Exploring & Experiencing “Deep Diakonia” 
BY DEACON LAUREN WELCH

Every four years members of Diakonia World Federation meet to worship and play together, to learn and listen to one another, to share our stories and ministries in the world and the church. The Association for Episcopal Deacons is a member of Diakonia World Federation through the regional organization DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean). There are two other regional organizations DRAE (Diakonia Region Africa and Europe and DAP (Diakonia Asia Pacific).

This past June DOTAC hosted World Diakonia in Chicago at the beautiful Loyola University on Lake Michigan. Seven deacons from AED, Maureen-Elizabeth Hagen, Deniray Mueller, Pamela Nesbit, Marjorie Oughton, Nancy Meyer, Scott Elliott and I, attended, most

A Disturbance of Deacons
BY DEACON NANCY FORD

The Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada (AADC) held our Triennial Conference this past July in Victoria, British Columbia. Someone said Victoria may never be quite the same after the descent of this disturbance of Deacons! Seventy delegates from across Canada and the U.S.A. attended. The opening reception was at Christ Church Cathedral, and began with welcomes by the Diocesan Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie, the Dean of the Cathedral, the Very Rev. Ansley Tucker and the Rev. Susan Page, President of AADC.

The keynote speaker was the Honourable Elizabeth May, member of Parliament, leader of the Federal Green Party and a devout Anglican. She offered a rich theological reflection on Leonard Cohen’s “Anthem”:

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That’s how the light gets in

She said the chorus might be a theme for Deacons and reflected on
Beloved of God,

This summer involved a lot of traveling where I represented AED or promoted the diaconate where it has not been restored. In the latter category, I studied Spanish at Cuernavaca and spoke with many leaders of the Iglesia Anglicana de México about the formation of deacons. I repeated this message to Anglican leaders in Cape Town when I participated in the Tutu Travel Seminar. Without traditions of a separate, empowered diaconate, both were quick to see the value of deacons in their midst. It made me wonder if we have deacons in AED who would be willing to spend time abroad to make this so. When I participated in the Latin American Experience with a dozen deacons in 2011, I witnessed firsthand how one deacon, Bob Snow from Nebraska, played an instrumental role in establishing a strong cadre of deacons. Please let me know if this interests you.

I also was privileged to attend large deacon gatherings. In June-July, I participated in WORLD Diakonia Federation with hundreds of deacons. What an experience to spend time with diaconal ministers from so many denominations! And so many young deacons! I cannot wait to go to Australia in 2021.

Nowhere did I receive as much hospitality as I did at the Triennial Gathering of the Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada, held in Victoria at the end of July. I felt I was among close friends. Not only was the conference held in a beautiful city, but the conference contained outstanding programming, centered on two themes: Social Justice (v. charity) and Reconciliation with the First Nations. Keynoter Elizabeth May MP, following Leonard Cohen, suggested that deacons find themselves at the liminal place where “hope breaks through seemingly impenetrable darkness.” The presentations were moving. People who had lived on the streets spoke of the judgment and stigma they experienced. Other panelists challenged us to focus on systemic poverty and the lack of basic services. Trauma emerged as a recurrent theme. Speakers were also clear that the Church itself bears responsibility for some of the grave injustices that continue to plague those on the margins, especially First Nations. The closing Eucharist was empowering and I left Victoria recommitted to the vows I took 13 years ago.

Serious work on reconciliation has begun in Canada. Should we not join our colleagues to the north? As deacons, we need to take a leading role in advocating for justice.

Yours in Christ,

Maureen (maureenhagen@gmail.com)
Responding thoughtfully
An update of AED’s Strategic Plan
BY DEACON LORI MILLS-CURRAN

Reflect, write, revise, vote . . . . HALT!
The AED Board has been working diligently for over a year to develop a strategic plan for our future. We hope it will be a springboard for renewed commitment to AED for a broader range of constituents. AED’s original purpose, which was to promulgate the diaconate throughout the Episcopal Church, has to a great extent largely been accomplished. What new challenges remain, if our original purpose is completed?
This strategic plan was supposed to be done by September. Your board gathered ideas, reflected, consulted, discussed, and revised. The executive committee spent almost our entire August meeting on it, and prepared for a board vote in September. Then, we halted in our tracks. Something important was missing.
In the summer of 2016, when we did our first reflections, no one was fully aware that the United States would soon be catapulted into a situation in which the gravity of partisan divides would seem almost insurmountable. And although racism had certainly always been a concern, there is a new urgency to the issue. Our plan is good, so far as it goes. But it was pretty clear that we did not have in our plan sufficient focus on how AED itself might be called to respond to problems of race and immigration.
The board pulled itself up short; it wasn’t easy when we know there are some out there who feel we have dilly-dallied enough, and when deacons ourselves are generally folks who like to take action, not talk about it. Finding common ground to respond to these issues may be tricky. But proposing quick solutions to huge intractable problems is worse than doing nothing at all.
So AED’s strategic plan, at present time, is not done. It really isn’t, and that’s a reflection of some of the serious matters with which deacons need to be engaged today. By the time you read this, the plan will likely be amended and approved – I hope so. But I was proud of the board. We are serious about having the discussion: What responsibility might AED have to think differently, and maybe act differently, in our current situation? Indeed, what responsibility might we all have?

