commitment to attend an annual in-person meeting in late summer/fall. Service on a Committee or Task Force will also require a commitment of time, the amount of which will be determined by the task.

## Committee, Task Force and Council Meetings

AED has task forces to meet time-limited needs. It also has standing committees (Finance, A3D Conference, Fundraising, Triennial, and General Convention), which serve long-term needs, and one standing advisory council (Vocational Development and Lifelong Learning). These groups include both Board members and non-Board members. They meet at the pleasure of their members in order to accomplish certain tasks by established deadlines. Attendance is essential.

## Orientation Sessions

New Board members will be contacted shortly after their election to arrange a Board orientation session. This orientation will be done by phone. Participation is essential.

## Fundraising and Membership Development

All Board members are expected to support fundraising efforts and planned giving campaigns. Board members are also expected to encourage their dioceses to become diocesan members, and to make an annual diocesan gift to AED. Board members are expected to encourage their diocesan diaconal community to become members.

## Other Requirements

Board members are expected to be members of AED. Clerical members must be in good standing in their diocese of canonical residency. Bishop nominees must represent an AED member diocese.

## Nomination Process

Nominees are sought broadly throughout the organization's membership, through newsletter, journal, and website solicitations. The general membership, Board members, and Staff may invite prospective nominees to submit a Nominee Profile. Self-nomination is also appropriate. Prospects should receive and review this statement of Board Responsibilities and Covenants before accepting nomination. They are also invited to be in contact (by telephone, email, or in person) with a member of the Nominating Committee, if desired. The Nominee's name is then placed on the ballot for election by the general membership at the next election.

## Approach to Governance

The Board's role is to ensure that AED establishes and maintains the trust of the community by being clear in its mission, prudent and ethical in its activities, and accountable for its actions. Meetings focus on planning, policy-making, and assessing progress.

## Mission

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

## Directors' Covenants

Our Board of Directors members affirm on their Nominee Profile that they will fulfill the following responsibilities and abide by the following code of conduct. Board Members will:

1. Pray for and promote the diaconate.
2. Pray for AED's contractual staff, board members, and full membership.
3. Pray for the Episcopal Church and its ecumenical relationships.
4. Set policies and formulate plans in accordance with the Mission Statement of AED.
5. Attend or participate in all Board meetings, including conference call meetings. (Participate in e-mail or other social networking options in a timely manner.)
6. Select and support the contractual staff.
7. Consult with the President, the Executive Director, and other Board members with regard to the overall operations of committees.
8. Fulfill committee responsibilities assumed. If circumstances preclude fulfilling responsibilities assumed, inform the President or Executive Director.
9. Support AED through financial contributions (as one is able).
10. Encourage their diocese to become a diocesan member of AED, and encourage their deacon community members to join.
11. Avoid conflicts of interest, or the appearance of them, between the position as board member and the member's personal and professional life.
12. Maintain the highest standards of financial responsibility in all money matters.
13. Maintain confidentiality as appropriate.
14. Be accountable to the membership and the community for competent, conscientious, and effective accomplishment of the obligations of the Board.

## Vice President/President-Elect Covenant

- Serve as the face and voice of AED, in collaboration with the President, the Executive Director, and Board.
- Be responsible for calling the community together, in the absence of the President.
- Ensure that the Board of Directors fulfills its responsibilities (sets policy and establishes direction, oversees the operational program, fulfills fiduciary responsibilities and serves as fundraisers), in collaboration with the President and Executive Director
- Partner with the President and Executive Director to promote the vision and mission of AED

## VP Responsibilities

1. Hold the vision of AED before the Board, the membership, and the diaconal community, in collaboration with the President and the Executive Director.
2. Coordinate ways in which servant ministry and the diaconate will be promoted, in collaboration with the President and Executive Director.
3. Collaborate with the President, the Executive Director, and the Board to discern gifts and make board appointments.
4. Preside at meetings of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and other appropriate committees, in the absence of the President.
5. Facilitate and maintain communication with the President among members of the Board and the Executive Committee.
6. Facilitate electronic voting, in the absence of the President.
7. Serve as Chair of the Nomination Committee.
8. Provide oversight of working committees (Request quarterly reports in anticipation of Board meetings and encourage activities.)
9. Be available for consultation for Board members, Executive Director, and staff in the absence of the President.
10. Represent AED as opportunities present themselves.
11. Fulfill other duties as necessary.

