

RESETTLING AN AFGHAN FAMILY Feeling called to help. But how?

BY DEACON SUDIE BLANCHARD

June 2022

Do you remember watching the news late last August? We all saw desperate people—men, women and children—racing against time to get to huge cargo planes before they left Afghanistan. It was heartbreaking to see chaotic scenes of families fleeing everything they knew with just the clothes on their backs. We all felt so helpless, watching the suffering from so far away. My first instinct as a deacon was to reach out and help. But how? In a matter of months, I would find out.

I live at RiverWoods in Durham, a retirement community in southern New Hampshire, near the seacoast. One Sunday, I came home after a morning spent at the church in Maine where I serve as deacon. A friend met me in the lobby and urged me to attend a meeting concerning Afghan refugees going on upstairs. So I did—there were about 24 people there—mostly fellow residents, with a few others from St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth. Everyone wanted to help and we shared a bit about what we knew. We agreed to meet again the following week. At that second meeting, there were even more interested people. As a result, a task force of five was formed—we were tasked with exploring housing options, and finding out more about agencies helping with resettlement in New Hampshire.

Our initial findings were discouraging—Ascentria Care Alliance, the agency that was actively looking for volunteers, was planning to settle families in Manchester or Concord where their offices were—housing was less expensive there, and needed services were close by. We couldn't find any housing possibilities in the seacoast that were affordable—no surprise there!

Then, when we were about to give up, one of the wardens at another Episcopal church in Portsmouth reached out to us—the church's four bedroom rectory was vacant—might this work for an Afghan family? At about the same time, we learned from Ascentria that they were having difficulty finding housing for families because Afghan families are large. Bingo!

All the pieces began to fall into place around Thanksgiving. We agreed to resettle a family in Portsmouth. I felt a strong call to lead the effort, and was able to find a wonderful co-leader. Team Seacoast, our "Neighborhood Support Team," became real!

We began gathering volunteers. They came from 10 faith communities, including the local synagogue and Islamic Center. Volunteers also came from Riverwoods Durham, the local VFW and

from the community at large. This was an effort that built bridges, not walls, and it was thrilling to be in the middle of it!

All told, nearly 40 volunteers were vetted and trained by Ascentria—we learned about cultural norms in Afghanistan and effective ways of introducing our families to American ways, while still honoring their ways. We also learned, mostly via "the school of hard knocks," how to navigate school systems and doctors' offices on behalf of our family. In effect, we're now supplementing Ascentria's professionals' work, helping them stretch their staff further.

Fundraising has been important. By the end of December, we had raised \$10,000. We've since received funds from churches, businesses, rotaries and many generous individuals. To date, we have raised about \$100,000. Every penny will go to help our family.

The end of 2021 found us checking lists and collecting furniture, linens, pots and pans—all things that make a house a home. On the 12th of January, we learned that our family of six would arrive on the 14th—in two days! At that point, everything shifted into high gear. The result was a 3-day miracle. On Friday the 14th the rectory was completely empty. By Sunday evening, it was a home ready for its new residents. Virtually everything but the dining table was donated—including 6 mattresses (which had to be new!)

That Friday evening, members of our welcoming committee went to the Manchester airport to pick up our weary family. They had started the day at Ft. McCoy military base in Wisconsin! They spent three days in a local hotel, and then we took them to their new home—in the middle of a sleet storm!

Since that day, we've experienced both joys and challenges as we have gotten to know this wonderful family. The husband of our family



Steps toward hopeful dialogue

At the time of writing this, I had recently met with the bishop and deacon community in Southeast Florida to give a presentation on images of diaconal identity. We had a wonderful discussion, including some disagreements on how to see and interpret the images. I started with the image of the deacon as bridge, and noted that this image also connects with bishops, who historically have as one of their titles, *pontifex* or “bridge builder.” If the bishops build the bridges, I suggested, possibly deacons ARE bridges between the Church and the world; that we sometimes are the point where the two can meet. Bishop Eaton disagreed, saying he would not consider that he *makes* deacons (though some bishops like that verb for diaconal ordination); he preferred to consider deacons as bringing others back and forth across the bridge. That disagreement was not at all a problem; it created a more robust discussion.

A few days later, working on academic CEUs, I took an online course on the ChurchNext platform, “Reading the Bible through the Lens of Conflict” with Padraig O Tuama. It’s a fascinating way of looking at scripture: noticing where there is conflict, whether it’s among people, or internally within a person, or, often, between expectations and reality. The course is part of an ecumenical project called The Spirituality of Conflict, which includes commentary by different authors on readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, reflecting particularly on conflict in the text. That might sound stressful, to lean into the concept of conflict with all the tension in the world lately. Instead, though, I found that it opened the texts in some very surprising ways, and I felt more hopeful about dialogue from that perspective.

Another format for considering conflict and tension that I’ve experienced as very fruitful is the “Issue” method of theological reflection in the Education for Ministry program. It may have a different name now, but the idea is that in listening to a story that includes conflict or tension, we identify two things, both good, that are naturally pulling against each other that could be the source of that. For example, we may want some level of risk in our lives while at the same time wanting some level of safety, and we might desire to be like others and also to be different.

Conflict doesn’t have to be destructive; often, creativity results from tension. If we don’t rush to “impose peace” as one of my virtual classmates wrote, by silencing or crushing dissent, we can learn more about each other and potentially create stronger bonds.



Deacon Tracie Middleton,
AED President

June 3, 2022

AED NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

JOIN AED'S BOARD

Your gifts and skills can
make a difference.

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

See pages 8-9 for details.

