

# DIAKONEO

TO BE A SERVANT; MINISTER TO ANOTHER'S NEEDS

November 2021



**ADVANCING THE DIACONATE** is a groundbreaking collaborative effort by The Fund for the Diaconate of The Episcopal Church and The Association for Episcopal Deacons.

The Fund and AED support and improve the lives of Episcopal deacons throughout their ministry – from discernment and postulancy, through ordination, all the way through retirement – the entire lifespan of a deacon.



Deacons are critical to the future of The Episcopal Church.

Together, with your help, we can do more for deacons and the Church, now and well into the future.



## UNIQUE CHALLENGES faced by Episcopal deacons and the diaconate

- Balancing paid work, family life, and ministry demands, especially among younger deacons.
- Unexpected expenses from medical and other emergencies.
- Barriers to ordination for young or nontraditional candidates.
- Insufficient income at retirement to provide for basic living expenses.
- Lack of financial resources for diaconal formation, including transportation, childcare, technology, etc.
- Lack of funds for conferences and essential continuing education.
- Cost of creating diaconal formation materials in languages other than English.
- Increased ministry demands on deacons in a changing Church.

*The Fund and AED seek to address these challenges for the Church, today and into the future.*

## JOIN US IN THIS SPECIAL FIRST-EVER JOINT CAMPAIGN

- 1** Become a member of AED.
- 2** Donate to AED annually.
- 3** Name The Fund as a beneficiary of your retirement account, will, or trust.

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

## CAMPAIGN GOALS

### The Fund

- Provide access to financial advice / education to deacons.
- Expand the current grant program to cover other financial needs such as conferences and education.
- Offer a CREDO-like retreat for non-stipendiary deacons.
- Support the continued viability of the diaconate in meeting the needs of a hurting world.

### AED

- Identify, raise, and equip future diaconal leaders of the Church.
- Inspire deacons by providing opportunities for them to connect in a variety of ways.
- Raise the profile of deacons and diaconal ministry within The Episcopal Church.
- Support the work of The Episcopal Church in the world by empowering the ministry and prophetic voice of deacons.
- Expand and enhance current and future programming for Episcopal deacons.



*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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- Facebook: AED Page, AED Group; Archdeacon Group; Young Deacons Group
- Monthly eNewsletter *Deacon Update*: Sign up at [www.episcopaldeacons.org](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org)
- Young Episcopal Deacons: [youngdeacons.net](http://youngdeacons.net)
- Twitter: @EpiscoDcns

From AED's Vice President

*This month, we welcome AED's Vice President, Carole Maddux, to Diakoneo.*

# What do you dream?

BY ARCHDEACON CAROLE MADDUX



September 2021

Have you ever daydreamed about what you would do if you won the lottery?

I have.

I've imagined all the possibilities that would suddenly be available to me... a big house! Yeah, on the water! No! in the mountains! Yeah that's it... No! TWO houses—one on the water and one in the mountains.

Or, at other times in my life... A car! No bills! I'd tell this landlord to shove it and get a *nice* place.

All nice daydreams but, since I don't actually ever buy a ticket, just pipe dreams. I'd shake them off and go back to school or work and

keep doing what I was doing—building a life, helping others, accepting help.

In fact, as a non-profit employee, my entire professional career has been dependent upon coordinating and shepherding volunteers and donations to achieve a mission. Never once has a lottery winner been our fairy godmother and made all our work easy. No, it's taken the combined toil and contributions of literally thousands of people to accomplish the good in the communities I've worked in.

And that was a good thing.

By all of us coming together for the good of all, not one of us was the "savior." No, all of us were essential and all of us were invested in the outcome.

Throughout the Bible, we have story after story of how it takes a whole community to accomplish the good. How no one of us has everything needed to fulfill God's mission on earth. Even Jesus gathered the apostles—each of whom had their own gifts to share.

Just so is AED. Every one of us have gifts to share. Each of us can contribute though no one of us can provide all that is needed.

Our groundbreaking campaign, *Advancing the Diaconate*, will allow AED to make some of our common daydreams a reality. It will allow The Fund for the Diaconate be a robust source of financial help to those who need it most. It will lower barriers to the diaconate and support deacons struggling in mission and in life. It will help Deacons and the Diaconate become a vital leader and agent in a changing Episcopal Church.

But only if you participate.

What do you dream of?

# AED Board Report

BY BRADLEY PETERSON, SECRETARY

In-lieu of a board meeting for business, members of the board of directors of the Association for Episcopal Deacons (AED) joined members of the board of directors of the Fund for the Diaconate for a workshop in institutional development, support and funding on August 14. The workshop was part of the two institutions' joint campaign, **Advancing the Diaconate: Sustain. Empower. Transform.**

The workshop was led by Paul Alexander, a development consultant based in Denver, Colorado, with support from Lisa Bennett, principal consultant of The Cornerstone Group of Friday Harbor, Washington, and from Trish Stukbauer, the campaign coordinator. Carole Maddux, AED co-chair of the Joint Development Task Force, Tracie Middleton, AED president, and Lori Mills-Curran, AED executive director, were among the many AED leaders who took part in the workshop. As all AED board members have committed their time and participation to the campaign, the online workshop was recorded for those unable to attend.

# Looking back, moving forward, in gratitude

BY DEACON LORI MILLS-CURRAN

October 2021

I will retire March 31, 2022. Thank you for nine of the most satisfying years of my life.

It has been a deep privilege to lead AED, accompanied by several wonderful board presidents, including Tina Rodriguez Campbell, Lauren Welch, Maureen Elizabeth Hagen, Douglas Argue, and Tracie Middleton. Each one brought at least one major focus that we have pursued, together, to benefit you.

I have been a deacon for nearly 35 years. When I arrived at AED, I hoped for a bully pulpit to clarify for The Episcopal Church (TEC) what it was like to be a deacon this long, and how hard it was for me and my family to be faithful to this vocation. But AED surprised me. Most of my time has been behind the scenes, not in public.

Early in my tenure, I attended an intensive fundraising training. Development folks listened to AED's story and gently informed me that we appeared to have outlived our mission to advocate for the acceptance of the diaconate. They were sure my job was to shut AED down. But I knew that we did not have the supports we needed to flourish in our ministries. What did deacons need now, and who were our allies to get it? We made some discoveries.

AED needed a strong nonprofit infrastructure. With the help of Ed Richards and Phyllis Jones, our most recent treasurers, we instituted professional financial management, accounting and fundraising standards. We created personnel policies to match the best nonprofits. Soon, I will write the check to fund our first endowment.

AED needed to make sure all deacons understood our deep desire to welcome them. We gathered a community of over 190 young deacons and discerners and are putting their unique needs front and center. We forged a

broad coalition to pursue formation resources in Spanish and are committed to interpretation at all gatherings.

AED needed to claim its authority and its wisdom. We greatly increased participation in General Convention, working in every capacity. We cemented our authority over our own formation by summarizing our wisdom in our Diaconal Competencies, a tool envisioned by my predecessor Suzanne Watson Epting, that is fast becoming the formation gold standard for TEC and beyond.

AED needed partners. We have forged a powerhouse alliance with the Fund for the Diaconate. Together, we developed an implacably united commitment to find and fund resources to foster diaconal flourishing from discernment to death. Other allies have joined – including the Church Pension Group, that long-time target of deacon frustration. We are working with the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, the Latino Ministry folks, seminaries and foundations; we will work with anyone who wants to serve deacons.

We did a lot of this during an international pandemic. Ironically, it highlighted that whatever we were before, deacons are now a necessity. We are an essential order, preadapted for a time of resource shortage, incarnating what many people want the church to be in a world convulsed with pain and polarization.

Through AED, I have healed most of the frustrations of my diaconal life by contributing to this holy work. God was indeed working God's purposes out. I look forward to supporting my successor with gusto, and my gratitude to AED cannot be expressed.



# CALENDAR

## SPANISH PREACHING CONFERENCE

**For Deacons of Provinces II (Cuba), IV, IX**  
In conjunction with the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, AED is planning a Preaching Conference for our Hispanic/Latinx Deacons. Full details to come.

## A3D CONFERENCE

**March 10 - 12, 2022**

Online only

See page 6 for details.

## How do I...

submit news, events, photos or articles for publication in *Diakoneo*?

We'd like to share your news with the diaconal community. All submissions are welcome, from clergy, those in formation and laity.

- 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).



