

Nominee Profile for Geoffrey Smith:

- **Current ministries:** I serve in a diaconal role on occasion for the Presiding Bishop when he presides at episcopal consecrations, diocesan visits, and other special occasions. In my role on the executive staff of the Presiding Bishop, I also advocate and try to represent the interests of deacons at all times as well as serve on the Board of Directors to Episcopal Relief & Development.

Closer to home, I am leading my parish in their work on racial reconciliation and am currently leading a joint project with the Witness Stones Project (<https://witnessstonesproject.org/>) and community participants from my parish, First Baptist Church, Essex, the Essex Historical Society, the Connecticut River Museum, and Valley Regional High School. This effort is partially funded by a grant I was successful in getting from the diocese, and I am serving as a resource for at present four other congregations in Connecticut interested in engaging in this project.

- **Previous Positions:**

DIOCESE OF CONNECTICUT

2018 - Present

- Deacon, St. John's Episcopal Church, Essex, CT

DIOCESE OF NEW YORK

2017-2018

- Deacon, Holy Trinity Church, New York City, NY

DIOCESE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

2014 - 2017

- Deacon, St. James Church, Keene, NH
- Serving the bishop as a member of the Our Kids Commission and Emergency Preparedness Committee, and with diaconal formation and continuing education opportunities for the deacon community
- Serving as a Safe Church training facilitator
- Co-convener, New England Deacon's Network, 2015 – 2017

DIOCESE OF MASSACHUSETTS

2008 - 2014

- Archdeacon, Diocese of Massachusetts
 - Responsible for deacon deployment and pastoral care
 - Co-facilitator, annual Clergy Refresher Day for Safe Church and ministry issues awareness, 2011 - 2014
 - Concurrently served at Parish of St. John the Evangelist, Hingham, 2012 - 2014
 - Served on Bishop Search Committee, 2013 - 2014
- Deacon, Christ Church in the City of Boston ("Old North Church"), 2008 - 2010
- Program Chair, New England Deacon's Network, 2010, 2012, and 2014 conferences

DIOCESE OF MAINE

2003 - 2008

- Deacon, Trinity Church, Portland
- Safe Church Training Coordinator, 2003 – 2008
- Diocesan Council, 2007 – 2008
- Diocesan Review Committee, 2007
- Board member, Lutheran Social Services of Northern New England, 2006 – 2008
- Director, St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry, 2003 – 2005

- Recognized in the Tradition of St. Stephen for work in outreach and Safe Church ministry by the Diocese of Maine and the Association of Episcopal Deacons, 2007

DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

1984 - 2002

- Deacon, St. James Cathedral, Chicago, IL, 1999 – 2002
 - Deacon, St. Gregory’s Church, Deerfield, IL 1996 – 1999
 - Safe Church trainer, 1997 – 2002
 - Board member, Cathedral Shelter (outreach ministry in Chicago’s West Side), 1994 – 1996
 - Group Leader to a unique support group for families and loved ones of those infected with HIV/AIDS
- **Skill sets:** public policy / advocacy, community organizing, non-profit experience, operational management, risk management, growing the diaconate in two dioceses.
- **Personal Statements:**
 - I envision making contributions to the AED Board through having served in six diocese and experienced a wide variety of definitions of the diaconate, through my experience and personal relationships with bishops in many dioceses and with the staff and leadership team of the Presiding Bishop (I have learned first-hand how the polity of The Episcopal Church works), through my management experience in operational areas, and through my passion for and hands-on experience growing the diaconate especially with younger and under-represented candidates.
 - I feel very strongly that AED has a tremendous opportunity to help The Episcopal Church better recognize and support the ministry of deacons through helping deacons recognize and further develop their own gifts of ministry and helping the Church understand and grow a healthier appreciation for the unique gifts and abilities deacons bring to church leadership. The time is right.

I believe the Coronavirus pandemic will be bringing a sea-level change to The Episcopal Church as congregations across the church have learned different ways of being church. We will not be going back to the way things were before, no matter how much some may want to. The fact that a recent survey conducted by The Episcopal Church revealed that nearly half of America associates the words hypocrisy, judgmental, self-righteous, and racist with Christians is a clear call to the Church that the servant ministry leadership reflected in the diaconate will be critical to changing public perception towards a more authentic understanding of the way of love of Jesus Christ.

More than any other order of ordained ministry, the diaconate is an extraordinary witness to diversity. The Association of Episcopal Deacons can and should help the Church to recognize, appreciate, and grow in desire for the strengths this diversity can bring to its leadership.