VISIT AED'S NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Watch these new videos and recordings:

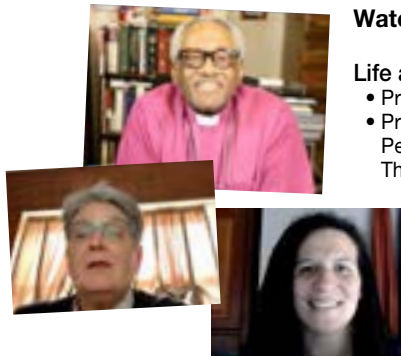
Life and Work of Deacons Conference:

- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's keynote
- Presentations by The Rev. Connie Campbell-Pearson, The Rev. Canon Chris McCloud and The Rev. Canon Laura Thomas Howell

Interviews:

- Deacon Genevieve Nelson
- Deacon Rick Sigler

Check back for more videos.
And remember to subscribe!



To access AED on YouTube, search for Association for Episcopal Deacons, or use the links on our website.

TOTAL DEACONS

US & Central America

2,064 Active
969 Retired
199 In formation

Canadian

362 Active
69 Retired
6 In formation

AED MEMBERS

Individual Memberships

690 US
66 Canada

Diocesan Memberships

83
(out of 111 Dioceses in Prov 1-9)

(as of 6/3/22)

Deacons sharing knowledge and leading the Church

I must begin by telling you all how honored and excited I am to be helping to lead AED at this time. AED finds itself in times of much change, as do all you deacons and deacon-supporters. Whether it's changes in church or political leadership, the pandemic and its aftermath, or continuing struggles with economic, social, racial, or gender equality, we are increasingly required to be nimble and able to respond to those conditions. We need to seek and share knowledge with each other, and to gather together to help lead the Church into whatever is coming next. This is one reason I am so grateful for AED. It provides a gathering place both online and in person for us to share the best of our unique ministry.

I am also grateful for our sister organization, the Fund for the Diaconate, which provides grants to deacons – active, retired or still in formation – who have insufficient funds for their needs. Deacons give a lot of themselves, often at a cost greater than they can ultimately afford and The Fund provides a vital service.

These two organizations have partnered in a first-ever joint fundraising campaign – *Advancing the Diaconate*. The request is simple. If you are a member of AED, thank you, and please consider giving an additional gift to AED to support the ways we support deacons. If you are not a member, please consider a membership. And regardless of your AED membership status, please consider a gift to the Fund for the Diaconate through planned giving.

In June, AED held an all-deacon online conference, “The Life and Work of Deacons”. As of this writing, there are nearly 100 registered to attend. My hope is that this becomes a regular, easy-to-participate online event for the wonderful sacred community of deacons. Having participated in the annual gathering of archdeacons, AED has facilitated a community to gather that is invaluable to my life. I hope to create the same sense of fellowship with more and more deacons.

With the ever-changing climate of the pandemic and changes to the General Convention, we do not have plans for in-person gatherings yet. When we do, we will share that information widely.

Finally, I'm eager to hear your thoughts about AED. If we've done something well, I'd love to know. And if there are ways we can improve, I want to know that too. Feel free to email me at director@episcopaldeacons.org.



Deacon Carter Hawley,
AED Interim Executive Director
May 24, 2022

IS THAT ON AED'S WEBSITE?

www.episcopaldeacons.org

Did you know... AED's website includes content for discerners, those in formation, deacons and archdeacons? Competencies, publications, events, continuing education and more.

In Publications:

- Sermons & books by deacons, blogging deacons, Ormonde Plater's archive

In Resources

- >**Deacon Competencies:** Outlines areas of competency used in successful Diaconal Formation Programs
- >**Discernment:** Diocesan processes, deacon reflections & videos
- >**Specific Ministries:** Homelessness & Hunger; Immigration & Refugees; Prisons; Violence
- >**Human Awareness & Understanding:** Anti-racism Resources

... and much more - take a look!

Do you have deacon resources to include on AED's website?

Please send submissions to Deacon Anne at communications@episcopaldeacons.org

CONNECT

**PREACHING CONFERENCE
FOR SPANISH SPEAKING DEACONS**

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 4

How do I...

**submit news, an event or an article
for publication in *Diakoneo*?**

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

- Reflections on ministry
- Discernment & formation experience
- New leadership roles
- New ministry, engaging the Church in service to the world
- Events, Books, Photos
- and other deacon news

Questions & submissions, contact Deacon Anne at communications@episcopaldeacons.org.

THANK YOU!

AED is grateful to our members and donors, who make possible this magazine, the website and other deacon resources. Together we strengthen our mission to increase involvement of all the baptized in Christ's diaconal ministry.

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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.

cares deeply for his family—it's wonderful to watch him with his kids. His wife is quiet and shy, but it's clear that she also loves her children. The oldest daughter, at 11, is a "little mother" to her brothers and sister—and she is learning English quickly. The oldest boy, 8, exudes "boy energy." The youngest daughter, 4, has sparkling, intelligent eyes. The youngest son is 2—he doesn't miss much. When you visit



our family, even if you just need to drop something off, don't expect to leave quickly—you will be served green tea and a sweet snack. Afghan hospitality and generosity is legend!

Things are progressing. The dad was able to get a job at a local grocery store within a month of arriving in Portsmouth. It's within walking distance of his house. He passed the written driver's license on the third try. He's now working on passing the road test. The two older children are in school and doing well. The mom and the

two youngest children are making progress with English. Our mom has found success sewing—a RiverWoods resident donated a sewing machine, and she's now making some beautiful placemats that we hope she will sell.

Are there challenges? Yes. Definitely. The language barrier is a

significant one. The head of our household knows a little English but needs to learn much more before he can get a better job. His wife knows just a little, and she is not literate in her own language—she's never been to school. There are some health issues. And everyone in the family has major tooth trouble! American culture is radically different from Afghanistan's and negotiating between the two is a delicate business. Finally, the two adults are still dealing with the trauma of the last year—they both have family still in Afghanistan.

Challenges ahead for Team Seacoast include finding an affordable car for the family that's big enough for all six of them. Affordable long-term housing for the family is scarce here on the seacoast. I think the biggest challenge for us as a team is to understand that we are companions accompanying them on this journey to self-sufficiency rather than "fixing" everything for them. It's important to give them agency and control over their own lives so that they can transition successfully to self-sufficiency.