Correction: In the May 2017 issue of Diakoneo, it was incorrectly stated that the book “Building Kingdom Communities” by David Clark is only available in the UK. The book is available from Amazon and ships from the UK. We regret this error.
When Phina Borgeson was ordained a deacon in 1974, there wasn’t much in the way of specific educational offerings for the diaconate. “Nobody wanted to be a deacon when I became one,” says Borgeson, who was 27 when she was ordained. “There were a few older men and then what I called ladies-in-waiting. They were not called to be deacons; they were waiting for the church to accept women priests. At most there were a few hundred of us.”

Today, there are some 3,000 deacons in The Episcopal Church. Borgeson, a member of the Association for Episcopal Deacons who earned both an MDiv and a DD from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP), has helped form many of them through courses she has taught, and continues to teach, at the Diocese of California’s School for Deacons on the campus of CDSP at Berkeley and through CDSP’s Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership (CALL).

CALL online courses have been a godsend to many dioceses’ efforts to provide diaconal formation and continuing education, Borgeson says. “Most dioceses have some sort of program or a strategy or plan or format for people who want to prepare for the diaconate,” says Borgeson. “The online courses serve three purposes. One is they can supplement what a diocesan program can do. Maybe your local diocese is just new in developing deacons and they don’t have an experienced deacon or person who can teach a class in social ministry engagement. You can use CALL.”

“Or some dioceses, like mine, have people for whom it is a hardship to travel to the School for Deacons,” Borgeson says. “One of the postulants in my diocese lives about 270 miles from the School for Deacons and has some issues on the home front, which really doesn’t allow for her to be gone for 14 weekends a year. Sometimes it’s the distance, a job, or family commitments that makes online learning so valuable.

“The third purpose they serve is as a lifelong learning resource. Classes offered by CALL are not comprehensive for diaconal formation, but they supplement and enrich what dioceses offer. They really help a lot of people in a lot of situations,” she says.

That’s certainly the case for the Diocese of Washington. “The CALL program of CDSP has been a great asset for how we are forming deacons in the Diocese of Washington,” says the Rev. Sue von Rautenkranz, the diocese’s archdeacon who oversees the discernment, formation and deployment process for deacons and serves as leader and convener of deacons in the diocese.

“Currently we have an agreement with CDSP to provide the academic foundational courses each year,” Rautenkranz says. “These courses include Scripture, History, Ethics and Systematic Theology. Our postulants then attend the diocesan Deacons’ School to receive their formation as deacons. This allows us to focus on diaconal formation through internships, reflection and worship.”

Jennifer Snow, director of extended learning at CDSP, says CALL offers at least one online diaconal studies course approved by the AED in each term, which amounts to six courses in a two-year rotation. The CALL course offered this fall in partnership with AED is “Social Issues and the Church’s Response: Understanding the Needs, Concerns and Hopes of the World,” and is taught by Sister Pamela Clare Magers. In the winter 2018 term Magers is teaching “Mobilizing the Congregation for Social Ministry,” and in spring 2018 Borgeson is teaching “Diaconal Practical Theology.”

“What we offer to the AED is what we offer to all local formation programs,” Snow says. “We have a strong and tested platform to deliver a solid theological education to people all over the country. We have the support to make sure the instructors are successful and that our partners get what they need.”

AED and CDSP faculty work together to develop and implement the curriculum for deacons.

“AED provides input and suggestions for what is necessary for diaconal formation,” Snow says. “The AED has a task force that works on formation of the six courses. CDSP faculty take responsibility for reviewing the CVs, experience, and qualifications of all CALL instructors, including those who teach the AED courses, to ensure that CALL students receive the best instruction possible. A number of experienced teachers have taught diaconal courses for several years, but when a new teacher is brought on for AED courses, they go through the same vetting as all other CALL instructors.

“The instructors we have are great, but we know we need a deeper bench,” Snow says. “In all of our classes, we want instructors who, if possible, can give a diaconal perspective, even in classes that are not specifically for AED.”

Each CALL online course is seven weeks, and each week is a separate lesson.

Borgeson says students in her CALL courses have expressed surprise at the sense of community they develop with classmates from around the country.

“This isn’t an old-style correspondence class,” she says. “You really have to invest in CALL classes and engage with your fellow students. That engagement is really important so you get the most out of the courses.”

“In most of the diaconal-themed courses, people work really hard at building online community. While it is no substitute for meeting people face-to-face, building community is a really key thing. People can be pleasantly surprised by how much community can grow online.”

CALL’s UPCOMING COURSES

Mobilizing the Congregation for Social Ministry
with Sr. Pamela Clare Magers
January 15-March 5, 2018
Registration opens Nov. 18, 2017

Diaconal Practical Theology
with the Rev. Phina Borgeson
April 9-May 28, 2018
Registration opens Feb. 9, 2018

Course descriptions and registration
http://cdsp.edu/center-for-anglican-learning-and-leadership/call-2017-18-online-courses/
By Maylanne Maybee

As a participant in the Vocational Development and Lifelong Learning Working Group of AED, I had the opportunity to offer my first ever online course with the CALL program of CDSP this past January. I decided I would focus on the theme of identity and discernment for diaconal ministry, and gave it the title “Images of Diakonia: Interpreting the Sacred in Church and World.”

My only prior experience of online learning was taking a CALL course on baptism and ministry facilitated by Deacon Phina Borgeson in 2011. I really enjoyed the weekly content, but was a bit dazed by Whiteboard, the LMS or Learning Management System being used at the time.

