

J. DEREK HARBIN

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MISSION

I dream of a vibrant, thriving, and invigorated 21st century Church and bring a unique set of proven ministry skills, a capacity to adapt to new circumstances, and the personal maturity and emotional stability to nurture congregations in the power of the Holy Spirit to live that dream, transforming and reconciling our world to Christ Jesus.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Development, Seabury-Western, 1999

Master of Divinity, *cum laude*, Nashotah House, 1988

Bachelor of Science in Pre-medicine, Davidson College, 1983

ORDINATION

Priest, Diocese of Western North Carolina, Grace Church, Asheville, November 30, 1988

Deacon, Diocese of Western North Carolina, Chapel of the Transfiguration, Kanuga, May 20, 1988

DOCTORAL THESIS ABSTRACT

It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

This thesis first synthesizes the distinctive characteristics of an emerging type of congregation as described in the separate works of George G. Hunter III and William M. Easum. It then contrasts this incarnational, “Apostolic/Spiritual Redwood Attitudinal Pattern” with both the Episcopal Church’s Prayer Book as well as the surveyed attitudes of its 941 presbyters (priests) aged forty and under. The author argues that the Attitudinal Pattern of these congregations describes the kind of church implied by the Baptismal Covenant, Ordination Rites, and Catechism of the Prayer Book. The forty-two percent survey return rate from the presbyter pool provides a compelling look at the degree of alignment or conflict that exists between the Attitudinal Pattern, congregational life, and the longings, opinions, and practices of these ordained congregational leaders. The thesis finally combines these collective insights to propose one path for the redevelopment of Episcopal Church congregational life into the twenty-first century.

NARRATIVE MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Rector, St. John's Church, Portsmouth, VA, January 2011-present

- Adaptive re-visioning for 21st Century led to revitalized ministry focus on the neighborhood and the twin heartbeats of Jesus: making disciples and serving those in need.
- From 2011 through 2018, average Sunday attendance has grown 60% (114 to 182) and income has grown 55% (\$265,445 to \$413,650).
- Three differing liturgical offerings each Sunday as well as one on Wednesday evening.
- Rich catechumenal process, multi-sensory Easter Vigil with immersion baptisms (YouTube videos of same are used as a teaching aid for at least three Episcopal seminaries).
- Material maker for parish's *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* Christian Formation Process.
- Increased youth involvement at camp and on diocesan level. BSA God & Country Youth Award counselor. Advocate for youth voice & leadership during diocesan staff transition.
- Liturgical preaching and teaching ministry consistently receive outstanding reviews.
- 2018 Capital Campaign raises almost \$1 million, exceeding goal.
- Serve as chair of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, member of the Diocesan Executive Board, and Eucharistic presider for Camp Chanco & Happening.

Adjunct Faculty, Bexley-Seabury Seminary, Chicago IL, Fall 2018

- Co-taught *Liturgy & Music: Development and Theology*. Received high evaluation scores by M.Div. students.

Bi-Vocational Priest, St. Andrew Episcopal Church, Bessemer City, NC and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, August 2008-December 2010

- Vibrant bi-vocational ministry teaching science to Middle School students during the week and serving as priest-in-charge to a rural, family-sized parish for Sundays, Holy Days, Baptisms, Weddings, and Burials.
- Positive relationship with tweens in the classroom provided numerous opportunities for evangelism, prayer, and pastoral care/counseling beyond the classroom.
- Parish doubled in size and attendance.
- Permission-giving leadership freed people to create a Community Garden in collaboration with others to provide healthy food options for an economically challenged area.
- Assisted a Boy Scout with the creation of a Memorial Garden for his Eagle Project and conducted the first interment.

Adjunct Faculty & Guest Presenter in Congregational Development, Seabury-Western, Evanston IL, January 2000-December 2009

- Courses taught: Church Planting / Renewing existing congregations & Missional Liturgy (how the best of Anglican practice can connect to God's mission in today's world).
- Offered training in regional venues (Maryland and Texas) as well as on the Evanston campus.
- Received consistent high marks for content and presentation.

Founding Priest, Church of the Beloved, Charlotte, NC, September 1999-August 2008

- Part of collaborative lay and ordained leadership team responsible for the creation of a vital worshipping community of faith “from scratch” (congregational average age of 31; 40% of the worship participants under age 16).
- Congregational 6th birthday (Xmas Eve) attendance 300+
- By the end of 2007, Church of the Beloved had donated a cumulative total of \$100,000+ to ministries that serve those in need and share the good news of Jesus Christ in community, nation and the world.
- Served as a passionate and effective preacher & teacher.
- Fully involved in all the processes involved in this startup: extensive marketing research, direct mail campaigns and visually appealing print materials, effective use of latest technology for impressive web presence and weekly e-newsletter, strategic use of music and video.
- Pastoral care through transforming lay pastoral teams.
- Missional worship in local public middle schools, combining vast riches of Patristic & Anglican Eucharistic tradition and elements from present culture.
- Team created and opened Beloved Garden, a strip mall retail space to serve those outside (and inside) the congregation by offering developmentally appropriate spiritual formation & educational opportunities for ages 3-adult. Anchored by *Catechesis of Good Shepherd* (called FaithQuest), a majority of youth participants came from *outside* worshipping congregation.
- Featured on the front page of *Episcopal Life* & served as a resource for church leaders from Australia, Africa, and throughout the United States who learned about Church of the Beloved online and traveled to experience and learn our discoveries about life transformation and sacramental worship opportunities for persons with little church background.
- Diocesan service: Interim Assistant (St. Peter, Charlotte); Implemented the first diocesan *New Beginnings* for Middle School youth
- Workshop leader (Dioceses of Western North Carolina, East Carolina, Indianapolis, & Eastern Michigan) offering training for lay and clergy leaders on postmodern congregational revitalization and church planting.