So, yes, there have been challenges. We're not done with those yet, but we've shared moments of joy, and just plain fun. The pictures of the children I've included show the latter!

Did I expect God to call me to this new ministry in my mid-seventies? No—but we deacons know that God is full of surprises! Am I glad I am involved in this effort? Yes, absolutely. It has been both deeply fulfilling and challenging—and I've had to lean on my own faith daily as the challenges arise and get resolved. Would I do it again? Oh yes, for sure, with God's help!

Note: In this article, I mention no names and you will not see identifiable faces in the pictures. The Taliban has a broad reach and identifying information can put both our family and their family members still in Afghanistan at risk.

Sudie Blanchard was ordained in 2006 in the Diocese of Maine. She currently serves at St. George's Episcopal Church, York Harbor.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Growing Relational Ministries:

A Spirituality of Mission

Sept 11-Oct 8, 2022

Virtual

Take your existing outreach ministry to the next step. We will discuss how to move from ministry that is primarily to others into one that is ministry with people who are in need, creating a community that is church.

Details & registration at www.episcopaldeacons.org. Look 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

The conference will provide guidance on sermon preparation and delivery, recognizing that diaconal sermons will of necessity have their own unique focus and tone. The structure of the conference 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 from peers and from the moderator. There will be morning plenary talks, worship and panel sessions on specific topics, to be determined.

Plenary speakers will be Bishop Rafael Morales, The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell, The Rev. Nancy Frausto and The Rev. Canon Anthony Guillen.

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 for participation will be \$50 per person.

Details & registration at www.episcopaldeacons.org. Look under Resources/Practical Training/Lifelong Learning.

Many Traveling Deacons

Diocese of Los Angeles

BY ARCHDEACON LAURA SIRIANI

June 2022

Last fall when the deacons of the diocese of Los Angeles met with Bishop John Taylor, we hatched a plan. The bishop invited me to preach at our diocesan convention which generated some interest and questions about the diaconate. We knew that we had a story to tell about our work and that the best way to tell that story might be to visit congregations that do not have deacons. Nine deacons agreed to participate in the traveling deacons' experiment. Following several newsletter articles about our offer, invitations began to arrive, and we each set out to visit 1 - 2 congregations during the seasons of Epiphany and Lent, earlier this year.

We offered to preach, take part in the service, and provide a forum after the service(s) for those interested in learning more. Each participant received a booklet that explains how deacons work in the world. The response has been tremendous, and I think we have been able to provide clarity to congregations about who vocational deacons are.

We anticipated questions about formation requirements and how vocational and transitional deacons differ. We did not expect to encounter a hunger for ministry in the world. We were asked over and over how a parish might serve their neighbors and how their parish might go about having a deacon assigned to their church. When asked about his visit, traveling deacon Anthony Keller put it this way, "I found hunger. Hunger from the congregation to help discover the people's gifts and talents to be best used outside in the wider community. I found hunger from the Vicar serving alone who would benefit from assisting clergy to help realize the mission of this community of faith." We see that as good news and continue to follow up with parishes as they begin to dream, discern, and develop a ministry that serves the community around them.

Our pool of active deacons is small; but our effort to highlight diaconal ministry has borne fruit: Currently there are eleven people in various stages of diaconal discernment and that is very good news!

Laura Siriani is the Archdeacon in the Diocese of Los Angeles. She works at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Tustin as the Coordinator of Welcome and Communications, and serves as the deacon on the Sundays she's not visiting parishes in the diocese.



The deacons of the Dioceses of Georgia and Atlanta met in June for their inaugural joint Deacon's Retreat at the Little Ocmulgee Lodge in middle Georgia. The retreat was comprised of over 35 deacons, postulants, and candidates for ordination.

IN THE WORLD

- **Deacon Stole Bank** The Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan are in the initial stages of creating a Stole Bank for our dioceses' newest deacons, especially those considered to be "transitional," borrowing until they are ordained to the priesthood. The effort will be coordinated by the Western Michigan Archdeacon, the Rev. Beth Drew, who will house and catalogue stoles and act as connector between those in need and available stoles.
- **Diakoneo World Federation** is an international and ecumenical community offering diaconal friendship, connecting us in diversity and commonality. www.diakonia-world.org

NEWS SHORTS

- **Traveling Deacons**
Diaconate Sunday: On June 12, deacons in the Diocese of Massachusetts visited one congregation and preached, to introduce people to deacons and their ministry.
Deacon Crawl: Also on June 12, deacons from the Diocese of Western Massachusetts visited one congregation that never had a deacon.
- **Deacons at Our Service**, a special issue of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts' magazine, focused on deacons and diaconal ministry. See pg 12 for excerpts and to download.
- **Deacon Patti Davis**, Diocese of Georgia, was honored at Riverview Health & Rehabilitation Center with the naming of the Patti Davis Tranquility Room.
- **Deacon Jess Elfring-Roberts** has been called to serve as the Executive Director of Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers. www.episcopalccc.org/about

NEW ARCHDEACONS

- **Deacon Amy Bryan** is the new Archdeacon in the Diocese of Arizona, as Deacon Sarah Getts retires.
- **Deacon Dorothy d'Rue Hazel** is the new Archdeacon in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina.
- **Deacon Cindy Campos** is the new Archdeacon in the Diocese of San Diego.

Send news, reflections and photos to Deacon Anne at communications@episcopaldeacons.org.

A ministry of presence with young people

BY DEACON JESS ELFRING-ROBERTS

May 2022

"Be the person you needed when you were younger."

—Ayesha Siddiqi

This quote hangs above my desk at work.

Growing up in the church I struggled to find someone who was like me. I grew up in a town that was not welcoming to those who were "different." I always felt a bit out of place.