The experience made me conscious of the discomfort some students might feel with online learning. I soon discovered, however, that it involves a lot more than technology. To help me prepare my course, I sought out an educator who had written her doctoral thesis on creating virtual learning communities in the context of distance education. She had some great ideas for questions, tools, and techniques that would help build a sense of connection among learners, instructor, and the course content itself.

As well, I took an online course with the University of Wisconsin-Madison called Fundamentals of Online Teaching or “FoOT”. I thought it should have been named Fundamentals of Online Learning or “FoOL”, as I felt like one more than once! When I complained to my instructor that I was too old to figure out the online environment she reminded me that mindset was more important than age and encouraged me to persist.

It was a lesson about the importance of one to one communication. I realized that frequent, if possible daily, communication between learner and teacher makes a big difference, as does communication among fellow students at least two or three times a week.

I also learned that I had to take extra care in crafting learning outcomes, and relating them directly to content and methodology. There’s no possibility for the kind of fudging that teachers so often resort to in a classroom setting.

In the end, it was the students who made the course a success. I worked at providing resources, asking provocative questions, responding frequently, videotaping short weekly greetings, and organizing people into small groups. But what really made things work was the quality of discussion among the participants themselves, their dedication, insight, and willingness to experiment with the unfamiliar. I was hooked and really look forward to doing more.

Maylanne Maybee is a deacon in the Diocese of Rupert’s Land, in the Anglican Church of Canada.

AED’S Competencies for Deacon Formation

Now Available Online

By Deacon Geri Swanson

Over the past few years the Vocational Development and Life Long Learning Task Force of the Association for Episcopal Deacons has been charged with shaping a document that would outline the areas of competency used in successful Diaconal Formation Programs. After developing, debating, discussing and carefully crafting these for some time, a three person subgroup was formed to produce a document in a user-friendly format.

The Reverend Kate Harrigan, presbyter, AED board member and chair of the working group, along with with The Reverends Tim Spannaus and Geri Swanson, deacons, designed the document that was presented to the board at their September meeting. The document depended extensively on previous work by the Task Force and the Iona Report and its accompanying examples from the Anglican Church of Canada.

Your feedback and comments are welcomed. Updating and revising the competencies is important since this is an organic document. The competencies can be found at www.episcopaldeacons.org/vocational-development--lifelong-learning. Any comments and suggestions can be emailed to me at deakswan@aol.com.
World Diakonia, from page 1

of us for the first time. There were 400 deacons, deaconesses and diaconal ministers from 31 countries around the world.

The theme of this Assembly was “Shaken by the Wind...
- to be gathered together
- to create community
- to rock the foundations
- to face the chaos
- to explore the unknown
- to find a new perspective
- to nourish hope
- to be scattered to serve

Our Opening Worship was glorious with streamers and banners from each diaconal association attending, and spirit-filled music. Deaconess E. Louise Williams, former President of World Diakonia, introduced us to our theme, reminding us of the gift of community that we bring to the world.

The first plenary session was led by The Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, Disciples of Christ, previous General Secretary National Council of Churches of Christ USA, and Executive Secretary of World Council of Churches’ Commission on Faith and Order. Dr. Kinnamon spoke about the five societal winds shaking us now, and the five emphases in which the Spirit is calling us to participate in divine diakonia. He said, “a criterion of authentic koinonia (communion, fellowship) is whether it results in committed service. And a criterion of authentic diakonia is whether it builds up the body of Christ. Our service must be mutual, never a matter of dependent relationships.” He shared that the underlining issue which keeps us from creating authentic community in the United States is ‘fear’ of the other. He explored ways the religions of the world might speak from the essential core of faith to the fear that is paralyzing the world today.

The Second Plenary session was led by The Right Reverend C. Christopher Epting, retired Bishop of The Diocese of Iowa, who spoke on how the diaconate in the Episcopal Church has been and continues to be “Shaken by the winds of the Spirit.” He shared the waves of the diaconate in the Episcopal Church and how the Diaconate is being called to interpret the winds of the Spirit and lead the church at this time.

The Rev. Dr. Gwen Sayler, professor of Hebrew Scriptures at Wartburg Theological Seminary, led two bible studies. First was a study on the creation story comparing the Hebrews’ creation story to the Babylonian creation story. She compared the peacefulness which characterizes the creation of the Hebrew God vs. the violence and chaos of the Babylonian creation story. Next was a bible study comparing the Pentecost story in Acts 2 and the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11, inviting us to see the destruction of the Tower of Babel as grace and saving human kind vs. punishment. God celebrates diversity and unity in both stories.

One of the favorite activities was the small group gatherings of 7-10 deacons, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers from around the world. These small groups gave us the opportunity to share more deeply and build community after each presentation.

We also were invited to choose from many workshops and electives offered on a variety of topics. Pam Nesbit and I will be offering one workshop we attended at our upcoming Province III gathering. Laura Hunter, Diaconal Minister, from the United Church in Canada facilitated “Deep Diakonia”. Laura participates in “Deep Ecology” and borrowed from that praxis. We explored the question, “What are the deep practices of diakonia that can transform us – not only in our personal Christian identity, but also in our churches and communities?” We were divided into groups of 3 - 5 people and imagined we were in the year 2117 and had been living ‘deep diakonia’ practices for over 100 years. We chose one person to be a time traveler who would share with people of 2017 how the practices of “deep diakonia” could change their future. With only five minutes to write a few sentences, it was amazing what the groups were able to integrate and share. We all left that workshop inspired and ready to share more ‘deep diakonia’.