**Questions** to Archdeacon Carole Maddux at [vicepresident@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:vicepresident@episcopaldeacons.org).

# Dear Archie,

## Dear Readers,

In our last column, we had a letter from *Nonessential Deacon*, who was puzzled when a rector saw no need for a deacon since the laity at her parish were already highly engaged in service and in advocacy. I asked for your thoughts and I'm pleased to report that several of y'all wrote in.

Some noted that the deacon would be ideal to provide support to the lay leaders – encouraging, training, providing pastoral care and conflict resolution, and helping their ministries. It was also pointed out that the laity are often not licensed to preach, which is a powerful way to provide a prophetic voice. In addition, a reader added, a parish could provide support to the deacon in her ministry in the world.

Finally, it was mentioned that we need to evaluate and use each deacon's individual charisms and expand our thoughts of what a deacon's ministry is.

Thank you all for your wise input!

I mentioned last time that I, too, had some thoughts on this. Here they are:

Shortly after I was ordained, I was speaking with an experienced deacon from another diocese and explained that my discernment and formation period had been protracted due to the retirement of our bishop. They had stopped the program in case the next bishop, "didn't want deacons." She looked at me archly and said, "Why, that makes it sound like we're an optional order!"

I've thought about that for over 15 years now.

In the wisdom of the church some decades ago, it was noticed that without a diaconate, the orders were no longer balanced. Having just a priesthood and episcopate led us to become insular and out of touch with the world at large. While, of course, we are all called to Christian service – to loving our neighbor – if your only clergy roles are largely parochial and centered around worship and teaching, we are emphasizing only loving God. It is important to have an ordained presence that focuses too on loving our neighbors.

Recently, I've started paying attention to the budgets of parishes. I look at the staff numbers and where they spend their dollars. Budgets expose priorities.

Now, this is completely unscientific, but in my few observations, parishes without deacons often have an inward focus, stated or not. The great majority, if not all, of their staff is for worship, buildings, administration, etc. Ministries to the community are simply fit in here or there and the majority or all of the outreach dollars are created through fundraisers alone – as if they're an "optional" part of church life and treasure.

I would hope a deacon would provide those parishes with the ability to infuse "love of neighbor" throughout the life of the parish – creating a vibrant outward focus that is fueled by the inward spiritual life.

The apostles knew what they were doing when they made deacons right at the start. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori once remarked to me that, "when deacons get involved, things happen."

Now, my snide remark to that rector might be to point out that if the parish had really gifted laity in pastoral care, preaching, administration, and teaching, they could probably do fine without priests on staff, too. But I think the better answer would be to invite her into conversation about the diaconate and deacons and what her church was saying to God's people about priorities when they exclude this order.

Just my musings.

Archie

## Dear Archie,

I am frequently asked to guest preach and have never been paid to do so, though sometimes I get a check made out to the non-profit I founded. Priests in my diocese, however, get a set fee for guest preaching. When I asked about preaching fees, I was told that deacons are non-stipendiary and, besides, this is an opportunity to highlight my ministry.

Should I be getting paid to preach?

Mendicant Preacher

## Dear Red-faced,

Yes. And your diocese should be saying so. Donations to your non-profit are just that, donations.


Your servant,

Archie

*"Archie" is Archdeacon Carole Maddux, in the Diocese of Atlanta. She was ordained in 2006 and has 10 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 - all orders of clergy, as well as postulants and discerners.


Send *Dear Archie* queries to [vicepresident@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:vicepresident@episcopaldeacons.org).