When I was 15 years old, I went on a diocesan youth retreat called 'Happening.' It's a retreat for youth led by youth and supported by adults. It was there that I met my first female clergy person. She treated me like an adult and seemed to really care about me. I remember asking her what it was like being a priest. She said I'm not a priest, I'm a deacon. Immediately I thought to myself *I have no idea what a deacon is but I want to be one.*

I have always felt called to a ministry with young people. I want to create safe and welcoming spaces for people to be their authentic selves. I want to show God's love for folks especially in the LGBTQ+ community. So many young people are struggling with their identity, especially if they're a part of the queer community. So for me, just being able to be a presence in between the church and the world, that can not only tell people, but show people that they are a beloved child of God, is an honor and blessing.

I am lucky enough to live out my vocation outside the walls of a church building as a high school Theatre and Digital arts teacher, and as a rugby coach. When I made the transition from working as a youth ministry role and into the secular world, I had to think more about what it looks like to serve God in deed vs word.



Jess was ordained in 2013 and serves at Church of Our Savior in the Diocese of Chicago and has served on the Bishop's staff as Assistant for Youth Ministry. She is the Executive Director of Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers.



**ADVANCING
the DIACONATE**

Sustain. Empower. Transform.

A collaborative effort by The Fund for the Diaconate and AED, to support and improve the lives of Episcopal deacons throughout their ministry.



www.episcopaldeacons.org/advancing-the-diaconate

With your help, we're beginning to expand programming and opportunities to connect, address barriers to ordination and equip future diaconal leaders.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR EPISCOPAL DEACONS!

Comparing June 2021 to June 2022, Advancing the Diaconate has seen an increase in individual AED memberships from 599 members to 764, a 28% increase. If you are already a member, thank you. If you aren't please consider joining so we can do even more.

During that same period, we've seen donations increase from \$5,200 to \$9,100, a 75% increase.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE FUND FOR THE DIACONATE!

In response to this campaign, eight individuals have included The Fund for the Diaconate in their wills or estate plans, and 11 monetary donations to the Fund have been received.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED: Do you have a passion for the diaconate? Would you like to support deacons and their work? Do you have skills in development, marketing, writing, or communication? The Advancing the Diaconate Campaign is looking for volunteers. Please contact Trish Stukbauer at coordinator@fundfordiaconate.org.

**3 EASY STEPS YOU
CAN TAKE FOR DEACONS
AND THE DIACONATE.**

1. BECOME A MEMBER OF AED,
renew your membership or
increase to the next level.

2. DONATE TO AED ANNUALLY,
allowing AED to expand services
and increase access.

3. NAME THE FUND AS A BENEFICIARY
of your retirement account, will, or
trust at www.fundfordiaconate.org.

Maybe our job isn't to pray for things to be better or different...

BY KRISTEN WHEELER

May 2022

"Preach like you have a million voices, it's silence that kills the world."

~Catherine of Siena

I remember the day I sat in my Bishop's office with sweaty palms, waiting to hear if I was moving forward in the process. Sitting there glancing at the built-in bookshelves, the only certainty was my strong call to this order, and no one could tell me otherwise. He looked me dead in the eyes with that southern Mississippi smile that says equal parts "I see you and hear you," and "I have my eye on you," and said without hesitation, "are you sure it's not priest? I see you like to teach and preach?"

You see, my husband and I have been through a lot in our 20 years together. We've struggled with poverty, food insecurity, death of loved ones and relationships, burglaries, bankruptcy, foreclosure, illness, hurricanes, accidents, anxiety and depression, job loss, dream loss, and so many other unfortunate circumstances that define so many people. We are living examples of the all too common and tiresome phrase "starving artist." But (unfortunately for me) God knows I need to experience something (good or bad) in order to understand it and help others, to write about it, and to preach it.

Growing up a "quiet, good, little Catholic school girl" never did me much favor. I was bullied horribly in grade school. In fourth grade, I sat in front of the priest at mandatory weekly confession and asked, "What if there is one God with many faces?" I cannot express how quickly I was shut down. Those experiences, as terrible as they were, did teach me how to be the kind of person I needed as a child, one who stands up for others. I am not here to be a "quiet, good, little girl" anymore and I don't think anyone called to the diaconate is.

When it came time to write my spiritual autobiography, I thought, "I've been through so much and if I can't use these experiences to help others and be honest, even the ugly parts, then what was it all for?" So, when I sat in that too-cold air-conditioned office, staring at pictures of the Bishop's grandchildren, and he said, "are you sure it's not priest?" without hesitation I responded, "Deacons can teach and preach."

I had a rough discernment process; a hard parish committee, a hard COM and standing committee meeting that put me on hold for one awfully long year, and a generally rough time with some difficult people, but I am thriving in the IONA program now. All that said, God knows me best, remember? Even the hard experiences are worth it friends. The only way I know how to express this is by sharing a story:

On a trip to Haiti, we visited a young blind man named Jonas. The story goes that he fell on the steps as a child and landed, eye first, on a dirty branch. The only "antibacterial" treatment the villagers had was bleach, using it to clean out his eyes, causing permanent blindness.

Many individuals come and pray over Jonas for the return of his sight. Since the accident he had to find his own way around and fend for himself, but he also developed an incredible singing voice and became a coach for the local soccer team. Pretty amazing feats for a



17-year-old blind man living in the poorest conditions, whose shoes are so ill-fitting his toes pushed through. Jonas' smile and joyous heart shone bright when he sang a beautiful hymn to us. I thought, "what a gift God has given him amidst this tragedy." A couple laid hands on him and prayed for his sight to return.

This is the part where people say, "he miraculously got his sight back right?" No. I saw in that moment a boy given a horrendous obstacle and yet made his life and the lives of those around him better for it. Jonas' spiritual gift of joy blessed everyone. Why would anyone want to take that away? Because of his story, people discovered his village and helped; because of his resilience, he built his community up, giving them strength; because of his trauma he was given the gift of sight in many other ways.

What I learned from Jonas most of all is that maybe instead of praying for something to go back the way it was, we should pray how we can use our trials to help others and make this world a better place to exist. Maybe our job isn't to pray for things to be better or different, but to pray for strength in using our experiences, both good and bad, in other ways. Maybe, just maybe, we will be all the better because of what we've been through, and we can lead others to look at it the same way.

