

The Reverend Canon Shannon Rogers Duckworth

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STATEMENT of MINISTRY

Guided by the abiding promises of God, and attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit, I strive each day to live fully into my ordination vows and discover ways in which collaborative ministry can model and spread the transformational love of Christ.

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Canon to the Ordinary, The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana.

October 2013-present

- Provide consistent, compassionate, and prompt pastoral response in all critical diocesan parish and school matters including crisis management and conflict resolution.
- Rapidly assess and conduct the implementation of the diocesan COVID-19 protocols in partnership with the bishop as well as lay and clerical leadership and medical professionals. Report pertinent information to congregations on matters such as U.S. Small Business Administration PPP Loans, safety protocols and crisis response in an unprecedented and ever-changing environment. Provide counsel and support to clergy and congregations.
- Mentor clergy, laity, and diocesan staff
- Initiated and implemented a study to examine the diocesan budget, assessment structure, and future visioning of the diocese
- Develop and implement systems that encourage vitality on a diocesan level to meet financial, procedural, and spiritual needs of all diocesan parishes, missions, and diocesan schools including robust business practices
- Manage and facilitate transition and deployment of clergy. This includes training of Vestries and Search Committees, screening and background checks of candidates, review of all search materials and applications, and coordination with diocesan and national leadership to recruit the strongest possible candidates. 24 successful searches since 2013
- Collaborate with the Budget Committee and Assessment Review Committee to develop essential strategies for the fiscal health of the diocese
- Coordinate all meetings, develop agendas and serve as point of contact with the Board of Trustees, the Executive Board and the Audit Review Committee.
- Bishop-appointed Title IV Intake Officer. Effectively oversee, guide, and advise diocesan disciplinary board response and Canonical protocols.
- Serve as Chair of Dispatch and Secretary of Elections for the Diocesan Convention
- Spearheaded the successful transition to the Iona School for Ministry for diaconal and bi-vocational training. Continued support of this program and point of contact for students and Iona Dean. Committed to continued exploration of future role of bi-vocational and diaconal ministry in the diocese.
- Guide and supervise the canonical Holy Orders process. Partner with the Commission on Ministry and Standing Committee to organize, oversee and assist in the discernment process of aspiring priests and deacons. This includes recruitment and screening of candidates

- Plan and lead Vestry retreats throughout diocese
- Collaborate weekly with the diocesan Chancellor and Vice chancellors on a variety of legal matters including property, human resources and misconduct
- Collaborate effectively with Episcopal Relief and Development in all matters related to diocesan disaster recovery. Disaster coordination team administered and distributed over 700,000.00 in direct relief to flood victims in 2016. Main point of contact after hurricanes and other natural disasters, especially after Hurricane Ida. Develop and support effective crisis response teams composed of clergy and lay people from the diocese as well as other denominations.
- Develop strong, ongoing partnerships with the Church Pension Group to assist clergy and congregations in matters ranging from benefits to claims. Point of contact in disaster or crisis situations. Reporting officer for Safeguarding God's Children.
- Serve as frequent supply priest and guest speaker throughout the diocese
- Maintain professional and collegial relationships with community and national faith leaders
- Foster robust relationships within province and national church. This allows for resource sharing, collaboration and exchange of best practices that are crucial in the life of the diocese. Elected as Province IV Transition Ministry convener.

Associate Rector, St. James' Episcopal Church, Jackson, Mississippi

September 2007-October 2013

Robust, multi-faceted ministry in the largest congregation in the Diocese of Mississippi

- Partnered and oversaw ministry of parish-wide lay pastoral care teams
- Led multi-generational, weekly women's Bible Study
- Preacher, educator and sacramental presence
- Collaborated with lay leadership to plan large parish events and small group gatherings
- Served as Parish Life Coordinator of 1,200-member congregation, including events and small groups.
- Led youth and adult Confirmation classes
- Participated regularly in youth events, including summer mission/cycling trips to Georgia, Vermont and New York
- Partnered in vibrant young adult ministry
- Supported the student Canterbury organization at Millsaps College
- Engaged communicants in baptismal preparation, pre-marriage counseling and pastoral counseling

Chaplain, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Jackson, Mississippi

July 2005-September 2007

Served as the all-school chaplain (K4-12), a role that involved responding to the pastoral and spiritual needs of the school, including students, faculty and staff