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# CLOTHED WITH COMPASSION AND LOVE

## Interfaith leaders address social justice issues

BY DEACON LAUREN P. MCCOMBS

March, 2022

I believe that deacons are clothed with compassion and love as it says in Chapter Three of The Letter of Paul to the Colossians, “clothe yourselves with compassion” but “above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

And as it says in our diaconal ordination rites, “You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, and work and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world.” (BCP page 543)

Since I was ordained on December 3, 2011 at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, my journey in serving Jesus Christ has taken various twists and turns. I have served at three different parishes in the Bay Area lifting up the needs and concerns of our Veterans, the underserved families and the mentally challenged within our communities.

I have always thought that I was called to identify those needs and concerns of our community and then in turn to determine what actions would be required to alleviate pain and suffering of the underserved in my community.

In 2017, I joined Peninsula Solidarity Cohort, which is a group of forty faith leaders from diverse traditions who meet monthly to address the social justice issues affecting San Mateo County, CA.

I believe that collectively, our Cohort is giving a moral voice to many of the challenging social justice issues affecting the underserved in our community. In essence, we are giving a voice to the voiceless, united in our moral convictions.

As a member of this Cohort, I have learned to speak up about the social justice issues affecting San Mateo County. I bring up social justice issues in the following ways:

- In my preaching
- In my writing Op-ed articles for The Daily Journal about extending the rent moratorium during Covid and stopping our Sheriff from transferring San Mateo County inmates to ICE.
- In attending press conferences and demonstrations.



*The Peninsula Solidarity Cohort, in our various clergy attire.*

Four years ago, we had a few members from Faith in Action Bay Area (FIABA) come and speak to the Cohort about community organizing. I then joined FIABA to further expand my community organizing skills and outreach.

I focused on understanding and communicating the needs of the underserved and often unheard in our community, consistently voicing those needs and bringing them to the forefront of our San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' attention.

In September of 2020, when I was at one of our FIABA Zoom meetings, I truly recognized what I represented to our underserved community living in San Mateo County.

Nadia, a FIABA Community Leader and Latina neighbor, who lives in Daly City wanted to share a story with the 15 FIABA community organizers who were present.

Nadia was telling the group that when she meets with the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors individually, she is promised that her particular concern will be addressed. However, when The Board of Supervisors come together to meet, her issue may not be brought up. Or, if by chance the issue is discussed during a Board of Supervisor's meeting, then the position of the Supervisor that Nadia had met with individually had often changed to conform with the other Supervisors' viewpoint.

After she shared that unfortunate information with us, Nadia said clearly and simply to all those present, “We need a white, wealthy woman to speak for us.” I felt like, even though it was a Zoom meeting, Nadia was looking and speaking directly to me. I simply raised my hand to volunteer to be that white, wealthy woman that she needed to speak up about social justice issues in San Mateo County. I must say that my life has forever been changed since that Faith in Action transformational meeting!

I took no offense at Nadia's label and judgment of who I was and what my social position of power was within our community as both as a white, wealthy woman as well as a deacon of The Episcopal Church.

Nadia's description of her unfortunate experiences with the Board of Supervisors helped me to understand just exactly what she was asking me to do.

At FIABA, we are working together to lift up the downtrodden by pointing out the social justice issues facing the underserved in our community to the governing powers that be. I have come to recognize that in working together with other community organizers we give a voice to the voiceless.

I have observed how the power base has shifted over time due to our presence at various meetings. At some Board of Supervisors and City Council meetings, we have over forty community organizers speaking during the Public Comment period.

We bring up issues of illegal evictions of our neighbors that are occurring as a result of the Pandemic's economic burden and the Sheriff's transfer of county immigrant inmates to ICE.

The labels and judgments of who our neighbors are are slowly falling away and compassion for our neighbors is starting to emerge. The labels and judgments that divide us from our neighbors have been

*Continued on page 12*



replaced with an increasing level of attention and responsibility from the governing powers within our community. We recognize that we are all God's children, who are all connected in so many ways. Now



*November 2021, demonstrating at San Mateo County Offices concerning the ICE Transfers. Present were FIABA Community Organizers, members from San Mateo County Coalition for Immigrant Rights and community members with loved ones transferred to ICE.*

at FIABA we are all working together, united in our cause for social justice.