I also attended Dr. Kinnamon’s workshop on his book, The Witness of Religion in an Age of Fear. Living in a culture of fear is a timely topic, I enthusiastically recommend this book. I am co-facilitating with The Reverend Dr. Angela Shepherd, Canon for Mission in the Diocese of MD, a five week book discussion on it this October.

Continued on page 7
We had plenty of time to get to know one another at meal times, and walking around the campus. Several of us found the Waterfront Café which overlooks Lake Michigan.

We celebrated Canada Day, July 1, with a hymn sing, and the United States Independence Day, July 4, with a picnic and American Hymn Festival.

On Sunday evening it was inspiring to listen to the various experiences of those who chose to attend local churches in Chicago.

Representatives of young deacons, deaconesses and diaconal ministers from around the world challenged us to live diakonia in our midst, and shared passionately their ideas for Diakonia.

The next DOTAC Assembly will be in 2019 Vancouver, Canada. The next World Diakonia Federation will be in 2021, Darwin, Australia. I hope some of you will gather the resources to attend either one or both of these assemblies to experience diakonia in all its expressions and the depth of community.

Deacon Lauren Welch serves in the Diocese of Maryland.

Episcopal Deacons across the country attend the Thistle Farms National Conference

BY DEACON EVE CHAMBERLAIN

In early June, more than 300 advocates gathered at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN for the three day Thistle Farms National Conference - Healing Minds, Bodies & The World. Three keynote speakers, 16 different workshops and a panel discussion with 6 survivor leaders provided attendees with a wealth of opportunities to connect and learn about building communities of support and empowerment for survivors of trafficking, prostitution, addiction and abuse. Folks came from 35 states in the USA and more than five countries across the globe. Among those were at least 6 Episcopal Deacons!

The keynote speakers included:
- Becca Stevens, the founder and President of Thistle Farms, an Episcopal priest, author, speaker, and social entrepreneur. Becca is an international voice for the growing global movement for women's freedom and a 'fervently hopeful and determinedly loving champion for the marginalized'.
- Brad Myles, executive director of Polaris. Brad has devoted himself to combating human trafficking and modern slavery on a local, national and international scale.
- Nicolas Hitimana, founder of Ikirezi and the Village of Hope in Rwanda. Ikirezi is a series of model farms that provide subsistence farmers with skills and support to become viable commercial farmers with a unique competitive advantage in crop type and production method.
- Rachel Lloyd, founder of GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services), was scheduled to speak but fell ill at the last minute.

The Conference gathered allies, survivor leaders and organizations committed to creating spaces of healing and empowerment for survivors. We returned to our home ministries with strategies, tactics and tools to be utilized in Survivor-centered communities across the country.

More information about Thistle Farms and the fight against Global Human Trafficking can be found at thistlefarms.org/pages/join-the-movement

For Polaris Project and information about the typology of modern slavery visit polarsiproject.org. The National Human Trafficking hotline is 1-888-373-7888.

Deacon Eve Chamberlain serves in Little Silver, NJ.
the meaning of brokenness and the light that is more than darkness. The liminal place Deacons work, where hope is seen to transform an impenetrable darkness. How, challenged May, “do we reconcile the brokenness of the world, and yet be present to the world, when things are so painful and difficult...Can we be the light of the world or are we the crack in everything or are we both?”

The conference theme was Reconciliation. Friday morning began with two panels of presenters. The first panel had people with “lived experience”. Using the lens of Super InTent City, of national awareness, framed the conversation on poverty, homelessness and addiction. The images of a large population of homeless living on land between the Cathedral and the Law Courts gave shape to the conversation. We heard from courageous people, sharing their struggles. They represented themselves and the Coalition to End Homelessness, SOLID (Society of Living Illicit Drug Users), and Urban First Nations. Trauma was a theme in the presentations. The trauma that led to addiction, sex trade work, poverty and homelessness was compounded by the stigma they faced each day on the street. The next panel had representatives of non-profit agencies: the Native Friendship Centre, Together Against Poverty Society, Victoria Foundation, Umbrella Society for Addiction and Mental Health, and the Community Social Planning Council. They challenged delegates to examine attitudes and beliefs that allow for systemic poverty and the lack of basic services for a growing number of people living below the poverty line. Ryan Weston from the ACC offered a sensitive, thoughtful reflection on the morning. Over lunch the panelists and the delegates had an opportunity for conversation and connection. Later, we were to discover those conversations bore practical and life-giving fruit.

The Iona Report and subsequent work on the competencies was presented. Faith Worship and Ministry Committee of the ACC continues to support the ongoing discussion. Delegates discussed aspects of the report and provided feedback to the task force.

The business meeting ended with the election of the new AADC board. Friday evening the Social Coast community bus took delegates to the Songhees Nation’s Wellness Centre for a meal and presentation by elder Butch Dick. After sharing his story of the traumatic experience of residential school, he spoke of what reconciliation might be. Saturday morning began with Bishop Logan showing a video on his walk of over 300 miles down Vancouver Island. It was a spiritual pilgrimage of reconciliation with different nations on the island. There was a presentation by Dallas Smith of the Nanwakolas Council. He brought a passionate and thoughtful local and national voice to the conversation. Finally, Melanie Delva, of the ACC talked of her growing awareness of colonialism in her work as an archivist. She described her personal journey toward reconciliation with First Nations/Indigenous people.