- Served as active member of executive leadership team
- Led and preached at weekly chapel services
- Invited religious leaders from across the region of varying faiths and cultural backgrounds to participate in special forums and educational opportunities for the students
- Trained and facilitated student chapel worship leaders
- Organized service-learning opportunities including several disaster-response trips to the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina
- Led weekly grade-level chapel classes
- Officiated at baptisms, funerals and weddings of faculty, staff and students

Vicar, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Lexington, Mississippi

July 2002-July 2005

Vital, engaged, small church ministry

- Nurtured a small congregation that doubled in size during my tenure
- Welcomed community groups and organizations to the church. This included providing meeting space and hospitality.
- Participated in colleague groups that crossed denominational lines. Regularly invited to preach and present at other civic and religious organizations.
- Developed outreach opportunities and participated in community-based conversations around gender, racial and economic issues in Holmes County

Curate, St. John's Episcopal Church, Ocean Springs, Mississippi

May 2001-May 2002

Training and ministry in a small church on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

- Developed, recruited, trained and implemented pastoral care committee consisting of lay volunteers
- Preached, taught and provided pastoral care
- Coordinated youth and young adult ministry
- Implemented pastoral care committee consisting of all lay volunteers
- Participated in inter-denominational colleague group

Admissions Counselor, Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi

June 1997-August 1998

DIOCESAN AND NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP POSITIONS HELD

Province IV Transition Officers 2013-present

Chair 2018-present

This organization consists of colleagues from across the province who coordinate to share resources, offer support and exchange best practices.

Client Council, Church Pension Group 2018-present

Chosen for membership on a select council to provide feedback to CPG leadership/management on the products and services that are offered to clergy and lay persons across the national Episcopal Church.

Transition in Progress Co-Facilitator, Diocese of Louisiana

This groups offers the opportunity for newly-ordained and newly-called clergy to connect, form relationships and share resources.

Chair, General Convention Deputation, Diocese of Louisiana, 2020

Planning and education for General Convention, summer 2022

Convention attendee: 2015 and 2018

Co-Chair, Young Adult Discernment Committee, Diocese of Mississippi. Commission on Ministry member

Diocesan Liturgical Coordinator, Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

Transition Committee member for the 10th bishop of Mississippi 2012-13

EDUCATION

Master of Divinity, The General Theological Seminary, New York, NY, 2001

Seminarian, St. Luke in the Fields, Greenwich Village 1999-2001: Co-led adult confirmation class and Saturday evening feeding ministry for individuals living with HIV/AIDS; Sacristan, 1998-2001

Millsaps College, BA English and History 1997 with Honors

Phi Beta Kappa; Magna Cum Laude; Who's Who; Omicron Delta Kappa; Greek Woman of the Year; Panhellenic president; student representative to President's advisory council consisting of faculty, staff and student leadership. This multi-year committee advised in matters of community development as well racial reconciliation and healing.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Silent Retreats, Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge, MA

Monthly Spiritual Direction and intentional colleague support groups throughout ordained ministry

Dismantling Racism Training, December 2021

Province IV Bishop's and Bi-Vocational leaders Conference, 2021

Church Pension Group Episcopal Business Administrator's Conference 2013-present

CEEP (Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes) participant 2014

Preaching Excellence Conference Alumnae, 2001

Gathering of Leaders. 2005-present

Initiated by the Rt. Rev. Claude Payne (retired), Gathering of Leaders identifies young clergy leaders in the Episcopal Church. Participants invited to gather for three days to discuss best practices and shared ministry. Participant and presenter.

CREDO (Clergy Renewal) participant, 2003

Participated in an intentional gathering of Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders sponsored by the Lilly Foundation. 2006-2008

Fierce Conversations Training, the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, 2015

Education for Ministry Mentor, 2001-2002

BOARDS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Founding member of the Millsaps College Alumni Association, 1997-98

Recipient of the Jim Livesay Service Award for outstanding alumni service to Millsaps College, 2009

St. Martin's Episcopal School, Metairie, Louisiana, Board member 2020-present

PERSONAL

Married to James Marion Duckworth, II and mother to Nicholas (19) and Tucker (15). Love spending time in the country at our home in New Roads, Louisiana. Five-summer participant in a church-organized, week-long, 250-mile cycling trip in New England with adults and youth. I enjoy walking, traveling, reading, fishing, hunting and boating. And, when time allows, you might find me challenging my husband to a round of air hockey or my boys to a pick-up game of basketball