It has been so truth telling over the past year that we as Faith in Action community organizers are now a force to be reckoned with! The transformation through our united efforts has been one of God's miracles that I have witnessed in my lifetime.

Visit [www.episcopaldeacons.org/community-organizing](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/community-organizing) to read my article in The Daily Journal, about the outcome of our Faith in Action community organizing work with the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Sheriff Bolanos and San Mateo County Coalition for Immigrant Rights.

And I encourage you to get involved your community, to give a voice to the voiceless and to be clothed with compassion and love. Please contact me at [laurenpmcombs@gmail.com](mailto:laurenpmcombs@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

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*Lauren McCombs, Diocese of California, is a member of Peninsula Solidarity Cohort, a community leader in Faith in Action Bay Area and on the Board for Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg, a diocesan retreat center.*

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## LIFELONG LEARNING

### **The Episcopal Latino Ministry Competency Course**

August 13-20, 2022

Saturday, 9:00am – Friday, 8:00pm

The School of Theology

The University of the South

Sewanee, TN

>Register by July 15

These popular intensive sessions are offered by The Episcopal Church's Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries and taught by seminary faculty, clergy, and lay leaders with extensive experience in Latino and intercultural ministry. When you register the Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministry will book lodging for you.

Details & registration at [www.episcopaldeacons.org/lifelong-learning](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/lifelong-learning) (under Resources/Practical Training/Lifelong learning)

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### **Growing Relational Ministries: A Spirituality of Mission**

Sept 11-Oct 8, 2022

Virtual

Take your existing outreach ministry to the next step or create something new by connecting to your theological and spiritual values. We will discuss how to move from ministry that is primarily to others into one that is ministry with people who are in need, and then look at the ways sharing the ministry creates a community that is church.

Details & registration at [www.episcopaldeacons.org/lifelong-learning](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/lifelong-learning) (under Resources/Practical Training/Lifelong learning)

### **Preaching Conference for Spanish Speaking Deacons**

*The Episcopal Preaching Foundation and The Association for Episcopal Deacons*  
October 7-8 and 14-15, 2022, virtual via Zoom

This two-weekend preaching conference is being created specifically for Spanish speaking deacons of Episcopal and Anglican Churches. The goal of the conference will be to provide specific guidance on sermon preparation and delivery, recognizing that the unique role of the deacon is to embody the Church in the community. Reflecting this, deacon sermons will of necessity have their own unique diaconate focus and tone.

The structure of the conference weekend will be anchored by small, intimate preaching groups of 3 or 4 participants with a trained EPF moderator. Each participant will have an opportunity to preach and receive feedback. Each Friday and Saturday program will begin with a plenary to the entire group by a noted educator or preacher. Plenary speakers will be Bishop Rafael Morales, The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell, The Rev. Nancy Frausto and The Rev. Canon Anthony Guillen. Panel session on specific topics may be offered, depending on the final schedule. Each day will open and close with worship. To combat Zoom fatigue the schedule will incorporate several hours of free time, with program time (excluding worship) limited to no more than 4 hours per day. The fee will be \$50 per person.

Watch AED's website [www.episcopaldeacons.org/lifelong-learning](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/lifelong-learning) for details.



### **Deacons Talking on the Road to Emmaus**

A monthly online deacon gathering

2nd Monday, 8:00-9:00pm ET

Watch [www.bexleyseabury.edu/pathways](http://www.bexleyseabury.edu/pathways) for upcoming talks. (Scroll down to the image of Jesus and the disciples.)

Visit [www.episcopaldeacons.org/lifelong-learning](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/lifelong-learning) for links to recordings of prior discussions.