## Diakoneo Back Issues

Visit [www.episcopaldeacons.org](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org), under Publications/Diakoneo

## NOVEMBER 2021

- [Advancing the Diaconate](#) . . . . . 1
- [From AED's Vice President](#) . . . . . 2
- [AED Board Report](#) . . . . . 2
- [From AED's Executive Director](#) . . . . . 3
- [Preaching Excellence Program](#) . . . . . 4
- [Young Deacons: The Surprise Twist](#) . . . 5
- [A3D: Save the Date](#) . . . . . 6
- [Fund for the Diaconate Report.](#) . . . . . 6
- [Sermon: Beginning Something New.](#) . . . 7
- [Young Deacons' Debate](#) . . . . . 8
- [Lifelong Learning.](#) . . . . . 8
- [Truth & Reconciliation](#) . . . . . 9
- [Anglican Deacons Canada Conference](#) 10
- [Ask the Archdeacon.](#) . . . . . 11
- [Landmark Anniversaries](#) . . . . . 12
- [School for Deacons](#) . . . . . 13
- [In Memoriam.](#) . . . . . 14
- [Join AED](#) . . . . . 15
- [Newly Ordained.](#) . . . . . 16

Total Deacons	
<b>US &amp; Central America</b>	<b>Canadian</b>
2,073 Active	327 Active
971 Retired	82 Retired
173 In formation	16 In formation
(as of 9/15/21)	

AED Members	
<b>Individual Memberships</b>	<b>Diocesan Memberships</b>
593 US	77 (of 111 Dioceses in Prov 1-9)
92 Canada	
(as of 9/15/21)	

# A SERMON JOURNEY

## A week at the Preaching Excellence Program

BY TRISH HARRIS

August, 2021

“Those most qualified to speak the gospel are those who truly know how unqualified they are to speak the gospel.”

- Nadia Bolz-Weber, *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People*

Memorial Day Week was a jam-packed adventure for me. I found myself gobbling up all kinds of goodies, diving into uncharted waters and making friends with people from all over the country and Canada. This didn't happen at a celebratory picnic, although there was lots of snacking and laughter involved. My week was spent at the Preaching Excellence Program (PEP), a conference that has been offered by the Episcopal Preaching Foundation for over thirty years.

Episcopal seminary students from the United States and Canada gathered together with students from diocesan formation programs, such as the Iona Collaborative, which is the program that I have been involved in for the past two years as a postulant for the diaconate. Over fifty students were invited by specific program leaders to participate in this unique opportunity focused on improving and enhancing preaching in the Episcopal Church. As church leaders we know that offering a meaningful sermon is one of the most beautiful ways we can showcase God's goodness. For those who are interested in numbers, the Gallup Polls show that over 70% of people say they return to church because of the preaching. It's important for the Episcopal Church to nurture new sermon-writers and the PEP conference is one way they are doing that.

Modeling love for others and honoring safety precautions, the Preaching Excellence Program was held via Zoom in 2020 and 2021. We all recognize the pros and cons of meeting over the airwaves and this was a week that prompted me to practice gratitude for all the work that went into creating a conference that was enriching, creative and offered so many opportunities to learn from a variety of people and experiences. I'm hopeful that participants can gather safely at the Diocese of Virginia's Roslyn Retreat Center in 2022. There is an added depth that occurs when we are in the physical presence of one another's energy.

Our days were full! Morning prayer was followed by keynote speakers – Bishop Andrew Doyle of Texas presented on the topic of *Faithful Discipleship in a Partisan World* and the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp shared her wisdom regarding *Radical Discipleship and Risk*. Every morning we were handed gifts filled with knowledge, experience, humor and grace.

Attendees were invited to Affinity Groups which were created to offer support, encouragement, and generate community with one another. I attended the group that focused on issues that ordained women face on a regular basis. Female church leaders shared personal stories – some which were humorous and others that were

frightening. They gave the “inside scoop” regarding boundary setting, how to handle “mansplaining” and ways to stay focused on the work of God when the world throws obstacles that sometimes distract us. This was most helpful!!

My very favorite part of this extraordinary week was being a part of a Preaching Group. The PEP leaders call these small, moderated groups the “heart of the conference” and I agree. The daily group meetings that I had with these four dynamic women quickly became my favorite time of day. I figured there must be some elaborate system that brought the five of us together because the dynamics that existed in that group are things that are studied and written about in doctoral theses. I was assured that the only reason we were brought together was the perception of the Holy Spirit. This truth blows my mind!!

My Preaching Group was led by Peace Pyunghwa Lee, a spiritual director, preacher, and an educator committed to decolonial and feminist praxis. She is a professor of Homiletics at Church Divinity School of the Pacific. Peace shares in her bio that at the core of her faith is the “affirmation of the sacred worth of all persons, as imago dei.” Our group was reminded of that truth many times during our meetings. Peace challenged each of us to showcase the inherent sacredness of every person we chose to mention in our sermons.

The Preaching Group focused on one sermon each day – each group member offered a sermon they had written and group members gave constructive and critical feedback, all of which was clothed in love. This was a most extraordinary experience for all of us and I continue to revisit the words of wisdom that were imparted by Peace and my fellow group members.

Peace was also very generous in sharing resources, including *Exercises for Attending* from Anna Carter Florence's book *Preaching as Testimony* and *Basic Freewriting Instructions* from Virginia Wiles.\*

The Preaching Excellence Program was one of the highlights of 2021 for me. I treasure the knowledge and connections that occurred due to this opportunity. May we all continue to grow in our ability to teach the Good News.

\* Available on AED's website under Resources/Practical Training/Liturgy.

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*Trish Harris is a third year postulant for the diaconate in the Diocese of Western Michigan. She is currently on hiatus from a thirty year career as a crisis social worker.*

Editor's note: AED is pursuing additional opportunities for enhanced diaconal preaching with the Episcopal Preaching Foundation.

# The Surprise Twist of the Story

BY DEACON JESSICA BICKFORD

September, 2021

The greatest journeys happen when the main characters least expect it. Like when Alice falls down the rabbit hole or when the children go through the back of the wardrobe into Narnia. A whole world of impossibilities and unseen realities come into light. The boundaries of what the main character's sense of normality is tends to be transformed by the end of their journey. During the pandemic, the church at every stage, from national level to individual parishioner, has been vaulted on a journey that no one could have ever expected.

For many of us the pandemic has fostered a sense of loss and a yearning for things to go back to "normal." As I scrolled through my Facebook on New Year's Eve, my newsfeed was flooded with messages of relief that 2020 would soon be a memory. It was almost as if the New Year was pressing a reset button. If you could press that button, where would you set your Factory Setting? Would you set it back to just before COVID, or would you set it back even further?

As the pandemic has seemingly taken away our normal, it has also given us many hidden gifts. Creativity was sparked when churches had to find different ways of providing weekly services. Elements like content, format, presentation were being reconsidered. This resulted in churches connecting with parishioners who previously were unable to physically attend services.

With respect to pastoral care, for some churches it seems that more hands are on deck to ensure that phone calls are made so that our communities stay connected, limit emotional isolation, and provide additional resources. Finally, other parishes have strengthened previously established partnerships or have created new ones to help address the needs of our neighborhoods. Take a moment to pause, celebrate and appreciate the work, efforts and development that has taken place.

With this wildflower garden of ministry blossoming, there remains a longing to return to our favorite potted plant. Our situation is like that parable of the tares and wheat. In our parable the enemy comes into the field and "sows weeds among the wheat." For some, the changes we have made are weeds; it's not how the church is supposed to look or grow. For others, the changes are wheat; it has created space for the Holy Spirit to inspire new ways to commune with God, strengthen community and empower those who may have been marginalized. In the end, we must do as the owner in the parable says and, "let both grow together until harvest time."

I believe this crisis is a junction that the church has been needing. A familiar motto of the Anglican Church is "We have never done it that way before." I have been wondering, have we never done it that way before because we know not any other way of doing it? Continuing

on this path of thinking; if we don't know another way, then how do we know what questions to ask or process to engage so to envision something new or try something different?

I have to admit that I have been one that has seen our current situation producing the beautiful flowers of the garden. For those needing some encouragement to stay in the garden, below are some gardening tips I have learned:

## DIG DEEP & HEALTHY ROOTS

Healthy roots are needed for the sustainability of the plant. By definition, being radical is getting back to the roots. Churches must take time to pause, discern their core values, understand their rituals, symbols and history (both positive and negative). With this knowledge of where we come from and establishing our core values, we are able to determine what type of community we are and to share with others.

## BEEES

Bees are essential to the survival of all plants and are necessary for cross-pollination. It is imperative that our churches work together and with other community organizations. Both members and non-church members have something they can contribute to the wellness, beauty, growth and health of the church. By working together, we share the load.

## PLANT MORE THAN ONE KIND OF SEED

As creativity has blossomed, new seeds need to be planted. We must allow these seedlings to grow. To predetermine the outcome and discontinue a potential opportunity we are limiting ourselves before we start. God has created an eclectic variety of plants. By planting a variety, we truly represent the beauty and differences God has provided.

I do realize that it may feel like we are out in the wilderness. Even though it may feel daunting, remember "There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod." I encourage you to take this opportunity to discern and hear what that voice may be calling you to. Our journeys are far from over. In fact, I feel we are getting to the good part and the surprise twist of the story.