Rector, St. Andrew Episcopal Church, Kokomo, IN, June 1992-August 1999

- Led exciting and dynamic work in congregational growth for 4th largest congregation in Diocese of Northern Indiana. Congregation gained a renewed sense of its baptismal identity and mission through a wide variety of educational and worship opportunities that were created and continue to this day.
- Expanded ministries offered for children and youth, using *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* and hiring a full-time Youth Minister.
- Energetic alternative and electronic media-based worship opportunity developed as one of three experiential, faith-enriching and different Sunday morning Eucharistic offerings ranging from Rite I traditional to postmodern.
- Revitalized parish communications, utilizing digital technology to improve communication and began exploration of web utilization.

- Total parish giving increased 55% and the endowment increased by \$225,000 in first five years.
- Anti-racism work with local African Methodist Episcopal congregation featured by local newspaper.
- Diocesan service: Diocesan Council, Diocesan Liturgist, Congregational Revitalization & Development Committee, Diocesan Cursillo Spiritual Advisor, Alternate Deputy to General Convention, General Convention Host Diocese Planning Committee.

Assistant Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, Asheville, NC, June 1988-June 1992

- Revamped new member incorporation ministries. Congregation's population of young couples and young families greatly increased, necessitating the exploration of possibilities for building expansion.
- Establishment of Diocesan Catechumenal Process including congregational training and dramatic spiritual transformation for the parish.
- Diocesan service: Diocesan Liturgist, Liturgical Commission, Master of Ceremonies for consecration of Robert H. Johnson as Diocesan, Craggy Prison chaplain.

Program Director, Aquatics Director, & Aquatics Instructor, Camp Bud Schiele, Camp Netami, and Schiele Scout Reservation, 1978, 1980-1983

- Supervised a staff of 40 to provide quality merit badge programming for up to 3,000 campers each summer.
- Served as Aquatics Instructor (1 summer), Aquatics Director (2 summers), and the first Program Director of Camp Bud Schiele for its inaugural two seasons. This scout camp continues to be known for providing one of the best summer camp opportunities in the Southern Region, BSA.
- Earned national certifications for Camp Program Director and Aquatics Program Director at National Camping School, BSA. Retained full certification in Youth Aquatics (assisting and inspecting aquatics facilities) until 2017, when my focus shifted to support our daughter's involvement in Diocesan Youth Council and Youth events throughout the year at Camp Chanco.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & LEADERSHIP

- Gannon Sims, *A future for the Church* & Bobbe Fitzhugh, *From maintenance to mission: taking the Church back to what Jesus started*, 2019
- Pilgrimage leader to the Holy Land, 1998, 2012, 2018
- Scott Bader-Saye, *Fear and love in a divided world*, 2018
- *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*, selected topics, 1992-1996, 2016-2017
- Timothy Dombek, *Stewardship: it's not about money...it's about relationships*, 2017
- Biblical Archaeology Society three-week mini-sabbatical: *Greece & Turkey: Paul & the Seven Churches of Revelation*, 2016
- Mike Kinman, *Sacred conversations about race & class, power & protest*, 2016

- Pilgrimage leader to England/Scotland, 2015
- Diana Butler Bass, *Awakening and the work of Transformation*, 2015
- Dwight Zscheile, *Becoming Learning Communities*, 2014
- Episcopal Spiritual Director for the Second International Celebration for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Catechesis), Phoenix, AZ, Fall 2014
- Best Practices in effective communication & teaching, 2008-2010
- Renewal Week or Christian Education Week, Kanuga Conferences, 1992-2008
- Pilgrimage participant, Holy Land 1996 & South Africa 1999
- Church Planters Boot Camp, Colorado, Fall 1999
- Family Systems Theory (Bowen/Friedman), 1993-1997
- Prepare/Enrich Certification for marital/premarital counseling, 1997
- Revisioning the Church for the Future, San Francisco, 1994
- Catechumenal Process Team Training (Milwaukee), 1990
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Certification, 1990

PUBLICATIONS

- “It’s not about us,” *Searching for Sacred Space: Essays on Architecture and Liturgical Design in the Episcopal Church*, Church Publishing, 2002
- Featured on front page of *Episcopal Life, Seeking the Lost Generations*, October 2001
- *Assuming the nature of a liturgical servant*, Open, Volume 46, Number 3, Fall 2000 (Associated Parishes)
- *No Mountain Too Steep: the ministry of the Episcopal Church in Rutherford County*, 1995

AWARDS

- Outstanding First Year Teacher Award, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, 2009
- Eagle Scout, 1976
- St. George Episcopal Adult Religious Award, *Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning*, 1988
- BSA Honor Society (Order of the Arrow): Vigil Honor, 1979; National Distinguished Service Award, 1983; Centurion Award, 2015

PERSONAL

Married for (almost) thirty years to the love of my life, Clifford King (and yes, it's a female family name). We are the parents of four adult children (foster son Jeffrey and his wife Sarah, Miles, Mitchell, and Clarissa). We become “empty nesters” when Clare leaves for Davidson College in the fall of 2019. Interests include constructing authentic Native American and Scottish period clothing, attending Scottish Games in complete Highland Dress, gardening, visiting historical sites, exercising with a trainer, and volunteering with local, civic, historical, musical, and arts festivals/events.