# AED Board Reports

BY BRADLEY PETERSON, SECRETARY

## November 17, 2021, virtual

President Tracie Middleton announced the appointment of a Succession Committee and an Executive Director Transition Task Force:

- The Succession Committee is responsible for oversight of the adopted transition plan. Committee members are Ruth Elder, Jac Essing, Denise LaVetty, Lauren Welch, Carole Maddux, and Geri Swanson.
- The Executive Director Transition Task Force will support executive director Lori Mills-Curran through her retirement on March 31, 2022, and her successor during the transition of leadership. Task force members are Kate Harrigan, Phyllis Jones, Lori Mills-Curran and Tracie Middleton.

The board heard a report on the work of Joint Development Task Force of AED and the Fund for the Diaconate and authorized payment for the costs associated with state approvals to raise funds as a non-profit.

The board opted for conducting 2022's A3D conference and spring board meeting virtually due to Covid, and to adhere to the previously chosen dates in March.

The board heard a report from treasurer Phyllis Jones on AED's draft budget for 2022.

## December 8, 2021, virtual

The board adopted the budget for 2022 as proposed by the Finance Committee with two particular clarifications: expanding the purpose of certain AED grants and retaining funding for the Succession Committee's search for a new Executive Director.

## February 2, 2022, virtual

The board heard an update from the Joint Development Task Force on their plans for publication and contact with potential donors. Task force member and vice president Carole Maddux noted that, as a result of the task force's efforts in the last year, not only had AED gained new members, but also regained many members whose memberships had lapsed.

Treasurer Phyllis Jones

- reviewed the most recent financial report for 2021,
- noted the significant growth in memberships and resulting income,
- pointed out that expenditures were under budget,
- described the move to using a contract service for employee payroll,
- noted that net operating revenue was better than expected,
- reported that the budget adopted for 2022 will be posted soon, and
- reported productive work with The Episcopal Church Fund in developing an investment policy, which the Finance Committee would present to the board.

Tracie reminded the board of the expanded purpose of AED grants for "Ministries with Underserved," and asked for volunteers for establishing policies for advertising, administering and awarding these grants.

Executive director Lori Mills-Curran reviewed plans for 2022 including A3D, the opportunity for repeating Archdeacon 101 online, and a new vision for bringing US and Canadian deacons together for an online look at the two churches' canons on the diaconate.

Vice president Carole Maddux reported that the Succession Committee continued to review resumes but had begun preliminary interviews with candidates for the position of Executive Director.

Board member Chris McCloud reminded the board that February was Black History Month. She encouraged board members to go beyond the well-known figures of Black History, to dig deeper, to learn about other figures.

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## A Secret Source

The Bible and Common Prayer Book Society

BY DEACON PAUL KAHN

When a friend, who happens to be the President of the Bible and Common Prayer Book Society, first told me of the work they do, I responded, "This must be one of the best-kept secrets of The Episcopal Church," not realizing I was echoing a comment made by previous Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. Indeed, it is difficult to think of an organization whose lack of renown so belies its value to the church.

The Society, whose board I now sit on, was founded well over 200 years ago to provide Bibles and Books of Common Prayer to the still-young Episcopal Church, and in fact published the BCP until Church Publishing was established: that transition allowed the Society to develop and refine its core mission to distribute these books, free of charge, to new and struggling parishes and missions, which now include chaplaincies in prisons, nursing homes, and educational institutions. In effect, we are serving largely poorer communities, people of color, and other marginalized populations. Our offerings have expanded to include worship materials in general including hymnals and other authorized liturgical resources such as "Enriching

our Worship." We have a sizable demand for Spanish-language materials and are branching out into Chinese (both traditional and simplified characters!) and indigenous American languages, and are investigating electronic liturgical resources as well. In the last decade we have distributed over 8,860 Bibles, 22,370 BCP's, and 5,800 hymnals of various types.

Please visit our website at [www.biblesandprayerbooks.org](http://www.biblesandprayerbooks.org) where you can learn more about us and find out how to submit a request for books. The Society hosted an exhibition booth at the 2018 General Convention and we will be in Baltimore for the Convention this July. If you're attending, be sure to come by for a look and a chat!