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*Jessica Bickford serves within the Diocese of Montreal. She is the Co-Founder and works as the Director of Phoenix Community Projects, a community organization that provides programs for seniors, families, and spiritual development. [www.phoenixprograms.ca](http://www.phoenixprograms.ca).*

**Are you a  
Deacon or  
postulant  
under 50?**

**Visit the Young Episcopal Deacons**  
at [www.youngdeacons.net](http://www.youngdeacons.net) and on  
their Facebook group. Postulants and  
discerners are welcome, too!

### **Young Deacons' Debate**

On July 18, we engaged in conversations and debated the tenets of the Church, with a few very experienced deacons as judges. Visit [www.episcopaldeacons.org/young-deacons](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/young-deacons) for links to the recording.

SAVE THE DATE

## A3D 2022 CONFERENCE

formerly Archdeacons & Deacon Directors' Conference

March 10 - March 12, 2022

ONLINE

Registration opens December 10, 2021!

Visit [www.episcopaldeacons.org](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org) for more information as it becomes available.

PLUS

**Got some extra money for deacon stuff in 2022? Come to General Convention in Baltimore July 7-14, 2022!**

AED needs you there!

We host an exhibit booth and a big party. We need 60 deacons to staff worship opportunities, help track resolutions, and in general have a fabulous time. Come for all or part – you've got friends going!

### What's going on with A3D in 2022? It's all gonna be online.

Every year, we offer help to those involved in deacon supervision and formation. Planning for the **2022 AED Archdeacon and Deacon Directors' Conference (A3D)** has been tough. Hoping for a blockbuster reunion, the AED Board faced some cold facts at our meeting last September: COVID was not over. What the Delta variant could mean in March for a bunch of travelers whose average age is 70 was so unsettling that we made a decision: **A3D 2022, like A3D 2021, will be offered online only.**

Interestingly, this isn't all bad news. We tripled our attendance online last year. Spanish interpretation (to which we are now committed) is easier to manage. Most importantly, it's much cheaper to attend. **Keep your eye on the email newsletter Deacon Update** for info. (Sign up on our website.)

#### Here's what we DO know:

- **Registration will open Dec. 10**, and close February 20, 2022.
- Dates will be **Thursday March 10 to Saturday March 12, if at all possible**. Times will be evening of Thursday, "all day" Friday and "all day" Saturday. "All day" on Zoom means about five hours a day with several breaks. "If at all possible" means we don't have a technical hosting commitment yet for these dates. Stay tuned.
- **Archdeacon 101** (our class for those new to deacon supervision) will take place in April (likely April 30 – pencil it in.)
- **Costs for A3D will be in the range of \$60-75**. We need to raise it a little from last year.
- **Open Space** (where you bring your challenge to discuss with interested peers) will be included.

## Fund for the Diaconate Board Update, Summer 2021



BY DEACON KEITH MCCOY

The Fund board and staff had a special meeting in Denver July 22-24. All were present, either in person or by Zoom. The major purpose of the meeting was to take a deep look at our strategic plan. The board had originally created a ten year "Road Map" at a special meeting in 2014, and a mid-point evaluation and update was due in 2020, but had been postponed.

The concept of a "Road Map" is that, while we know the destination we want to arrive at, we may take some different routes to get there, based on unforeseen circumstances or the need to spend more time at certain points in the journey. Even though we make year-to-year adjustments to the Road Map, we planned to take a significant look halfway through to see if we were on track, and what major adjustments might be needed.

We reviewed what we had decided upon back in 2014, and were generally pleased with the progress we had made, even though some of the changes required more legal work than we had originally thought. Very little was not addressed in at least some fashion.

In 2014, our 2025 destination statement was: "To be a channel for God's grace in enabling the diaconate to flourish - one deacon, one ministry, one community at a time." When we concluded our review, our 2028 destination statement was changed to: "To be a channel of God's grace, empowering the diaconal community to flourish by supporting their financial needs."

As part of the planning process, the board decided to do a survey of the membership to see where their interest lay in terms of how

the Fund should support those financial needs; that survey should be distributed no later than January 2022. This supposes that the membership will approve the proposed amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation during voting this year.

The board also conducted some business. Trish Stukbauer was appointed as the "Advancing the Diaconate" campaign coordinator, effective August 1. We approved slightly revised wording for the amendment of the Certificate, as proposed by our attorneys. We also had an update on our financial situation as we approached the end of the fiscal year, and reviewed the collateral materials for the development campaign. The last day of the meeting was training for the campaign, in conjunction with AED board members and staff.

Upcoming meetings of the Fund board are listed on our website, subject to revisions in times and venues.

*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.*

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND

**General Grants & Emergency Covid Grants:** Visit our website for details, requirements and to apply. [www.fundfordiaconate.org/apply-for-aid](http://www.fundfordiaconate.org/apply-for-aid)

#### 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)

# THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING NEW, AT ANY AGE

BY DEACON GERI LEE NELSON

February 2021

Genesis 17:1-7;15-16

“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you...’”

*Ninety-nine years old!* That’s probably older than any of us here this morning, and God was setting up a whole new life with a future full of activity and promise? Abram is ninety-nine years old and God is giving him and Sarai a new lease on life! It’s no wonder Abram fell to the ground on his face.

This past week I was talking with a friend. We’ve been reading a book together and discussing it each week. I spoke to her last week about feeling old and weak and tired. I shared with her that my life of ministry within the church and our community seems to be dwindling down and perhaps needs the energy and insight of a younger person. Now my friend is not more than a year or so younger than I and she began to laugh at my ramblings. I’m going to share with you what my friend said to me as I lamented getting tired and old and feeling unappreciated - and I quote: “Oh, for pity sake just get over it,” she said, “I’m not going to sit around waiting for someone to write my obituary! I’ve got stuff to do and so do you!” I took her off my automatic call list....but what she said was true and in truth I’m lucky to have her as an “inspirational” friend.

Although it’s nice to be able to sit back and enjoy the rewards of a life well lived, sometimes we get to feeling sorry for ourselves, feeling that maybe other people think we older folk aren’t good for much anymore. So, this morning, I especially want to direct this sermon to those of you here who are “of a certain age.” Don’t you just love that phrase? From what I’ve heard, that phrase: “of a certain age” means those of us ready to add afternoon naps, prune juice and senior citizen discounts to our daily routines! Truthfully, our country **is** aging and our congregation reflects that. Most (but not all of us) at Calvary are in our 50’s or older. We’ve experienced many of life’s great joys and most, if not all of us, have lived through some great sorrows as well. I believe, like Abram in our Old Testament reading today, all the things we have lived through have endowed us with some particular wisdom that our young brothers and sisters have yet to acquire.

So, there was Abram walking along with God and I imagine him chatting about life and what getting old feels like, when God drops this bombshell on him - “You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations...and Sarai, your wife shall have a son and give rise to nations, and kings shall come from her.” Remembering that Abram and Sarai were older by a LOT than you or I, can you just see the look on Abram’s face when God told him that he would be exceedingly fruitful? Somewhere between astonishment, hilarity...and fear.

Can’t you just hear Abraham (that’s what God changed his name to as they were chatting), can’t you just hear him when he comes in his front door at home and calls out: “Sarah, get up from your

nap and come here. God and I went for a stroll together today and honey, you’re not going to believe this!” Now Sarah was still a little groggy from her afternoon nap and was probably wondering if she had rightly heard what Abraham had told her. Surely not, or maybe Abraham has had a terrible nightmare during his nap, or maybe a stroke.

But no, it was not a nightmare. It was God’s powerful Word enfolded in each of them. God’s powerful Word was the beginning of something new and life changing for that dear couple and for generations to come. Their chronological age of 99 years made no difference whatsoever to God, for God had a plan. And when God makes a plan - look out, ‘cause whatever it is, is gonna happen, regardless of how old we are! So the next time, like me or Abram, you’re feeling useless or tired, turn to that powerful God who already has a plan for you to do the next right thing!

Take a minute to look around you right now - see the sweet friends and family members here with us today and remember those of our Calvary folk who are still shut in and isolated at home. Remember the neighbors and friends who may be needing a kind word of encouragement from you.

As the poet Rumi wrote “Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.” There are hundreds of ways to kneel in servant ministry, showing the Love of Christ in the world - ask God to show you how and where you might serve. And don’t forget to ask God to give you the energy you need to fulfill the ministry. Then stand back and watch God work!

We older folk have some pretty good wisdom which could be helpful to others - I’m thinking of things like visiting shut-ins, writing notes, making phone calls, teaching English as a second language, mentoring a child in math (well that wouldn’t work so well for me or my student!), serving on the altar guild or flower guild, making a daily Prayer list for those who need your prayers and praying for them every day, reading to a nursing home resident, picking up a few groceries for a neighbor. There are so many needs out there and we are just old enough to take our ministry responsibility seriously.

