

Ellen Barrett continued...



In the face of fierce conservative opposition, the General Convention of 1979 declared that “there should be no barrier to ordination of qualified persons...of homosexual orientation whose behavior the Church considers wholesome.”

Ellen Barrett’s priestly life has not been smooth. She has never been rector of a parish and has grappled with “crushing depression.” The fortieth anniversary of her ordination found her living in England as “Sister Helena” of the Companions of St. Luke, Order of St. Benedict.

When reflecting on her decision to seek ordination, she observed, “Am I still convinced it was the right thing to do? Yes. Done the right way by the right person? Who knows? It is what it is. And priesthood is as much a part of me as green eyes and once black hair turning white.

“I am a priest forever. That’s all.” -Jim Weingartner