Saturday evening ended with a banquet and the presentation of the Maylanne Maybee award. The recipient was Rev. Deacon Michael Jackson. The conference concluded with a glorious eucharist at the Cathedral. The service leaflet celebrated the place of the Deacon in liturgy. Copies are at www.anglicandeacons.ca. The conference was a great success. This was due in great part to my conference co-chair and friend Rev. Wally Eamer.

Nancy Ford is a deacon in the Diocese of British Columbia and the new president of AADC.
Deacons at the Wild Goose Festival

By Deacon Leeann Culbreath

Every July, over 3,000 seekers, speakers, artists, and musicians gather for four days in Hot Springs, North Carolina, for the Wild Goose Festival. Now in its seventh year, the festival describes itself as “an art, music, and story-driven transformational experience grounded in faith-inspired social justice.” (The Wild Goose is a Celtic metaphor for the Holy Spirit.) From early morning until after midnight, workshops, conversations, hymn singing, dancing, musical performances, and worship reverberate in the wooded campground along the French Broad River.

The Episcopal Church is a sponsor for the event, and as such it hosts a large tent for hospitality, worship, and workshops on the main festival thoroughfare. This year, two deacons who met at AED’s 2016 Triennial assisted with the tent, leading worship, serving in the liturgy, and helping to coordinate a potluck dinner. I helped with tent planning and led Compline, and Dcn. Genevieve Nelson from the Diocese of Southern Virginia served as deacon for a Transgender Remembrance Eucharist. Both of us camped behind the Episcopal Tent and assisted with hospitality and the community potluck held on the final night of the festival.

We also distributed AED brochures at the tent, and I talked briefly about the diaconate before Compline one night and invited all who were interested to speak with me afterward. That invitation led to conversations with three young adults discerning calls to ordained ministry, possibly to the diaconate. (Nightly Compline often draws over 50 worshippers!)

The Wild Goose Festival is teeming with young, justice-oriented seekers from around the country – a perfect place for deacons to have a visible presence and cultivate discussion about our ministry to a younger audience. I hope that there can be at least one scheduled discussion about the diaconate and a more formal diaconal presence at next year’s festival.

The 2018 festival will be held July 12-15 in Hot Springs, NC. Consider attending and bringing young adults and others in discernment. If you have questions about the festival or plan to attend, visit www.wildgoosefestival.org or contact me at deaconleeann@gmail.com.

Deacon Leeann Culbreath serves in the Diocese of Georgia.

Books

On Second Thought: Learned Women Reflect on Profession, Community and Purpose

Edited by Luisa Del Giudice

In these dynamic essays, one by Canon Deacon Joanne Leslie, thirteen wise women review their lives for meaning and purpose, striving to integrate both head and heart. They consider how their spiritual paradigms have shaped their vocations as teachers, scholars, guides, mentors, and advocates and how these roles have been integral to their life’s work, not merely to their work life. Available from University of Utah Publishing - https://uoafpress.lib.utah.edu/on-second-thought/

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Archdeacon & Deacon Directors’ Conf.
Feb. 22-25, 2018
Atlanta, GA. (See page 10)

Church Leadership Conference
March 2 - 4, 2018
Hendersonville, NC
Equipped for Every Good Work: Practical Tools for Tough Times
From Kanuga and the Episcopal Church Foundation. Workshops in strategic leadership, financial planning and creative communications. Details at www.kanuga.org/our-programs/adult-conferences-retreats/church-leadership/

26th Festival of Homiletics
May 21-25, 2018
Washington, D.C.
Details at www.festivalofhomiletics.com

Lifelong Learning

www.episcopaldeacons.org
Effective Social Action: The Episcopal Church and Beyond

In direct response to the interest of last year’s A3D attendees, we welcome Gay Clark Jennings, the President of the General Convention's House of Deputies, for an in-depth overview of how social action is accomplished within the structures of the Episcopal Church and beyond. As President, Gay works closely with the Presiding Bishop and other church leaders for wholeness, reconciliation and justice in the Episcopal Church and the world. Gay is an eight-time deputy and the Episcopal Church's clergy representative to the Anglican Consultative Council. She has also served on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and chaired several General Convention legislative committees.

Who’s invited? Anyone with an interest in deacon supervision or formation!

For many years, AED has hosted Deacon Directors and Archdeacons at an annual gathering. There, these leaders assessed new best practices in what amounted to an annual learning lab, designed to address issues they faced in formation and supervision locally. For the last several years, any persons who hold such authority informally, those spearheading an effort to improve their own local diaconal practices, or those considering renewing the diaconate in their diocese, have also been most welcome. As always, there will be ample time to utilize Open Space Technology, an effective method of group facilitation, which leads to profoundly productive conversations concerning your own immediate challenges in diaconal formation and supervision.

What’s new? A new pilot Pre-Event workshop: “Archdeacon 101”

Are you newly charged with responsibility for diaconal formation or supervision? This year we are piloting a pre-event, during the day on Thursday in advance of A3D’s opening on Thursday evening, for those who desire to delve deeply into what such a job description might entail. Archdeacon 101 participants may follow up on Saturday with an Open Space session for questions or concerns which might be raised by the full conference. AED may also help arrange an online cohort reflection group for participants in this pilot workshop.

>> Registration opens Dec. 1, 2017 <<

Dates and Times
- Pre-Event: Archdeacon 101
  Thursday, Feb. 22, Noon - 3:00 pm
- New Attendee Orientation
  Thursday, Feb. 22, 3:00 pm (for those who have never attended A3D before)
- Welcome Reception for all
  Thursday, Feb. 22, 4:00 pm
- Dinner and keynote
  Thursday, Feb. 22, 5:00 pm

The full conference kicks off with dinner and its first session on Thursday evening. The event ends right before lunch on Sunday.