Kristen Wheeler is a postulant for the diaconate in the Diocese of Louisiana. She is an artist, writer, and modern iconographer who teaches and preaches regularly throughout the diocese.



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

AED's Board 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: development, public policy/legislative advocacy (inside and/or outside the church institution), community organizing, law, accounting and experience with non-profits. We're 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 online or below.

Open Board Positions

• 1 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. Other Board 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.

Watch our website for voting details and dates!

To vote in the election you must be a current member of AED.

If your membership (or your diocesan-paid membership) has expired, please renew before 9/5/22. To renew or become a new member visit at www.episcopaldeacons.org/join---aed-membership.

Ballots will be sent by email to all AED members for whom we have an email address. Those without email will be sent paper ballots. You'll 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.

Questions? Contact Archdeacon Carole Maddux at vicepresident@episcopaldeacons.org.

All submissions (online and paper) must be received by August 31, 2022.



**ASSOCIATION FOR
EPISCOPAL DEACONS**
ENGAGING THE DIAKONIA OF ALL BELIEVERS

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION *(answers must fit in the space provided)*

Name: _____

Position desired: ☐ Deacon ☐ Lay ☐ Priest ☐ Bishop 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 your statements 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. They will also be circulated on AED's website and social media.

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.

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.

Dear Archie,

Dear Archie,

While my parish loves to participate in service projects (they especially like anything that involves feeding people), I can't figure out how to get them involved in justice issues. I'm told they don't want to be involved with "politics" and that's not what they come to church for.

The rector is supportive of my desire to start moving from purely service projects to advocacy but doesn't want me to rock the boat too much.

How do I get my parish to live more deeply into their Baptismal Covenant?

Puzzled,

Stifled Prophet

Dear SP,

Moving from service into advocacy is a journey for all of us. Service—"fingernail-dirty" service (as my bishop calls it)—comes first. After all, how can we advocate with any credibility without ever having encountered the actual people and issues we are advocating for?

Advocacy in these divided times can be doubly difficult as words such as "political" or "social justice" can have vastly different connotations to the hearer.

I would start with debriefing episodes after each service project. Since they like feeding people, have a meeting after they have served food at a shelter or perhaps a monthly meeting of everyone who volunteers at the food pantry.

I might begin the meeting by just asking everyone to share some of their experiences. What was hard? What brought them joy? What surprised them? What brought them sorrow?

Some of their answers may help prompt follow-up questions like, "What circumstances do you think may have brought them to the (shelter/pantry)? How can those circumstances change?"

You may find that your parishioners have a good understanding of what it means to be poor or you may find that they carry some misconceptions. Their answers will help you know what steps to take next.

Possible next steps could include a poverty simulation exercise where your parishioners find out first hand some of the challenges our society has for the poor. A book study or a program like *Just Faith* could also be appropriate.

Finally, for the parishioners who don't understand why advocacy is as much a part of practicing your faith as service is, I recommend a book called *Prophetic Faith* as either a book study or to help you put that concept into words.

It is important as we help people with their spiritual development in this area to keep in mind that Christianity is inherently political but never partisan. If you can make sure not to come across as lecturing or promoting a partisan agenda, that can help ensure that barriers to communication are lessened. One way to achieve that is to have a clear foundation in the Gospel and in Church teachings for all you say. It will also reassure your rector!

Hope that helps! I'm rooting for you!

Archie

Dear Archie,

I am not a deacon and I do not believe I am called to be one. As an Episcopalian, however, I think a strong diaconate is critical to our growth and mission in the world.

How can I support deacons and the diaconate in the Episcopal Church?

Wondering,

Lay Supporter

Dear LS,

Did you know that the Association for Episcopal Deacons (AED) is not just a membership organization for deacons? ALL orders are welcome to become members and supporters. In fact, AED is required by their bylaws to have lay members on the governing board.

In addition, the Fund for the Diaconate can help you with a planned gift to support deacons when they find themselves in challenging circumstances. (See pg. 6)

Both of these organizations are wonderful ways to show support for deacons and the diaconate.

But, most of all, please put deacons, AED, and the Fund in your prayers.

Gratefully,

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.

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

CONNECT WITH AED



RESOURCES ON THE WEBSITE

Find materials on discernment and formation, events, lifelong learning, books, events and more at www.episcopaldeacons.org.

FACEBOOK GROUPS

We have 3 Facebook Groups - "Association for Episcopal Deacons", "Young Episcopal Deacons"; and "Archdeacon & Deacon Formation Leaders". Join in conversations with the wider deacon community.

UP-TO-DATE NEWS & EVENTS

Get the latest news, education and events with our monthly newsletter, *Deacon Update*. Sign up at www.episcopaldeacons.org: click "SIGN UP for enews".

YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Check out AED's new YouTube channel. Search for Association for Episcopal Deacons or use the link on our website, www.episcopaldeacons.org.

Adeline Blanchard Tyler: THE FIRST DEACONESS

BY DEACON DAPHNE B. NOYES

May 2022

In late August 2021, Deacon Geri Swanson (New York) — speaking in a CEEP webinar about early Episcopal deaconesses — mentioned Adeline Blanchard Tyler (1805-1875), a widow from Boston. As a Bostonian of sorts (I live across the river in Cambridge), my interest was piqued. So I did what one does: Google. I found information at the Library of Congress, Wikipedia, and a few other places, but it was an entry from the Boston Children's Hospital Archives program that marked what would become a point of no return in my quest to learn more about this woman, described as “a fearless re-inventor of her own life.”

I quickly arranged a visit to the hospital archives. How can I describe the thrill of finding a collection of nearly 100 letters to and from Mrs. Tyler, written between 1869 and 1873? Some were written on impossibly thin onionskin paper, in a rushed, slanted hand. Others were on creamy, black-bordered stationery, bespeaking a recent death in the family. Most, addressed to “My dear Sister,” were to her younger sister Catherine (Blanchard) Gilman, in Baltimore. In others, she solicited and received counsel from her spiritual director, Maryland Bishop William Rollinson Whittingham, as she pondered major decisions — where to serve, and under whose authority. A handful were from a young priest, Charles Chapman Grafton, who while at St. Paul's in Baltimore “was chaplain to a house of Deaconesses...under Mrs. Tyler.”