Finally, let’s remember that there was a caveat to all those promises that God made to Abraham - just one - he had to be blameless. But, at 99 years old, what sort of trouble could he possibly get into?

Go make some Holy Trouble dear ones!

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*Geri Lee Nelson, ordained in 1999, serves at Calvary Episcopal Church, Americus, in the Diocese of Georgia.*

*AED collects deacons’ sermons to include on the website. We also reprint sermons in Diakoneo as space allows. Submit sermons to [communications@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:communications@episcopaldeacons.org).*

# Young Deacons' Debate a Success

BY DEACON JON OWENS

August 2021

On July 18, the Young Deacons Task Force sponsored an online social in the form of a debate. We took modern topics that face the diaconate and had two teams debate for and against various issues. The issues included: Direct ordination, stipendiary deacons, deacon's masses, weddings, and deacons in charge of a parish. I served as moderator with Deacon Rick Sigler as ZOOM host.

We had five veteran deacons and a priest who acted as judge for the debate from six different dioceses. In each round the judges scored the teams based on their arguments, which included creativity, use of theological statements, Biblical and church history references.

The teams consisted of a mix of three people currently in process for the diaconate and three young deacons. While the teams were sent away to review their arguments the judges had time to discuss their own viewpoints and what they heard.

One part that was very encouraging was the example of Deacon Amy Bryan who was able to hold her debate while playing mom! She demonstrated a skill set and real-life look into the world of young

deacons, who often are raising children, working, and still fulfilling their vocation.

As the teams debated the result was that they scored a tie. We encourage you to view the debates at [shorturl.at/rtzBT](http://shorturl.at/rtzBT) or [www.episcopaldeacons.org/young-deacons](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/young-deacons).

Stay tuned for updates from the Young Deacons Task Force. Our next project will include getting young deacons to General Convention!

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*Jon Owens serves as Associate for Ministry Development at St. John's Oakland in the Diocese of California and also serves as Director of Confirm not Conform, a national confirmation curriculum. He works in parish ministry full-time.*

**Visit the Young Episcopal Deacons**  
at [www.youngdeacons.net](http://www.youngdeacons.net) and on Facebook.

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## LIFELONG LEARNING

### CALL Online Classes

The Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership's (CALL) online courses are designed so that you can participate at your own pace and at your own time. **Members of AED receive a discounted rate.** Visit [cdsp.edu/call/online](http://cdsp.edu/call/online).

**Winter 2022** (Jan. 17 – Mar. 7, 2022)

The Pentateuch  
Introduction to the New Testament  
Wisdom for Mission  
Arguing with God  
Images of Diakonia  
Ethics  
Sacramental Theology

**Spring 2022** (March 21 – May 16, 2022)

The Prophets  
What We Believe  
The Beloved Community  
Anglican Bible  
Diaconal Hermeneutic  
Preaching  
Church History: Reformation to Episcopal Church

### Essential Diaconal Theology Reading List '21

- Susanne Watson Epting – *Unexpected Consequences: The Diaconate Renewed* (2015)
- John N. Collins – *Diakonia Studies* (2013)
- AED *Diaconal Competencies* (2018)
- Michael Jackson – *The Diaconate in Ecumenical Perspective* (2020)
- W. Shawn McKnight – *Understanding the Diaconate: Historical, Theological, and Sociological Foundations* (2018)
- International editors – *International Handbook of Ecumenical Diakonia* (2021)
- Thomas Briedenthal – *“Exodus from Privilege: Reflections on the Diaconate in Acts”* (2013)
- Ormonde Plater – *Many Servants: An Introduction to Deacons* (2004)

Find links to these materials on our website at [www.episcopaldeacons.org / Resources / Academics / Theology](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/Resources/Academics/Theology)

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### Theological Papers

**The Diaconate Renewed: Sacrament, Word, and Service**, July 2021

Canon Deacon Michael Jackson

Looks at the evolution of the diaconate in the Anglican and other traditions. New understandings of diakonia, diaconate and deacons have influenced this evolution.

**The Deacon in the Worshipping Community: Liturgy and the Diaconate**, July 2021

Canon Deacon Michael Jackson

Explores the liturgical role of the deacon, deacon vestments and the diaconate in liturgical texts.

Read these and other papers at [www.episcopaldeacons.org / Publications / Books / Papers & Reports](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/Publications/Books/Papers&Reports)





# Truth and Reconciliation

BY CANON DEACON NANCY FORD

*From Salt & Light, the newsletter for Anglican Deacons Canada. June 2021; updated September 2021. Reprinted with permission.*

It was a rainy cold day. With no zoom calls nor paperwork I decided house cleaning was in order. As a doting grandparent I have fallen into the habit of keeping their toys in what has been aptly named the “toy cupboard”. If I couldn’t see grandchildren because of the pandemic, I felt a little closer through tidying their cupboard. The cupboard is a closet fitted around a cement foundation design error made when the house was built. Thus it has that unique feeling of a hide away from the adults. When I opened the door, it was clear things had been thrown in in a random manner when parents had hurriedly reminded them to “clean up” before they left for their home.

I began to re-order things on the shelves, rescue wayward tennis balls, and discover missing cutlery. There were things I had not expected to find. A pretty blue skirt now too small, a pair of socks that had been wet when hidden in a corner and a new looking pair of shoes. The state of the cupboard is testimony to the freedom and chaos of busy happy children. They weren’t worried about returning to find their clothes or shoes. They knew their treasures would be waiting for them in the cupboard. In creating it we wanted a place that was theirs in our home. We hoped there would be happy memories and ownership of the space. Their toys would always be waiting for them. Clearly our plan worked.

It was shortly after my adventure in the closet that we heard of the discovery of the remains of 215 children on the Tk’emlups te Secwépemce First Nation land near the former residential school. Shoes have become a symbol for these children and the installation of 215 pairs of shoes on the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery and the British Columbia legislature brings home the enormity of the atrocity. Those 430 shoes say so much about children who never got to grow out of their shoes, who never saw their mothers or fathers or grandparents again. They never had a safe place for their treasures, their laughter was muted before it was extinguished.

The colonial system de-humanized them. It did not matter children as young as 3 died uncared for and alone. This shines an unforgiving light on my own life shaped by white privilege. I acknowledge I cannot truly understand the wrenching loss and trauma. I have been honoured to be invited into healing circles and have heard the courageous voices of survivors of residential schools tell their stories. It has been deeply humbling. As someone who has worked with trauma survivors over the years I marvel at the resilience and grace exhibited by so many survivors. There is anger and hate which many choose to confront and continue in their journey of healing. But make no mistake: this revelation in Kamloops has re-ignited survivors’ trauma. We must carefully and painstakingly listen with compassion and love as the horror stirs the embers of anger and deep pain.

The symptoms of intergenerational trauma have been used to “other” indigenous communities and individuals. There is resistance to the work of reconciliation. This must stop. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission left us with story and 94 tasks. The call to action # 72 is important to the revelation from Kamloops. “We call upon the federal government to allocate sufficient resources to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to allow it to develop and maintain the National Residential School Student Death

Register established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.”\* It is important to know the 94 calls to action and what has happened thus far.

Are my grandchildren unaware of the trauma that resides in the families of their indigenous friends? No. They have listened to stories of their history. They question out of curiosity because their experience has been different from that of their friends. They wear their orange shirts; they read and listen to the stories. But it is the “why” questions in their eyes that make any excuse drawn from privilege and colonial rationale unacceptable.

Our vocation as Deacons takes us into the margins of society. We are to remind not only the church but all those who seek Christ of the compassion and love of Christ. We are to advocate for justice. Our history as an order shows that its members have been faithful to that call. We are called to ministry within a church which has its very roots in profoundly enmeshed colonial structures and beliefs. Yet our ordination vows call us to interpret to the church the needs, concerns and hopes of the world. How can we be quiet when such injustice continues? This is where our work as deacons can mean challenging the institution, challenging the inherent biases and pointing to the misuse of power. What many of us love about the church is that which keeps us entwined with colonial thinking and theology. It is our work to challenge and tug the church away from attitudes of power over others and self-serving righteousness.

Those endeavours have little authenticity without our own inner work. We too need to continue our own inner work of de-colonization. Being aware of our inner dialogue and the inherent biases we each hold. Learning what we can from it allows a level of awareness that means our vulnerability meets that of trauma survivors with an honesty which can nurture trust.

Listen to the stories of survivors where one lives. Develop an understanding of trauma shaped behaviour and offer acknowledgment, awareness, and presence. I continue to ask myself how many of my attitudes, values and beliefs have in them judgement which comes from colonial mythology. How much of my way of being in the world is based on the comfort of white privilege? As a deacon these questions must be a core part of my practice.