A full agenda will be posted on AED's website.

Location and Costs
Hilton Garden Inn, Midtown Atlanta
97 10th St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30309

Registration information will be available December 1st on AED’s website (www.episcopaldeacons.org).

Be sure to ask for the AED meeting rate. Costs are expected to be similar to last year: approximately $375.00 for the conference, with a small additional cost for the Archdeacon 101 pre-event.

THANK YOU TO THESE DIOCESES WHICH SUPPORTED AED IN 2017 AS MEMBER DIOCESES.

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ARCHDEACON &
DEACON DIRECTORS’ CONFERENCE
Thursday, Feb. 22 to Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018
Hilton Garden Inn Midtown, Atlanta, Georgia

BECOME A MEMBER OF AED TODAY!
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Concerning the scarcity of distinctive/vocational deacons in the Church of England. There are two main reasons not treated by Francis Young, the book’s author.

1. Unlike USA seminaries which ready people for a parish, English ones expect one’s first incumbent to train one for at least a year. Thus many priests experienced this as a frustrating year of apprenticeship and cannot see how anyone would believe themselves called to be a life-long deacon. Thus they discourage any aspirants.

2. Bishops may not accept a candidate for the distinctive diaconate unless they have a stipendiary position for that person; hardly any do; thus they persuade deacon aspirants to apply for priesthood.

The Deaconesses in the C of E were instituted into ‘Orders’ (but not ‘holy orders’) via the laying on of hands by a bishop. From 1920-30 they regarded themselves as ordained; in 1930 their order was defined as ‘sui generis’ but most regarded themselves as ordained. In synod they were ‘lay’.

In the 1960s and ‘70s women had to do a probationary 2 years as Parish Workers (later known as Accredited Lay Workers) before being ordained as Deaconess. By 1987 there were about 1000 Deaconesses. In 1987 at special services for Deaconesses, 744 were ordained as Deacon, including 10 from the Deaconess Community of St Andrew, and became ‘clergy’ instead of lay. This left 175 continuing Deaconesses. The 36 Lay Workers were ordained as Deacons, leaving 113 continuing Lay Workers.

Each year about 100 more women were ordained as Deacons. By 1994 the numbers had doubled; c.1615 women had been ordained as Deacons of which c.1596 were alive. Then c.1250 were priested plus 90 new Deacons priested, of which 875 were stipendiary and 523 non-stipendiary.

In March 2011 there were 66 women Distinctive Deacons and 20 male Distinctive. By July 2014 there were 129 Distinctive Deacons. Each year a few more are ordained.

I edited the final edition of Distinctive Diaconate News in summer 2012. By this year (2017) the original members of the Diaconal Association of the Church of England (Dss Deacons, Church Army, Lay Workers) had died or were too infirm; few of the newer Deacons joined and so DACE was dissolved.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR DEACONS CELEBRATING “LANDMARK” ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES IN 2018

Gracious and Loving God, strengthen and uphold your servants, that with patience and understanding they may continue to live and care for all people as deacons in your Church. Nourish them with the broad life and the cup of salvation, that they may always be living icons of Christ the Servant. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

55 Years
09/10/1988 Judith M. Crives
09/10/1988 Penelope E. (Penny) Hawkins
09/21/1988 Beverly L. St Germain
09/21/1988 Bethany A. Thomas
02/11/1989 Michael M. Lipson
10/02/1989 Meta T. Ellington
10/02/1989 Patricia R. P. Shoemaker
11/15/1989 Mary Ellen Appleton
11/16/1989 James T. Walshe
11/22/1989 Ernest Wilkinson (Bill) Fisher
12/22/1989 Patricia P. Mcdowall
20 Years
01/08/1998 Glen Nicholson
01/27/1998 Elise J. Stephenson
01/27/1998 Donna White
02/07/1998 Julie F. Babenko
02/07/1998 Scott Elliott
02/07/1998 Diane A. Kerling
02/07/1998 John Nachtrieb
02/07/1998 Sue Nebel
02/07/1998 Amazon Suarez O'Hagan
04/14/1998 Dorothy Jean (Jeanie) Beyer
04/14/1998 John Richardson
04/14/1998 Sarah Elizabeth Woollcott
04/21/1998 Kirby Colwell
04/21/1998 John Elwood Jordan
06/01/1998 Sam Seamer
06/03/1998 Barbara Winkler
06/03/1998 Suzanne M. Cerrad
06/03/1998 Nancy E. Ford
06/08/1998 Anna Leigh Kubbe
06/08/1998 James Lorenzo
06/08/1998 Kenneth Van Es
08/10/1998 Maryln Williams Stanberry
05/03/1998 Gilbert D. Shoemish
05/03/1998 Charles Francis Burch
05/03/1998 Walter (Wally) Vine
05/10/1998 Davis M. Ferrell
06/16/1998 Ian Randolph Betts
06/16/1998 Susan L. (Sue) Bonsteel
06/16/1998 Ian Randolph Betts
06/16/1998 Paulette E. Remppel
06/16/1998 Lois Whitcomb Szost
06/16/1998 Foster Whiteman Sr.
06/16/1998 Karl Sand Adams
06/16/1998 Kathleen A. Forsythe
06/16/1998 John W. Hain
06/16/1998 Leslie Mazzacano
06/16/1998 Margaret E. Smyth
06/16/1998 Colleen Grayson Sparth
06/16/1998 Robert W. Thomas
06/16/1998 Paul Wilcox
07/10/1998 Robert V. Bird
07/10/1998 Jeri A. Hollowell
07/10/1998 Jimmy H. Shode
07/10/1998 Gert Gouder
12/21/1998 Carol Bowen
12/21/1998 Gail Ellen Kertland
12/21/1998 Jean Christine McGivern
12/21/1998 Mark Stevenson
12/21/1998 Mary-Lloyd Brainard

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Please contact communications@episcopaldeacons.org for more information.