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*Deacon Paul Kahn serves at St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church in New York City.*

# Fund for the Diaconate

## Winter 2022 Board Report & Grant Expansion



BY DEACON KEITH MCCOY

The board of the Fund met virtually on January 11, 2022. 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. Committees and task forces were re-authorized and appointments made. This will be the first year that non-board members serve on committees and task forces. Deacon John Ray was welcomed to the board for a three year term. Lists appear on our website.

The president, treasurer, and Investment Committee chair attended the CEEP (Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes, now the Episcopal Parish Network) conference in Atlanta in mid-February. We advertised the Advancing the Diaconate campaign (pg 5), and met with a number of bishops and vendors. Our annual letter to the diocesan bishops, informing them of how we can help their deacons, went out shortly thereafter.

We received final approval from the Attorney General of the State of New York (where we are incorporated) for changes to our Certificate of Incorporation. This will allow us to introduce new grant programs. (See sidebar) A survey was sent at the start of February to all deacons with email addresses, seeking information about where financial needs might be. There was a 20% response rate, and the results are being analyzed. A special board meeting in early March considered some new grant applications that could not wait until our next meeting. We continue to work with AED on plans for General Convention 80, in Baltimore in early July.

The board will meet on May 10-11, 2022 at the Church Center in Manhattan. The main topics will be the renewal of grants and new grant applications, consideration of the survey results and next steps.

*The Fund for the Diaconate of The Episcopal Church exists to help deacons in financial need. They do this through annual or one-time grants. Visit the Fund at [www.fundfordiaconate.org](http://www.fundfordiaconate.org). Facebook: @FundforDiaconate.*

### NEW! DIACONAL FORMATION GRANTS

The Fund for the Diaconate, as part of its support of the diaconate, announces a new grant for eligible postulants and candidates in the formation process for ordination to the diaconate. The Diaconal Formation Grant will provide an approved grantee up to \$1,500 each year for expenses directly related to participation in a diaconal formation program.

"This is a major expansion of our ministry. We are going beyond responding to the needs of deacons to helping expand the number of deacons. We are fortunate that we have the resources to do this," said Keith McCoy, president.

Eligible expenses include Diaconal Formation program tuition, books, and fees for the required Psychological Exam, Clinical Pastoral Education, and Diaconal Formation Workshops. Grant funds may also be used for travel and lodging for Diaconal Formation Programs, related childcare, eldercare, or partner care expenses.

For an application and eligibility information please visit [www.fundfordiaconate.org/apply-for-aid](http://www.fundfordiaconate.org/apply-for-aid).

#### THREE TYPES OF GRANTS FROM THE FUND

- Sustaining Grants
- Covid-19 Emergency Grants
- Diaconal Formation Grants

#### PLANNED GIVING TO THE FUND

Help deacons in need by naming The Fund for the Diaconate as a beneficiary of your retirement account, will, or trust. [www.fundfordiaconate.org/planned-giving](http://www.fundfordiaconate.org/planned-giving)

## IN MEMORIAM

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

Audrey Thomson Bauer, 6/20/2020, Eastern Michigan, 83, 1997  
Martha Buck, 11/7/2021, El Camino Real, 86, 1997  
Mary Jean Carmichael, 12/15/2020, Olympia, 89, 1991  
Marlene Carol Hruby Ceynar, 1/19/2021, Minnesota, 73, 1987  
Thomas W. Claggett III, 12/7/2021, Maryland, 83, 1979  
Nancy Lynn Dockery, 11/21/2021, Nevada, 65, 1995  
Jack Davis Durant, 1/2/2022, North Carolina, 91, 1995  
Ruth Alice Goldbloom, 1/8/2022, Maryland, 68, 2008  
Barry Thomas Pitt-Hart, 10/29/2021, South Dakota, 86, 1987  
Max Hoffman, 3/7/2017  
Lucy Latham Houser, 1/16/2022, Oregon, 82, 1989  
Juanita Hanger Johnson, 12/4/2021, Nebraska, 92, 2004  
Viliani Langi, 1/6/2022, Hawaii, 85, 2015

