More on Deacon Don's Background

I was formed among the first cohorts of the Province I School for Deacons more than a decade ago; and now serve on the Advisory Board of the same.
I completed my studies on the First Sunday of Advent 2018 in preparation for my ordination on June 29, 2019.

The School for Deacons is a hybrid formation resource for those answering a call to the diaconate. The School currently serves deacons in formation from all of the New England states *(there are seven dioceses which make up Province I of the Episcopal Church)*.

I am a lifelong resident of Norwalk, and–prior to ordination–I served internships with both Trinity, Southport and St. Luke's, Darien. Prior to the internships and assignments with St. Matthew's, Wilton and Christ Church, Stratford, I spent the first fifty years of my life as part of Christ Church, East Norwalk.

Earlier assignments were as a ParaEducator alongside students with learning differences for 22 years. One 13 year-long assignment included providing Braille for a student who couldn't see very well. Three decades have found me laboring in Human Resources; the Family Center; School Safety and Security; and as the Executive Assistant to the Board of Education (the body).

Also as part of my life in Norwalk, the Mayor appointed me as one of two Chaplains to respond with the Norwalk Fire Department as needed, with the five fire companies which make up the department as a whole.

I occasionally serve in the role of Volunteer Chaplain for Norwalk Hospital (covering staff chaplains as needed) which I believe is still affiliated with your New Milford Hospital, a role I have been involved with, in one way or another, for more than 30 years. I completed his Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) training at Norwalk Hospital in 1999. In part, CPE equips chaplains to provide spiritual care for folks from all backgrounds and faith traditions, or no faith tradition at all.

In addition to CPE, my professional development has included seminar work as part of the Yale Divinity School Summers at Yale program—in the areas of pastoral response at times of tragedy.

Beyond ECCT, I served as a Deputy to General Convention, participating in the 79th General Convention, in Austin, Texas last summer; and as an Alternate Deputy to the 78th General Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah (2015). I also served as an Alternate Deputy for the 80th General Convention which was truncated by the COVID in 2021.

In 2014, I traveled with ECCT high school students to Villanova University for the Episcopal Youth Event.