November 2017
RESPONSE to Chapter XXXIII, from August 2017

Render Unto Caesar

BY DEACON KEITH MCCOY

Can you dismiss another Christian if you believe they are exceptionally wrong, or should you live in the hope of the Resurrection and the expectation that, if you discuss a disagreement long enough, the other person will come around to your Gospel viewpoint?

The topic of Chapter 33 was politics. A new deacon was accosted by an older, conservative parishioner about the (unintended) absence of the current president in the Prayers of the People. That was followed up a few weeks later with his advice that the congregation should not pray for foreign (and presumably non-Christian) countries.

Robert Heinlein once quipped, “Never attempt to teach a pig to sing. It wastes your time and annoys the pig.” Funny, but with our fellow humans, it’s a rather disdainful attitude. If we believe in redemption, and in our position on a particular issue, we should reach out to some extent to those whose opinions are opposite ours, and try to convince them to change their minds. These are not lesser beings we are dealing with, they are travelers with us on the way -- just travelers using a different (or incomplete) road map.

But, how much time and effort should you put into someone who seems intransigent? The good shepherd went in search of a lost sheep, but presumably the other 99 were cared for in the interim, and the lost one was ready to be found. What happens when the 99 cannot be secured, or the lost one is not readily discovered? That is when we have to decide how much of ourselves to invest.

In reaching that point, some factors to consider are: how well do you know the other, or how close are you? Are you looking to share understanding, or to be right? Is the other person hurting others? Are they in a position to change others if you convince them?

The extreme example is encountering someone whose opinions are abhorrent, or whose views essentially say that you are nothing. I don’t believe that extended conversation will be fruitful in such cases. Do not respond in kind, but be brief and gracious, and hopefully they will ponder why you aren’t participating in their anger. And pray that they will start to think their position through, and not just respond with emotions.

Encountering the other person in any difficult discussion is a given. The question really is, do we engage deeply and fiercely, risking great understanding but also great anger, or do we offer some of ourselves and then say, “I’m ready to participate in an open discussion when you are. In the meantime, go in peace.” There are many others to connect with, ones whose ears and minds are open. Your time and talent may be better spent there.

Coda to Chapter XXXII (May 2017): I had a late response to “The Price is Right”. Dn. Geof Smith, formerly of the Diocese of Massachusetts, and currently resident at 815 Second Avenue in New York as our Chief Operating Officer, commented that “It’s time for a well thought out, reasonable conversation with our church – but then before we do that, we’re going to have to come up with a cogent and well thought out explanation of what a deacon’s ministry is, so folks can wrap their heads around what they’re paying for.” Definitely worth chewing on.

NEW: Chapter XXXIV

Time Out

BY DEACON KEITH MCCOY

The rector of All Souls in New Canterbury opened his office and led the deacon of All Souls inside. “Honestly, Kevin, I don’t seem to have a minute to myself these days,” said the Rev. Stephen Carillon, as he turned on a few lights and then flopped into an overstuffed wing chair. “Funerals, weddings, meetings, and of course, visiting Mrs. Rockefunder.” The rector grinned at Deacon Kevin Wong-Allan, who had gotten off to a rocky start with the dowager when he first arrived. “And you’re busy, too, I know. I guess that’s why we haven’t had a chance to chat lately.”

The deacon took the matching chair opposite the rector, and nodded in agreement. “Yes, and she still only wants to deal with the head man, but that’s quite ok with me.”

Fr. Steve moved on to the more current issue with the deacon. “How is Emily doing? And how about her dads -- how are you guys coping with parenthood?”

The deacon beamed at the mention of his and Jeff’s adopted baby. ‘Emily is wonderful! Every day is a new universe to explore. And we’ve been so fortunate that Jeff’s company allowed him six months of parental leave. It’s been a Godsend, to spend so much time with her right at the start.”

“So,” inquired the rector, “Jeff goes back to work, next month? Will one of your parents take over, or are you looking for a good daycare situation. Linda and I can recommend some places for you two to consider.”

“Unfortunately, the parents are too far away, and they’re all still working. And we don’t think daycare is the answer right now. That’s actually what I wanted to meet with you about. I’d like to take some time off from All Souls.”

Continued on page 14
The rector mused on that briefly. “Well, Kevin, you’ve had the flexibility of your schedule at Canterbury Housing Advocates for a couple of years now, and I’ve really appreciated that. Are they giving you some time off?”

“Some time,” responded the deacon. “The board has agreed to move me to half-time status for the next year or so. That actually frees up some money in the budget to add another counselor, and they don’t object to my bringing the baby to the office when I am there.”

Puzzled, Steve asked, “What can I do for you then? What sort of time off are you looking for at All Souls?”

Kevin laid out his cards. “Jeff and I were thinking that I would step back as deacon for a couple of years. FinancIally, we can make ends meet between his work and my half-time job, but we really want to dedicate a lot of time to our daughter. Emily, and other committees, and not serve on the altar, except a few times a year. Maybe only preach those times, too.” He raised his eyebrows and voice in anticipation.