Once the pandemic allows, my grandchildren will again inhabit the “toy cupboard”. I will listen carefully to their questions and hold them as they share their sadness for their friends and their families. We will talk of difficult things, and we will slide down the grassy hill in the yard laughing as shoes and socks go missing. And we will remember.

*Update September 2021: More graves have been documented. It is estimated over 5,000 graves exist, of which 3,000 are recorded.*

\* Details at [www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1524504992259/1557512149981](http://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1524504992259/1557512149981)

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*Nancy Ford is Deacon to the City out of Christ Church Cathedral, in Victoria, British Columbia. She’s the Director of Deacons for the Diocese of British Columbia.*

# Anglican Deacons Canada 2021 Conference Followup

## Deacons in a pandemic and its aftermath: coming together in virtual community



BY CANON DEACON NANCY FORD

*The Conference was held July 9-10, 2021.*

This was a historic conference. It was our first virtual conference. It was the first time we were privileged to be able to welcome Lutheran Deacons from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and their National Bishop, the Reverend Susan Johnson to our gathering. We officially changed our name from the Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada (AADC) to Anglican Deacons Canada (ADC).

The conference theme: “Deacons in a Pandemic and its Aftermath” touched the reality of those who attended. The conference was planned and ably hosted by the College of Deacons in the Diocese of Niagara with some assistance from the board of ADC and Lutheran Deacon Scott Knarr.

The unique relationship between Deacons and Bishops was highlighted by the presence of the Anglican Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, the ELCIC National Bishop Rev. Susan Johnson, and the Bishop of the Diocese of Niagara, the Right Reverend Susan Bell.

Archbishop Linda gave the keynote address. It was passionate and challenging. She said the narrative some might still hold about the church and its historic relationship with political and social prestige is no longer true. We are a small church that is called to live into a time of diakonia. The primate noted that with the renewal of the diaconate and the unequivocal statement from the Lambeth conference of 1968 that

**WATCH:** [Archbishop Linda Nicholls' keynote address is available at \[www.anglicandeacons.ca\]\(http://www.anglicandeacons.ca\).](#)

the diaconate was no longer considered an “inferior order”, Deacons have been preparing for and growing into what the church needs now. She said this had been preparation for this liminal time in the church.

“We are and will be a church without influence and need to shed the millstone of colonial structures”. While deacons call the church to attention, this is also a time which calls for “a new and deepened servanthood of all.” She warned such servanthood is costly.

We need to ask questions: who is missing, whose voices are not heard, who have we not listened to? This discernment requires deep humility. It is a time of listening critically to the world and the church. The primate used the image of the Deacon as a foot in the door, pushing open and calling the faithful into service. The deacon, she said, observes, notices and names the disparities, the needs. “This is your moment. You must be our guide.” Her words were mirrored in the reflections of Bishop Susan Bell and Bishop Susan Johnson. Bishop Bell noted the work of Deacons is a work of knowing and relationship

building. It is the work of building trust. ELCIC Bishop Susan Johnson referred to the work done in the Lutheran church and the changes in language concerning deacons. She reminded us that all the baptised are called to “diakonia” through their baptism. Deacons are to lead and work to ensure the gospel is heard as good news. Deacons are living bridges. She also spoke of the desire in the ELCIC to “flatten the ministry of all in orders.”

Ted Dodd, president of Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean (DOTAC) shared information on the work of DOTAC through a brief presentation.

Tracie Middleton, the president of the Association of Episcopal Deacons (AED) brought greetings from the association to the gathering. Tracie is an ex officio member of the board of ADC, a reciprocal role shared with the president of ADC.

Webinars followed up on the challenge of the Primate to listen for the unheard voices, to ask who is missing, and what erroneous assumptions are we making. From conversations on indigenous truth and reconciliation to prejudice and inequality and migrant farm workers. Each presentation challenged us to consider our own perspectives and assumptions that get in the way of listening and appropriate action.

There were three services of worship and an introduction to centering prayer. The first one was offered by the planning team from the Diocese of Niagara. We had an opportunity to re-engage with the practice of centring prayer. The second was from the Lutheran Deacons. It included the reflections of two deacons who shared stories of their ministries through the pandemic. One spoke movingly of her work in Long Term Care where so many contracted and died of Covid 19. The other spoke of the ways they found to continue social justice ministry during lockdown.

The third was the closing liturgy. It has been tradition this service would be a eucharist in the diocesan cathedral. The incoming president of ADC would deliver the homily. This time we had a service of evening prayer where the new president Lisa Chisholm-Smith preached. We prayed and listened to the clear call of diakonia in this very different time.

The service ended with a new worship song video; “We seek your Kingdom.” Watch it here: [shorturl.at/hiAIL](http://shorturl.at/hiAIL).

May we too embrace our calling to Transform, Revive and Heal society!

*Nancy Ford is the Past-President of Anglican Deacons Canada and serves as Deacon to the City out of Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, BC. Watch “We seek your Kingdom” at [shorturl.at/hiAIL](http://shorturl.at/hiAIL). [www.anglicandeacons.ca](http://www.anglicandeacons.ca)*

### ***A special thank you to Nancy Ford from Archbishop Linda Nicholls***



The conference marked the conclusion of the Rev. Canon Nancy Ford’s extended term as ADC President from 2017 to 2020 and throughout the pandemic. ADC Past President, Nancy (right) was “gobsmacked” when a special Thank You video message, recorded by Archbishop Linda Nicholls (left, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada), was played at the close of the conference.

Watch the Primate’s message to Nancy at [shorturl.at/knoyC](http://shorturl.at/knoyC)



# Dear Archie,

## Dear Archie,

I have noticed that when writing to or about the presiding bishop two plus signs precede his name: ++Michael. My bishop gets one plus sign: +Polycarp. My rector gets one after his name: Fiacre+. My archdeacon told me that deacons don't get a plus sign. This may seem silly, but can you give me any insight into the origin of using the plus sign and the reasoning behind it?

Thanks,  
Nonplussed Deacon

## Dear Nonplussed,

Thank you for your email! This is a good question and a common one. The main reason I've been able to ascertain for priests and bishops using it but not deacons is that it represents not ordination but a blessing. As deacons do not bless, we don't put the plus sign anywhere. The tradition to put it in front for bishops and behind for priests is to differentiate between a priestly blessing and an episcopal one. This is a distinction that is regarded more seriously in anglo-catholic circles than the mainstream but there is a distinction.

I think the whole tradition is probably falling out of favor and it is not mentioned anywhere in the BCP. In this day and age, it probably appears a bit as an affectation. Some years ago, there was some discussion in the deacon community about using two slashes after our names to indicate a deacon's stole (\). I never saw it catch on--probably because we are an order that is less concerned about reminding others of what WE are and more concerned about reminding others who Jesus is. Frankly, the title "Deacon" is enough to live up to and all I aspire to.

Your servant,  
Archie \ (ha ha)

## Dear Archie,

Do deacons take sabbaticals?  
I've been ordained ten years and have never taken a sabbatical. My rector has and even our bishop but I can't figure out how it would work. I have a secular job that I can't afford to leave so I never really gave a sabbatical much thought before.

After ten years of ordained ministry, however, I'm feeling a little stale and burned out. I find my attention wandering during the Outreach Committee meetings and last week I actually snapped a little at a verger.

Is a sabbatical the answer? And, if so, how does a deacon take one?

Wondering,  
Worn-out Deacon

## Dear Worn-out,

I don't know if a sabbatical is the answer but it might be.

A sabbatical is one of the self-care tools in our ministry tool-box to help us keep revitalized in a demanding call. Of course, with most of us deacons being bi-vocational, our sabbaticals may look a little different than your rector's or bishop's sabbaticals.

Regardless, your first call should be to your archdeacon (if you have one). S/he should be able to let you know what the diocesan guidelines are for deacon sabbaticals and it's a good idea to check in with them anyway just so they know what's going on. If you don't have an archdeacon in your diocese, call the Bishop or appointed person that can guide you.

Next, depending on their advice, you should talk with the rector at the parish you

serve. S/he may have noticed your fatigue and will probably be very supportive as you together plan the timing and duration of your sabbatical.

Finally, you should decide the objectives you have for the sabbatical. Are you contemplating a new challenge? Requiring spiritual refreshment? Pursuing educational goals? Needing to attend to your physical health? Your previous conversation with your archdeacon should help you develop these objectives.

While these goals will need to work around your secular job, it can be done. Being relieved for a time from your parochial duties can give you more free time and space to think and grow. How you worship during this time is a good question for your spiritual advisor or archdeacon but I don't recommend sitting in the pew of the church you serve.

In addition to retreats, vacations, and the usual self-care we are all responsible for, sabbaticals can be a great way to refresh and recapture your passion and call. Personally, it has led me to renewed ministry and to new missions. I wish you all the best!

Your servant,  
Archie

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*"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).



## CONNECT WITH AED

### RESOURCES

Find materials on discernment, formation, lifelong learning, books, events and more at [www.episcopaldeacons.org](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org).

