

More about Rev. Denise

A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Denise graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology at Arizona State University in 1997. Following the completion of a Masters in Public Health at Loma Linda University in 2000, Denise held positions in HIV, drug, and violence prevention at the Arizona Department of Education for several years. During this time she began studying at Fuller Theological Seminary and completed a Masters of Arts in Theology and Biblical Studies in 2008. Following her seminary studies, she was the Arizona Field Director at a national prison ministry organization, managing over 200 volunteers statewide, interfacing with the Arizona Department of Corrections on their behalf, as well as training and coaching various congregations in establishing prisoner reentry ministries in partnership with each other and local organizations.

While working in prison ministry, Denise enrolled in a spiritual direction program and discerned a vocation as a spiritual director. In this ministry, she became devoted to practices drawn from Benedictine and Ignatian spiritualities, and to companioning and supporting others in noticing and discerning the presence of God in the ordinary rhythms of life. She continues to serve as a spiritual director.

While in the spiritual direction program, Denise began attending Episcopal worship services. She was moved by encountering the Holy in the liturgy and found resonance with the Episcopal tradition's embrace of a broad range of theologies and spiritualities woven together within common patterns of prayer and worship. While preparing for confirmation in the Episcopal Church, Denise and people close to her began to wonder if she might also be called to Holy Orders. She started the formal process of discernment for the priesthood at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Phoenix, where she actively served in liturgical and pastoral care ministries until she moved to Austin in summer 2016 for her seminary studies in formation for the priesthood. While in Austin, she has served at St. David's Episcopal Church and has worked as a chaplain intern at Seton Hospitals.