But how did Mrs. Tyler come to be in Maryland, and to be The First Deaconess? In 1856, Horace Stringfellow, rector of St. Andrew's in Baltimore, had heard of her charitable work at the church of the Advent in Boston where the rector, Bishop Horatio Southgate, had established a House for Widows and Aged People and a Parish School. There she was known as “The Abbess” (probably not to her face). Eager to expand the parish's ministry by establishing an infirmary, invited her to be its head; surely having both her sister and Elizabeth Philpot Blanchard, her brother's widow, living nearby added to the appeal. She arrived in September 1856, accompanied by her friend Carrie Guild, also from Boston. On St Matthews's Day, the infirmary was formally opened by Bishop Whittingham; the service included Holy Communion and “the solemn setting apart of Mrs Adeline Tyler and three other ladies [Carrie Guild, Evaline Black, Catherine Minard] for the work of Deaconesses in the Diocese of Maryland.”

I spent the remainder of 2021 and early 2022 visiting the Children's Archives weekly, going through the collection, deciphering her difficult handwriting — why do her r's and n's and u's and s's look so much alike? — and learning more about her challenges, sorrows, and joys. I pieced together a timeline of her life, as well as a family tree to help me sort multiple people called Lizzie. Her relationship with Whittingham and other leading High Churchmen of the day emerged as a primary theme. Between visits, I continued my pursuit of The First Deaconess at my home office (the kitchen table).

What does plumbing the depths this particular deaconess's life have to do with my ministry — my identity — as a deacon? A large part of the answer is found in the eternal power of telling stories. Is that not what we do when we proclaim the gospel? Just weeks before the coronavirus shut everything down, I had retired from longtime parish service;

*Deaconess Tyler
was a Civil War
nurse in Chester,
PA and Baltimore &
Annapolis, MD.*



suddenly I found myself separated from my family and severed from my community. The time spent delving into resources that could reveal, bit by bit, the story of The First Deaconess became my steady occupation during the long months of solitude.

When I read of the brave actions of Mrs. Tyler (for so I must call her out of respect) in Baltimore during the Civil War, where she faced down a crusty police official in order to remove two severely wounded Massachusetts soldiers from his custody so she could care for them in her home (which she did, successfully); or her supervision of the US Naval Hospital in Annapolis where 1,000 men relied on her and her team of “lady nurses;” or the deep affection she held for the “fallen women” who sought refuge at the Midnight Mission in New York — when I read of these things, I was transported out of my small, pandemic-circumscribed world, and found a measure of comfort and companionship and more than a hint of holiness.

I grew to appreciate more and more the archivists, librarians, biographers, historians and others who work to preserve the fragments of the past, which is our “goodly heritage.” I have come to understand that the title, and the role, of “deaconess” is a far cry from what I had expected it to be, at least in the case of Mrs. Tyler. There is no evidence that being set apart as a deaconess is something she sought out or longed for, but there is every reason to believe that deaconess is who, and what, she was called to be. Arthur Cleveland Coxe, rector of Baltimore's Grace Church from 1853 to 1863, remarked: “She seemed raised up for this purpose. Her talent was great and her spirit indomitable. How few have been found to follow her. How much yet remains to be done before such thoughts as were in her heart shall be realized in practically every diocese.”

Neither her accomplishments nor the accolades of famous men should dull or distract from the very real challenges that she faced. Her post in the Chester, Pennsylvania, Military Hospital, where she served from 1862 to 1863, was “one of plain duty... bringing order out of chaos... I have met with all sorts of discouragements. ...Yesterday we received 250 sick and wounded men, 24 of whom are Confederates. Two of them are very ill. One was baptized this evening. I stood sponsor for him—have just left him for the night a little more comfortable than he was in the morning.” In 1869, she returned to Boston to become the first Lady Superintendent of the new Children's Hospital, where the household consisted of as many as twenty young patients with maladies ranging from measles and pneumonia to fevers and fractures. She lamented, “a succession of claims upon me have used me up mind & body.”

Yet throughout her labors in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts, she tended to her own spiritual health and that of others. Just days after arriving in Baltimore, she reported “I have been very busily engaged this morning in preparing our little Chapel for

Continued on page 12

service, hoping to enjoy the united prayers of our Christian band within its walls.” She later established an oratory at the Church Home and Infirmary, and at the Children’s Hospital (initially located in a modest home on Rutland Street): “We have been having two services every week at the Hospital & now our oratory is so far completed as to use it. We shall enjoy them much more than before. The oratory is very high up being a part of the attic; it is nicely finished with a very nice altar of oak with painted panels.”

For his 1983 book *Children’s Hospital: Built Better Than They Knew*, Clement Smith, MD, made a careful study of Mrs. Tyler’s correspondence. In his notes, he highlighted a passage from a December 1872 letter: “How changed are our Xmas congratulations since the last anniversary — so many gone to rest, while we toil on in the sad enjoyment of the blessings and trials that beset our way.” Dr. Smith noted, “These words seem to me the epitome of Adeline Blanchard Tyler’s outlook on life.” To which I can only say, *Amen*.

Daphne Noyes was deacon at Boston’s Church of the Advent in the Diocese of Massachusetts from 2006 to 2020. In early June she was awarded a research grant from the Episcopal Women’s History Project to continue her work on Adeline Blanchard Tyler, the first deaconess.



SISTER PRISCILLA, THE LAST DEACONESS, ACTIVE AT 87

In March, *The Living Church* published an article about Sister Priscilla, the last woman ordained as a deaconess. Sister Priscilla demonstrated her wit and sense of humor by joking, “Phoebe and Lydia were in the class before me.”