### FACEBOOK

Search for "Association for Episcopal Deacons" in Facebook Groups and take part in conversations with the wider deacon community.

### UP-TO-DATE NEWS

Get the latest news, education and events with our monthly e-newsletter. Sign up at [www.episcopaldeacons.org](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org): click "Sign up for enews".

## DEACONS CELEBRATING LANDMARK ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES IN 2022

### 55 Years

06/01/1967, Walter Lowe

### 50 Years

05/14/1972, John Lane  
06/01/1972, James Kearney  
06/22/1972, George Scarlett  
09/16/1972, Reese Rickards  
12/01/1972, Hugh Wilkes

### 45 Years

01/06/1977, Bobette Kahn  
06/05/1977, Dr. Michael Jackson  
07/01/1977, Kenneth Grabiniski  
10/18/1977, Donna Kingman  
11/01/1977, Palmer Wilkins  
12/10/1977, Richard Buhrer

### 40 Years

01/25/1982, Barbara Mraz  
04/30/1982, James John  
06/04/1982, James Brown  
06/12/1982, Carl Knapp  
06/20/1982, Jefferneil Howcott  
06/20/1982, Cecily Whiteford  
08/22/1982, JoAnn Garma  
09/26/1982, Ted Nitz, Ph.D.  
10/09/1982, Carol Bellows  
10/09/1982, Mary Hicks  
10/09/1982, Gwen Sears  
10/22/1982, Leonard Lewis  
10/27/1982, Janice Bales  
12/01/1982, Patricia Jones  
12/05/1982, Norman Hull-Ryde  
12/09/1982, Bonnie Polley  
12/11/1982, David Bender  
12/26/1982, Penny Berkold

### 35 Years

02/02/1987, Barry Pitt-Hart  
02/28/1987, Edith Patterson  
03/19/1987, Ann Howard  
03/28/1987, Vicki Black  
03/28/1987, Carol Smith  
05/27/1987, Sandra Bearg  
06/01/1987, Dee Faison, M.Div.  
06/01/1987, Dorothy Jessup  
06/13/1987, Paulette Carney-Diehl  
06/13/1987, Mary Echols  
06/13/1987, Sue Ellis  
06/14/1987, Fred Mills  
06/20/1987, Carmen Anderson  
06/26/1987, Peggy Thompson  
06/27/1987, Robert Bibens  
06/27/1987, Callie Linder  
06/30/1987, Martha Hodgden  
07/19/1987, Sally Brown  
08/01/1987, Ann Schmidt  
08/05/1987, Delinda Buie  
08/09/1987, Richard Frank  
08/24/1987, Gary Templeton  
09/10/1987, Robert Bird  
09/10/1987, Thalia Johnson  
10/04/1987, Bobbie Armstrong  
10/04/1987, Virginia Going  
10/04/1987, Chuck Oglesby  
10/15/1987, Frances Larson  
10/19/1987, Lee Crain II  
10/25/1987, Barbara Butler

10/25/1987, Marlene Ceynar  
10/25/1987, Priscilla Gray  
10/25/1987, Thomas Sinning  
10/25/1987, Kay Studley  
10/25/1987, Richard Studley  
11/01/1987, Martha Bradley  
11/27/1987, Jean Wright  
12/08/1987, Carol Cross  
12/26/1987, Marga Fernandez  
12/26/1987, James Gorman  
12/26/1987, Donna Lobs  
12/26/1987, William Rimkus  
12/26/1987, Hal Toberman

### 30 Years

01/18/1992, Dolly Beaumont  
01/18/1992, Wendy Guyton  
01/18/1992, Patricia Ticknor  
01/19/1992, Gordon Hill  
03/28/1992, Christine Burton  
04/05/1992, Joanne Katon  
04/30/1992, Lucille Alonzo  
05/02/1992, Bonnie Smith  
05/30/1992, Judith Borzumato  
05/30/1992, Norman Fulton  
05/30/1992, Ann Hare  
05/30/1992, Larry Haynes, Sr.  
05/30/1992, Robert Jacobs  
05/30/1992, Bill Joyner, Jr.  
05/30/1992, Hyacinth Lee  
05/30/1992, Lawrence Schacht  
05/31/1992, Charlotte Davis  
05/31/1992, Katherine Johnson  
05/31/1992, John Ogburn, Jr.  
06/06/1992, James Booth  
06/06/1992, Karl Ullrich  
06/06/1992, Elizabeth Whitmore  
06/07/1992, Beatriz Hurwitsch  
06/13/1992, Margaret Koor  
06/13/1992, Donna Kusky  
06/13/1992, Evelyn Payson  
06/13/1992, William Renfrew  
06/20/1992, Phyllis Doty  
06/20/1992, Kay Swindell  
06/23/1992, Val Ivey  
06/24/1992, Judy Bartels  
06/27/1992, Brent Brentnall  
06/27/1992, Mikel Morrison  
06/27/1992, Dana Orwig  
06/29/1992, George Goold  
06/30/1992, Diana Starr-Salnavé  
07/12/1992, Barbara Bambrick  
07/25/1992, Jerome Kuehn  
08/24/1992, Dr. Gregory Flentje  
09/12/1992, Margaret Peacock  
09/12/1992, Bettie Reynolds  
09/20/1992, John Lee, Jr.  
10/17/1992, Bonnie Holt  
10/17/1992, Ginny Padzieski  
10/17/1992, Ray Parichy  
10/18/1992, Colleen Lewis  
10/18/1992, Liane Nichols  
10/24/1992, Linda Babcock  
10/24/1992, Kenneth Butcher  
10/24/1992, Eve Grimes  
10/24/1992, Diane Moore  
10/24/1992, Jodie Steeves

10/25/1992, Carolyn Shannon  
11/05/1992, Nancy Grosheart  
11/07/1992, Margaret England  
11/07/1992, Happy Gafford  
11/07/1992, Linda Kromhout  
11/07/1992, Joan Lewis  
11/13/1992, Bryan Gillyooly  
11/13/1992, William Snyder  
11/13/1992, James Wichman  
11/14/1992, Terry Hopkins  
11/14/1992, Sue von Rautenkranz  
12/05/1992, Aileen Aidnik  
12/19/1992, Anne Chisham

### 25 Years

01/04/1997, Carol Spencer  
01/18/1997, Julia Tucker  
01/19/1997, Thomas Bland, Sr.  
02/01/1997, Kathleen Easter  
02/02/1997, Susan Drury  
02/02/1997, Barbara Ward  
02/08/1997, Thomas Kinman  
02/08/1997, Marlys McLaughlin  
02/15/1997, David Baughman  
03/01/1997, James Ferry  
03/15/1997, Sharyn Petzak  
04/17/1997, Brendan Shaffer, OEF  
04/26/1997, Earl Christian  
04/26/1997, Frederick Fausak  
04/26/1997, Geri Swanson  
04/26/1997, Horace Whyte  
05/15/1997, Marian Nickelson  
06/01/1997, Dr. Margaret Crain  
06/01/1997, Maria Maniaci  
06/07/1997, James Goss III  
06/07/1997, Kay Landers  
06/13/1997, Madelyn Busse  
06/14/1997, Mary Becker  
06/14/1997, Gary Cartwright  
06/14/1997, Mimi Mathews  
06/14/1997, Charles Pugh  
06/14/1997, Mary Jane White-Haupt  
06/20/1997, Marilyn Behrens  
06/22/1997, Audrey Bauer  
06/22/1997, Barbara Lewis  
06/22/1997, Teena Maki  
06/22/1997, Marjorie Saulnier  
06/24/1997, Gordon Anderson  
06/24/1997, Ronald Goldfarb  
06/24/1997, Alice Goshorn  
06/26/1997, Graham Lindsay  
06/28/1997, Constance Lorenz  
07/16/1997, Vera Kirkwood  
08/24/1997, Clara Waboose  
09/06/1997, Turner Guidry  
09/14/1997, Jed Hermes  
09/14/1997, Ardit Senft  
09/14/1997, Valerie Thomas  
09/14/1997, Richard Turnage  
09/17/1997, Dian Ong  
09/21/1997, Ordice Gallups, Jr.  
09/27/1997, Nancy Fulton  
10/11/1997, Donald Dersnah  
10/25/1997, Beverly Poinsett  
10/25/1997, Marshall Wiseman  
11/01/1997, Virginia Slawnwhite  
11/08/1997, Charlotte Shepic

11/15/1997, Sandra Dulgar  
11/19/1997, Judith Miller  
11/23/1997, Solange Vouvéz  
12/01/1997, Patricia Sheldon  
12/06/1997, Martha Buck  
12/06/1997, Nora Marin  
12/13/1997, Linda Rosengren  
12/13/1997, Gerald Steidl  
12/14/1997, Judith Squires  
12/20/1997, Julianna Caguiat  
12/20/1997, Albert Moore