Betty Harlina Marquand, 2/9/2022, Milwaukee, 95, 1985  
Lucy Roberts Martinez, 11/10/2021, Georgia, 80, 1991  
Bruce Allan McCallum, 2/2/2022, Fond du Lac, 80, 2011  
Kathleen M. Moore, 2/18/2022, Southwest Florida, 70, 2016  
Sandra Ruth (Sandy) Obarski, 11/23/2020, Minnesota, 82, 2006  
Susan Carroll Peyton, 12/20/2021, Southwestern Virginia, 64, 2015  
Sheila Kathryn Shaubach, 12/31/2021, San Joaquin, 86, 2003

*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](mailto:membership@episcopaldeacons.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.

Diakoneo is published quarterly by the Association for Episcopal Deacons.  
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**AED WEBSITE: [www.episcopaldeacons.org](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org)**

Materials on discernment, formation, lifelong learning, books, sermons, deacon handbooks, letters of agreement, events and more.

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To advertise in *Diakoneo*, please contact us at [communications@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:communications@episcopaldeacons.org).

# JOIN AED OR DONATE

As a member of AED, you'll join others who play a key role in strengthening the ministry of deacons and "Engaging the diakonia of all believers."

AED members receive our quarterly magazine *Diakoneo* and a discounted rate for CALL Online Classes (*Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership*).

**Canadian deacons can join too!** Please purchase a "Blended Membership" through Anglican Deacons Canada, for full member benefits in AED. Visit [www.anglicandeacons.ca](http://www.anglicandeacons.ca) or contact Deacon Jacqueline Bouthéon at [membership@anglicandeacons.ca](mailto:membership@anglicandeacons.ca).

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☐ I am a: \_\_\_ deacon \_\_\_ presbyter \_\_\_ bishop \_\_\_ friend

☐ I am in formation for: \_\_\_ deacon \_\_\_ presbyter ☐ I want to be a deacon

Birth date: (if deacon or in formation) \_\_\_\_\_

Ordination date: (if deacon) \_\_\_\_\_

My diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

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Thank You!

## Planned Giving

To support the work of deacons through estate planning or major gifts, please contact The Fund for the Diaconate at [www.fundfordiaconate.org](http://www.fundfordiaconate.org).

## CONGRATULATIONS NEW DEACONS!

We celebrate the following Vocational Deacon ordinations that have been reported to AED. Ordinations are published as we receive them. Please send ordination notices to [membership@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:membership@episcopaldeacons.org).

|          |                                 |                          |
|----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12/11/21 | Chicago                         | Andrea Billhardt         |
| 12/11/21 | Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador | Derrick Sheppard         |
| 12/18/21 | Missouri                        | Angela Margaret Ferree   |
| 1/21/22  | Nebraska                        | Rebecca Smith            |
| 1/29/22  | Long Island                     | Claire D. Mis            |
| 1/31/22  | Central Florida                 | Emilio Gonzalez          |
| 1/31/22  | Central Florida                 | Vivian Ruth Sawyer       |
| 2/12/22  | Kentucky                        | Edward (Pete) Womack Jr. |
| 3/12/22  | Southern Ohio                   | Brice Joel Patterson     |
| 6/18/22  | Maine                           | George Cooper            |



Ken Casey (transitional), William Adams (transitional), the Rt. Rev. Terry Allen White, Pete Womack (vocational). 2/12/22. Kentucky.



Bishop Wayne Smith, Brice Joel Patterson. 3/12/22. Southern Ohio.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN  
YOUR DIOCESE ORDAINS  
VOCATIONAL DEACONS!**

AED keeps track of deacon ordinations - and we love to share the good news with the wider deacon community. Please send ordination notices, plus photos if available, to [membership@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:membership@episcopaldeacons.org). Photos of 600 KB or larger reproduce best.

**Your membership and donations make this issue of *Diakoneo*, the website and other resources possible. Thank you!**