The article looks at Sr. Priscilla’s early life, call, service and hopes for the future. A link is available at www.fundfordiaconate.org/deaconesses.

Deacons Reflect on Pandemic Ministry

Articles appeared in Deacons At Our Service, a special issue of Abundant, the magazine of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Reprinted with permission.

BY DEACON BEATRICE KAYIGWA

In my mother country Uganda, we have experienced civil wars ever since we got our independence from the British in 1962. We would flee our homes for fear of armed forces attacking us. We hid in other villages, waiting to hear that our own village was safe to go back to.

When COVID-19 attacked the world, it seemed to me like a war between humanity and the virus. We ran away from public life and from our jobs; we stayed away from people who did not live with us; and the churches closed. Almost everyone was hiding in fear of the deadly virus. When the health department cleared the world to come out, we looked around; we wanted to check on our church. Is it still there? Did it survive the virus?

Deacons serve in the community. We work with people outside the church walls. My ministry in the world is to visit the sick, the lonely, and the shut-ins by taking them Communion, sitting with them, and listening to what they had to share. As a deacon, not being able to carry out my ministry in the world for 18 months affected me very much. I could not visit anyone in the hospitals, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities. I tried to call some of the people I used to visit, but if they could not take my calls, I wondered if they could not hear the phone ring, or did their families move them? These unanswered questions— Is the person I am calling okay? Did something bad happen to them?— affected me and my ministry. I trusted in the Lord to take care of them, even though it was hard not to see or talk to them.

BY ARCHDEACON S. JANE GRIESBACH

Community is key. Buildings are optional. One parishioner commented to me “I know we always say the church isn’t a building – it’s the people. Now, I know that’s true”.

St. Francis parish has four mission partners that we support in various ways throughout the year. Abby’s House, a women’s shelter; The Mustard Seed, an organization that serves the poor in many ways; Dismas Farm, a residential program for formerly incarcerated men; and the local food pantry helps us bring Christ to the world of need. Early on in the pandemic, our church began to have “donation days” on Saturdays to collect items that were needed and difficult to find. At first only parishioners participated. After a short while, the neighboring community came and donated. These donation days continue still and our mission partners are always grateful.

The other ministries I participate in changed in the pandemic as well, but didn’t stop. Walking Together is a storefront that welcomes street people inside for rest, coffee, snacks, and conversation. Folks were no longer allowed to come inside. At first, we bagged up snacks and hygiene products and distributed them from the windows of our cars. A quick “God Bless You,” and then we drove off to look for others. Later on, the storefront became a sort of take-out place, handing out necessities from the front door.

The staff at the laundromat where we hold Laundry Love is beyond fantastic, in particular the owner Jared and the manager Vaneza. We continued to raise money, and Vaneza would call the regulars to come in to do their laundry. Customers came from shelters and the surrounding neighborhood. The Charlton town food pantry continued as well. Those in need called in, food was boxed and left outside for them. As time went on, those in need increased and so did our donations of food.

Read more articles in *Deacons At Our Service* by downloading it at www.episcopaldeacons.org/formation.

The Fund for the Diaconate

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



Spring 2022 Board Report

BY DEACON KEITH MCCOY

The board of the Fund met for a special virtual meeting in March to approve two urgent grants, and create the Formation Grants program.

The regular Spring meeting was held over two days in Manhattan in May, at the Church Center. The treasurer provided a detailed report regarding the new budget and our portfolio. Overall, the finances are in good shape, despite the Q1 2022 losses in the stock market. As of the end of April, our account stood at \$8.1M, the same position we had at the end of F2020. The audit for last year is nearing completion, with no issues reported.

Dn. Carter Hawley, the new and interim executive director of AED, joined the board for most of the meeting. She reported on several of their activities, as well as plans on the 'Advancing the Diaconate' campaign and our joint effort at promoting the diaconate at the upcoming General Convention (which was later canceled, but neither the Fund nor AED suffered any financial losses). Also reporting at this time were the Nominations and Communications Committees, and the attendees at the recent Consortium for Endowed Episcopal Parishes (now Episcopal Parish Network) conference.

Dn. Brian Nordwick reported on his conversations with the Church Pension Group regarding a possible deacon-oriented CREDO-type event. The expense would be great for the Fund, among other obstacles. The board agreed to keep thinking about ways something like this could be accomplished. The board worked on grant applications with grants coordinator Dn. Theresa Lewallen and approved 14 renewed sustaining grants for \$222,060 (annualized), \$14,000 in one time grants, and 5 new sustaining grants for \$49,020 (annualized). The board also approved converting the Covid Grants to Emergency Grants on a trial basis, and authorized the development of a Medical Grant program.

The Spring meeting included committee reports. The Investment Committee meets monthly, is developing a statement of philosophy to guide how and where we invest, is reading *Faithful Investing*, and has begun conversations with outside resources. History & Archives Committee has been active, leading to two articles in *The Living Church*, but will focus more on our corporate history and that of deaconesses. The editor of *Anglican and Episcopal History* reached out, looking for ways to promote and publish deacon-related research. They also reported that flowers are sent monthly to the last deaconess, Sr. Priscilla. The New Grants Committee will resume work on a continuing education grant program, which has already been named in honor of former AED and Fund president Dn. Ted Hallenbeck. The Formation Grants Committee has awarded two grants.

The Joint Development Task Force reported on its activities. In addition to the Advancing the Diaconate campaign, they proposed a joint Fund/AED annual award to persons who have been instrumental in promoting the diaconate; the award would call attention to what deacons do and their ministries. More work will be done on the proposal. The president reported on a variety of other matters, including a second letter to bishops this year advertising the Formation Grants.

The Survey Task Force reported that there were over 500 survey responses. Among the findings were: 41% of those deacons surveyed paid the full cost of their formation; only 1 in 5 deacons had all expenses covered; interest is high for financial support for continuing education; financial planning for deacons is a hot topic. A separate survey of those in formation was discussed. It was agreed to pass on the findings to CPG and other interested parties, and to continue the TF's work.