### 20 Years

01/06/2002, Connie Boone  
01/12/2002, Belle Rollins  
01/18/2002, Donald Griscom  
01/18/2002, Sandy Jamieson  
01/18/2002, Dennis McManis  
01/23/2002, Robert Rainis  
02/02/2002, Michael Kitt  
02/02/2002, Elizabeth Lloyd  
02/02/2002, Jackie Lynn  
02/02/2002, Joseph Noseworthy  
02/02/2002, Susan Riis  
02/23/2002, Kathy Comer  
02/23/2002, Mike Hackett  
02/23/2002, Louis Ogle, Sr.  
02/24/2002, Ken Brooks  
02/24/2002, Ruth Sainnawap  
03/01/2002, Mike Gibbons  
03/03/2002, Richard von Grabow  
03/09/2002, Donald Morrill  
03/23/2002, Jane Baxter  
04/05/2002, Jo Hedin  
04/06/2002, Carol Huntington  
04/06/2002, George Murray, Jr.  
04/13/2002, Wanda Thompson  
05/01/2002, Janet Warner  
05/04/2002, Cynthia Montague  
05/04/2002, Mary Beth Wells  
05/10/2002, Margaret Coleman  
05/10/2002, Mary Gokey  
05/18/2002, Anne Auchincloss  
05/18/2002, Frank Peterson  
06/01/2002, Skip Bushee  
06/01/2002, Linda Servetas  
06/08/2002, Roy Kern  
06/08/2002, Joanne Leslie, Sc.D.  
06/08/2002, Patricia Zifcak  
06/09/2002, Dennis Bingham  
06/15/2002, Betty Brogan  
06/15/2002, John Meengs  
06/15/2002, Marlyn Stroud  
06/16/2002, Marty Garwood  
06/16/2002, Helen Trainor  
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06/29/2002, Kimberley Hudson  
06/29/2002, Connie Peppler  
06/30/2002, Patricia LaVine  
07/05/2002, Hank Austin  
07/09/2002, John Warner  
07/11/2002, Bert Walls  
07/31/2002, Janice Windsor  
08/18/2002, Richard Kelly  
08/24/2002, Jennifer Wilson

08/28/2002, Jerald Grabher  
09/08/2002, Patricia Hendrickson  
09/14/2002, Julie Bird  
09/14/2002, William Holmes  
09/14/2002, Suzanne Tata  
09/21/2002, Catherine Brunson  
09/21/2002, Johnine Byrer  
09/21/2002, Frances Clark  
09/21/2002, Debra Clarke  
09/21/2002, John Hanson  
09/21/2002, Barbara Jensen  
09/21/2002, Jill Zimmerschied  
10/04/2002, Thomas Costa  
10/05/2002, Christie Dalton  
10/05/2002, Ann Symington  
10/13/2002, Betty Smith  
10/20/2002, Gretchen Platt  
10/26/2002, Marguerite Denton  
10/26/2002, Gary Lubin  
10/26/2002, Richard Schisler  
10/27/2002, Thomas Burns  
10/27/2002, Connie Fowler  
10/27/2002, John Marshall  
11/01/2002, Nancy Rutter  
11/02/2002, Roland Ficken  
11/02/2002, Carolyn Foster  
11/02/2002, Robert Hart  
11/02/2002, Kathi Jacob  
11/02/2002, Mark LaGory  
11/02/2002, Tom Osborne  
11/02/2002, Katy Smith  
11/02/2002, Mary Jane Taylor  
11/02/2002, Louise Thibodaux  
11/03/2002, Jean Willcocks  
11/09/2002, Susan Jolley  
11/09/2002, Teri Ann Shecter  
11/09/2002, Silas Weir  
11/09/2002, Gail Winslow  
11/16/2002, Peggy Fidom  
11/23/2002, Eugenia Barry  
11/23/2002, Jerry Beschta  
11/23/2002, Ann Fritschner  
11/23/2002, Gary Kovach  
11/23/2002, Samuel Loudenslager  
11/23/2002, Irene McDaniel  
11/30/2002, Sylvia Haase  
12/02/2002, Killy Balabanis  
12/07/2002, Ellen Ekstrom  
12/07/2002, Marsha Heron  
12/07/2002, Mary Pain  
12/07/2002, David Ross  
12/08/2002, Royal Minerva  
12/08/2002, James Parks  
12/14/2002, Judy Ewing  
12/14/2002, Lewis Gwyn III  
12/14/2002, d'Rue Hazel  
12/14/2002, Shirley Johnson  
12/14/2002, Susan Parlier  
12/14/2002, Barbara Pemberton  
12/14/2002, Tricia Spencer  
12/15/2002, Allen Crosier  
12/20/2002, Helen Biggers  
12/21/2002, Finn Pond



### BARRIER BREAKERS: A video series from the Diocese of Western North Carolina

Glenda McDowell is the first woman of color to be ordained deacon in the Diocese. *“Having the ability to present God’s teaching from another culture, sometimes all of us need to hear that... One of the thrills for me serving is when those little brown girls come through and I’m up here and they’re down here and you get this (waving) - oh my God! They came to Church and there was someone that looked like them...it’s so important.”*

Watch Glenda’s story at [shorturl.at/rB248](http://shorturl.at/rB248) and [www.episcopaldeacons.org/videos](http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/videos).

# School for Deacons' Focus Has Evolved Toward Social Ministry

PATRICK W. ANDERSEN

Member, Board of Trustees, School for Deacons

June 29, 2021

In the past several decades Episcopal deacons have increasingly focused more attention on social ministry in their communities rather than traditional duties at the church altar.

Few have had a closer view of the ministry's evolution than Sister Pamela Clare Magers of the Community of St. Francis, who has worked at the School for Deacons in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1982 and started teaching a course on "contemporary social issues" in 1984. Prior to the introduction of that course, the curriculum for the school focused on the educational topics required of priests, and the liturgical role of deacons serving at the altar.

But the early to mid-1980s saw a shift toward "practical" issues such as visiting patients at nursing homes, helping people with addictions, and prison ministry. The dean of the school felt that Sr. Pamela's background as a Franciscan, as well as her PhD in Anthropology, would add significantly to the postulants' growth. After several years, study of social ministry became a requirement for all students at the school.

"The student body of the School for Deacons began to change in the mid-1990s," recalled Sr. Pamela. "Students came into the social ministry class already convinced that social ministry was part of their calling. My job was to help them see that they could indeed do social ministry as a deacon, but the unique role of the deacon was to facilitate social ministry for the rest of the church, especially the laity. That means advocating, preaching, teaching, nagging, nurturing, supporting, as well as modeling."

Second-year students must complete two semesters on leadership in social ministry. "The first semester deals with social issues that challenge society and how the church is/isn't/could be involved with meeting the challenge," Sr. Pamela said. "The second semester deals with social ministry in the parish—in other words, getting the congregation more involved with social ministry opportunities in their local community."

While she does not use formal textbooks that deal specifically with how to become a deacon, Sr. Pamela assigns readings from several books by such notable authors as the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Marlene Wilson, the Rev. Eric Law, and Robert Lupton.

Another book, *Community Ministry*, by Carl S. Dudley, forms the basis for a congregational analysis the students conduct of their own congregations.

"It is a very contextual assignment," Sr. Pamela said. "The students look at church history, the identity of the congregation, the social context of the neighborhood, who is 'The Other' for that congregation, and the story of social ministry in the past and present with an eye to the future development and nurture of social ministry in the congregation."

Her background as a Franciscan heavily influences her teaching.

"The Community of St. Francis (CSF) consists of the Franciscan Sisters, who are part of the Society of St. Francis (SSF), an international religious order in the Anglican Communion. The



Sr. Pamela Clare Magers

Brothers SSF, the Third Order TSSF, and the Poor Clares (in England) make up the other parts. CSF began in England in 1905 and is the oldest of the components of SSF," Sr. Pamela noted.

Beyond her teaching for the School for Deacons, Sr. Pamela works extensively with people in need in several San Francisco neighborhoods.

"My own ministries have been mainly with the Latino immigrant community (for 25 years), then with the Care Through Touch Institute (for 17 years), which provides therapeutic massage for poor, homeless, and marginalized people at various social service agencies in the Tenderloin, South of Market and the Mission."

Sr. Pamela added, "The Franciscan Charism has a focus on poor, sick and marginalized folks and sees the connection between how we treat one another in society and how we treat the earth and its creatures. For Francis, the love of God was foremost, and this love extended to all people, indeed all creatures, whom Francis considered to be his brothers and sisters."