“This sounds like a resignation, Kevin,” responded the rector, with a touch of panic in his voice.

“No, I just need to step back in a significant way. Jeff would still sing in the choir, I would be in the congregation with Emily.” He smiled. “I’ll be functioning as a parent rather than as a deacon.”

“How long would this be for? A year, maybe?” Fr. Steve was still trying to assimilate this potential loss of ministry.

Kevin put down another card. “Maybe longer. Jeff and I realize that we’re head over heels right now, but we think we’d like to adopt a second child in another two years, if it all works out as we hope it will.”

The rector of All Souls sat back in his chair and stared at a spot on the ceiling, hoping it would come to life and help him understand. An idea jumped into his head, and off the tip of his tongue. “Perhaps Jeff could take Emily during services, and you could still serve.”

“Maybe during the summer. Music is really his avocation as well as his ministry around here. We don’t think he should give that up.” The deacon paused. “Maybe with some advance notice, I could schedule some Sundays here and there.”

Steve looked at his deacon. “I depend on you for so many things, Kevin. We really have been a team, and now, you’ll be here but not as a deacon.” The priest shrugged, “I feel abandoned here, honestly.” And he gave his deacon a plaintive look.

Kevin was sympathetic, to a point. “I know, and I’m sorry, Steve. But usually deacons get ordained after they have kids and start their careers. I’m not even 40, and I’m just starting a family. Plus, I don’t want to burn out. I don’t want to end up resenting the Church.”

“Carillon sighed. “No, and neither do I.”

The office clock chimed the hour, and the peripatetic priest jumped up. “I’ve got to go, unfortunately, Kevin. Let’s talk about this next week, ok?”

The deacon agreed, but noticed that as his colleague hurried off to wherever he was supposed to be next, he hadn’t set a date with Kevin to continue the discussion.

What would you do? Please send responses with your take on this article to kmccoy1@optonline.net. Comments received within a month will be taken into consideration when writing the response.

Deacon Keith McCoy has twenty plus years as a deacon and manager of public agencies. He serves in the Diocese of New Jersey.
In Memoriam

Deacon deaths received by AED, are listed alphabetically by name, date of death, diocese, age and ordination year.

Robert S. Cameron Jr., 1/4/2017, Central Florida, 84, 1975
John Richard Dean, 8/24/2017, New Jersey, 79, 1985
Margaret E. Edgar, 7/8/2017, British Columbia, 93, 1991
Sylvia Faoro, 2/10/2017, Calgary, 91, 2008
Margaret Foster (Peg) Ruth, 10/3/2016, West Missouri, 88, 1978
Katherine Tootle “Kitty” Hannabass, 11/12/2016, Northern Michigan, 87, 2001
Bev Harvey, 7/31/2017, Toronto, 78, 2008
Leslie Elaine Hoover, 1/9/2017, West Missouri, 69, 2009
Donald H. Kuhlman, unknown, Milwaukee, unknown, 1998
John Daron Lantz, 2/7/2016, South Carolina, 93, 1988
Jerome P. Nettleton, 9/13/2016, Easton, 78, 2001
Ann Roberts Parsons, 7/5/2017, Alaska, 91, 1984
Walter Leslie Probert, 2/23/2017, Milwaukee, 92, 1960
Suzanne Tavernetti, 8/24/2017, El Camino Real, 78, 1989

Every effort has been made to provide accurate information and we regret any errors. We appreciate being notified when a deacon has died. Please send notifications, including diocese, date of ordination, age and date of death to membership@episcopaldeacons.org.

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Recent Ordinations

We celebrate the following Vocational Deacon ordinations that have been reported to AED. Ordination notices (date, diocese and deacon) are published as we receive them. Please send ordination notices to membership@episcopaldeacons.org.

4/23/16 North Dakota . . . . . . Edward Wos
4/1/17 Utah . . . . . . . . . . . . . Patricia Sanchez
4/6/17 Montreal . . . . . . . . . . . . Emma Jane Bell
6/10/17 Colorado . . . . . . . . . . . . Anthony Christiansen, Dawn Shepler, Katherine M. (Kaye) Piper
6/10/17 Northern California . . . . Mary H. Taggart
6/17/17 Rio Grande . . . . . . . . . . . . David Martin
6/24/17 Dallas . . . . . . . . . . . . . Pamela Fairley
6/24/17 New Westminster . . . . . . Jeffrey Preiss, Ronald Berezan
6/30/17 Oklahoma . . . . . . . . . . . . Dion Gregory Crider, James Scott Tyree, Rocio Lopez Zamudio
7/29/17 Los Angeles . . . . . . . . . . . . George Leonard Packer III
9/13/17 New Hampshire . . . . . . . . Charles Covert Nichols, Jr., Shawn Vincent LaFrance
9/28/17 Olympia . . . . . . . . . . . . William E. Thaete
9/30/17 Washington . . . . . . . . . . . . Cynthia Hill Dopp, David Griswold, Harvey Bale, Julie Petersmeyer, Mary McCue
11/1/17 Calgary . . . . . . . . . . . . . Gloria Schirok
6/18/16 Colorado . . . . . . . . . . . . Gary Stoddard, Jessie Cannady, Timothy Dunbar

As space allows, we include ordination photos. Please send high resolution photos of 300 dpi and at least 3" wide to communications@episcopaldeacons.org.