Finally, the board approved a resolution of thanks to the Ven. Dr. Louise Thibodaux, who concluded nine years of service to the board at the end of 2021.

The board will next meet in Manhattan this October.

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. Facebook: @FundforDiaconate.

CURRENT GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM THE FUND

- Regular Grants
- Emergency Grants
- Diaconal Formation Grants

NEW! Diaconal Formation Grants

The Fund for the Diaconate, as part of its support of the diaconate, has initiated a new grant for eligible postulants and candidates in the formation process for ordination to the diaconate. A 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.

Grant applications are accepted at any time and reviewed at the next meeting. Emergency requests are reviewed monthly.

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. Visit www.fundfordiaconate.org/planned-giving.

AED Board Report

BY BRADLEY PETERSON, SECRETARY

March 13 and 14, 2022, virtual

AED's Board of Directors began its annual meeting by thanking outgoing executive director, Lori Mills-Curran, for her years of service to AED and by hearing video tributes to her from many AED leaders including past presidents Douglas Argue, Lauren Welch, Maureen Hagen, and Tina Campbell.

After deliberation in executive session, the board took action inviting Carter Hawley to take the position of interim executive director through the end of 2022.

The board heard reports on the recent online Archdeacons and Deacon Directors (A3D) Conference, on AED's finances, on plans for General Convention, on the activity of the Joint Development Task Force's campaign *Advancing the Diaconate*, and on nominations for the board elections scheduled for this Fall.

The board asked Kate Harrigan to investigate proposed legislation being presented to General Convention, so the board might consider whether to take a position on any of the proposals.

The board also discussed the logistics of the transition from one executive director to the next, particularly establishing a fixed AED postal address and changing authorizations for bank and investment accounts.

The board's next meeting took place on June 15, 2022, virtually; future meetings will be in early and late fall.

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

CONGRATULATIONS NEW DEACONS!



JeanMarie Angelo, Anthony Johnson, Pamela Tang. 5/14/22. New York.



Bishop Samuel Rodman, Valerie Colbert. 5/21/22. North Carolina.



John Kennedy, Bishop Glenda Curry. 5/24/22. Alabama.



Lonny Gatlin, Leah DeJesus (transitional), Albert Muller, preacher Ruth Mercer, Bishop Mark Hollingsworth. 5/28/22. Ohio.



Archdeacon Ruth Elder, Les Roberts, Bishop Eugene Sutton. 6.4.22. Maryland.

Please see back cover for ordination notices.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Elizabeth Salmon (Betty) Buck, 3/30/2022, East Carolina, 94, 1990
Barbara Thayer Butler, 3/11/2022, Minnesota, 89, 1987
Nancy Donovan, 4/17/2022, South Dakota, 86, 1996
Timothy (Timm) Holt, 4/30/2022, Chicago, 73, 2021
Lawrence William (Larry) Hubert, Jr., 5/13/2022, Albany, 75, 2009
Deborah Adams McKean, 4/23/2022, Maine, 83, 2007
Dennis R. McManis, 4/26/2022, Southwest Florida, 73, 2022
Mary Reed Pain, 5/13/2022, Milwaukee, 83, 12002

Cecily S. Whiteford, 4/22/2022, Western New York, 85, 1982
Palmer Oliver Wilkins, 3/22/2022, California, 87, 1977

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 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.

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

FACEBOOK GROUPS

AED; Archdeacon & Deacon Directors; Young Episcopal Deacons

DEACON UPDATE E-NEWSLETTER

Sign up at www.episcopaldeacons.org

ANGLICAN DEACONS CANADA

National association at www.anglicandeacons.ca

OFFICERS

Dn. Tracie Middleton, President
Archdeacon Carole Maddux, Vice-President/
President-elect
Dr. Bradley Peterson, Secretary
Ms. Phyllis Jones, Treasurer
Currently vacant, Past President

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To support the work of deacons through estate planning or major gifts, please contact The Fund for the Diaconate at 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.

12/11/2021	Chicago	Timothy Holt
12/26/2021	Puerto Rico	Andre Gonzales, Luis Echegaray, Milka Mitchel, Victor Gonzalez
2/17/2022	Florida	Mary Ranouli
3/12/2022	Southern Ohio	Brice Joel Patterson
4/23/2022	East Carolina	Rhonda Thomas
5/11/2022	Southwest Florida	William Goehl Pardy
5/14/2022	New York	Anthony Johnson, Jean Marie Angelo, Pamela Tang
5/14/2022	Southwest Florida	Edwin Geovanny Mata
5/15/22	Toronto	Greg Lane
5/19/2022	Calgary	Carol Tubman
5/21/2022	North Carolina	Valerie Davis Colbert
5/24/2022	Alabama	John Kennedy, Jr.
5/27/2022	Nova Scotia & PEI	Jerry Cavanaugh
5/28/2022	Ohio	Lonny J. Gatlin , Albert J. Muller
5/28/22	Toronto	Angie Hocking
6/4/2022	Colorado	Katherine Grace Snyder, Kristina Lewis
6/4/2022	Maryland	Les Allen Roberts
6/4/2022	Massachusetts	Clifford Goodridge, Dawn Tesorero
6/4/2022	Vermont	Lars Hunter
6/4/22	Toronto	Will Simons

6/5/2022	Western Michigan	James Mitchell, Mark Kelley, Patricia Holcomb Harris
6/11/2022	Central New York	Lynne A. Walton
6/11/2022	Wyoming	Dena Knox
6/18/2022	Maine	Carlisle Blind, George Cooper, Heather Sylvester
6/25/2022	Texas	Karen Jaworski



Victor Gonzalez, Andre Gonzalez, Milka Mitchel, Luis Echegaray with Bishop Morales Maldonado. 12/26/21. Puerto Rico.

SEE PG. 14 FOR MORE ORDINATION PHOTOS!

Ordination notices received after *Diakoneo* goes into production will appear in future issues.

Send ordination photos, 600 KB or larger, to communications@episcopaldeacons.org.