*To learn more about the curriculum at the School for Deacons, see the school's website at [schoolfordeacons.org](http://schoolfordeacons.org) or contact the Rev. Hailey McKeefry at [ops@schoolfordeacons.org](mailto:ops@schoolfordeacons.org).*

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East Tennessee	North Texas	Western New York
Eastern Michigan	Northern California	Western North Carolina
Eastern Oregon	Northern Indiana	Wyoming
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Florida	Northwest Texas	<b>The Anglican Church of Canada</b>
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Hawaii	Ohio	Ontario
Idaho	Pittsburgh	Niagara
Indianapolis	Puerto Rico	
Iowa		

## CONGRATULATIONS NEW DEACONS!



Bishop Don Johnson, retired, Jessica Abell, Debbie McCannless, Bishop Phoebe Roaf. 5/29/21. West Tennessee.



Janet Atkins, vocational; Beth Hendrix, Lathrop Mosley, and David Rodrick transitional, Bishop Waldo. 6/9/21. Upper South Carolina.



Bishop Ihloff with Stuart Scarborough, Nathaniel Gibson II, Amy Shimonkevitz. 6.12.21. Maryland.



Lynne Matthews, Bishop Chandler. 6/12/21. Wyoming.



James D. Kamihachi, Bishop Santosh Marray. 6/12/21. Easton.



Luigi Mandeli. 6/15/21. Louisiana.



James Leatch with his wife Sandra Boyes. 6/22/21. Toronto.



Jack Karn, vocational deacon (back, far right) with transitional deacons. 6/26/21. Ordained by the Diocese of Texas, on behalf of the Diocese of Vermont.



Bishop Waggoner, Jr. with Casandra Marie Beattie. 6/27/21. Nevada.



Karen Walker with Bishop Chandler. July 10, 2021. Wyoming.



Johnny Rivera, Emérida Dávila, Jesús Adorno, Ana Lugo, Bishop Rafael Morales, Felicita de Jesús, Angel González, Belinda González, Miguel Burgos, Gladys Irizarry, Ana Cardona, 7/24/21. Puerto Rico.



Elizabeth Klein, Bishop Diana Akiyama, SuEllen Pommier (transitional). 8/7/21. Oregon.

**We include ordination photos, as space allows.**

Photos should be 600 KB or larger. Please send photos to [communications@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:communications@episcopaldeacons.org).

## IN MEMORIAM

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

Brantley Lafayette Alexander, 3/25/2020, Indianapolis, 81, 2013  
 Ralph W. Anderson, Jr., 5/31/2020, W. Mass., 83, 1981  
 Norman Edward Aubrey, 2/17/2021, W. Mass., 93, 1982  
 Lorna Lillian Mullin Baird, 4/17/2021, Quebec, 89, 1995  
 Stephen Earl Baird, 3/10/2018, Colorado, 75, 2010  
 Basil A. Bartlett, 10/27/2020, Virgin Islands, 82, 2008  
 Patricia H. P. Beeman, 1/26/2017, Ohio, 70, 1996  
 Douglas Paul Blakelock, 7/28/2015, Albany, 86, 2002  
 James L. Carter, Southwest Florida, 1982  
 Richard L. Cella, 11/28/2020, Colorado, 87, 1991  
 Adna Romanza (Chad) Chaffee, 7/26/2021, Georgia, 82, 2008  
 Jean Dreher, 11/11/2019, Qu'Appelle  
 Martha Jane Dunphy, 3/24/2020, New York, 74, 1997

Margaret R. Foster, 2/4/2021, Western New York, 91, 1991  
 Hope Jufiar Garcia, 6/30/2021, El Camino Real, 96, 1992  
 Arthur Leon Goolsbee, 7/19/2021, Northwest Texas, 81, 2008  
 Janet Carol Grygiel, 11/19/2016, Chicago, 74, 2003  
 Albert H. Harding, 9/12/2012, Albany, 89, 1967  
 Sharron G. Heathman, 1/2/2021, West Missouri, 81, 2009  
 William M. Horner, Jr., Mississippi, 1997  
 Lorna Howell, 5/12/2021, Rupert's Land, 2015  
 Clement Updike Hulick, 1/23/2011, Albany, 88, 1963  
 Rachel Hultz, 8/9/2021, Chicago, 77, 2013  
 Harrel Brown Johnson, Jr., 8/30/2021, N. Carolina, 74, 2009  
 Phyllis Marit Elizabeth Joy, 11/29/2018, W. Newfoundland, 76, 2017  
 Marcia Karen Stackhouse-Kuster, 2/13/2019, Colorado, 78, 1988

*Continued on page 15*

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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) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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## PLANNED GIVING

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

**AED Membership  
makes this issue  
of *Diakoneo* and  
other resources  
possible.  
Thank You!**

*In Memoriam from page 14*

John Francis LeGresley, 10/17/2020, Quebec, 92, 1995  
Wanda B. Lucas, 6/20/2021, Georgia, 83, 1995  
William August Maesen, 1/2/2018, Chicago, 78, 1989  
Thomas Ray McCormick, 6/22/2021, Delaware, 83, 2009  
Frederick Deen Merritt, 9/24/2018, Nebraska, 84, 1988  
Gordon W. Mesley, 12/4/2020, West Missouri, 91, 1999  
Richard R. Moore, 4/4/2020, Moosonee, 79, 2015  
Manual J. Zengotita Morales, Puerto Rico, 2009  
John Morelli, New York, 1987  
Audra M. Nickerson, 6/23/2021, Western Michigan, 94, 1986  
Addyse Lane Palagyi, 3/16/2019, Oregon, 91, 2000  
Leon Henry Pfothenauer, 7/10/2021, Iowa, 91, 1995  
Shirley Joyce Putz, 7/19/2021, Nevada, 94, 1992  
Robert C. Reed, 3/4/2021, Northwestern Pennsylvania, 92, 1966  
Helen Resmer, 2/15/2021, Ottawa, 2001

Luis Rios, 10/28/2019, Puerto Rico, 98, 1994  
George W. Rogerson, 6/20/2021, Iowa, 92, 2001  
Juan B. Casanova Sánchez, 7/21/2020, Puerto Rico, 83, 2009  
Clarence Tyrone Scipio, 5/19/2021, Virgin Islands, 89, 2011  
Mary Sue Sturgeon, 3/20/2021, Nebraska, 80, 1985  
Thomas Frederick Sugden, 12/7/2017, Territory of the People, 83, 2004  
Paul David Sullivan, Spring 2021, Massachusetts, 2009  
Christine R. Wickman, 6/2/2014, Albany, 75, 2006  
Edward Williams, 6/8/2021, Georgia, 89, 2000  
Dorothy Gene Yates, 9/1/2021, California, 82, 2012

*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).*

## 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).

7/11/2020	Albany	Paul Guilmette	6/29/2021	Calgary	Betty Nadurak, David Bull, David Ginther
9/12/2020	Central Florida	Dennis Russell (Rusty) Hazelrigg	7/10/2021	Central NY	Meredith Kadet Sanderson
11/16/2020	West Missouri	Lynda Ann Hurt	7/10/2021	Wyoming	Karen Walker
3/19/2021	New Hampshire	Christopher Potter	7/20/2021	Toronto	Joanne Warman
2/13/2021	Southwestern VA	Martha Kimsey-Bennett	7/24/2021	Puerto Rico	Ana Hilda Cardona Garcia, Ana Lugo Leslie, Angel David Gonzalez Cortes, Belinda Gonzalez Colon, Emerida Dávila Arroyo, Felicita De Jesus Laboy, Gladys E. Irizarry Rivera, Jesús Manuel Adorno Rivera, Johnny Abel Rivera Guevarez, Miguel Angel Burgos Pagan Elizabeth Gordon Wanzer Klein
3/27/2021	West Missouri	Michael Richard Johns			Carolyn Fern Maestretti
5/29/2021	West Tennessee	Debra McCanless, Jessica Abell			Tracy Shaffer
6/9/2021	Upper SC	Janet Vivian Tuten Atkins	8/7/2021	Oregon	Madeline Murphy
6/12/2021	Easton	James D. Kamihachi	8/8/2021	Nevada	Bruce Cox Cecchini, Carol Ellen Rodgers, Geraldine T. Welch, Jean D. Marcucci, Nicole Kurkowski, Vasu Subramani
6/12/2021	Maryland	Amy Ruth Shimonkevitz, Nathaniel John Gibson II, Stuart Kirby Scarborough	8/9/2021	Maine	
		Sarah Stripp	8/17/2021	Maine	
6/12/2021	Mississippi	Lynne Matthews	8/21/2021	New Jersey	
6/12/2021	Wyoming	Luigi Mandeli			
6/16/2021	Louisiana	Carl Nickel Edwards			
6/19/2021	Kansas	Jeffrey Robert Goldone			
6/19/2021	Missouri	Russell Dickerson			
6/19/2021	Northwest Texas	Sondra Jones			
6/19/2021	Rio Grande	James Leatch			
6/21/2021	Toronto	Jack Karn			
6/26/2021	Vermont	Cassandra Marie Beattie			
6/27/2021	Nevada				

See page 14 for photos!