

Titus Presler

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ANNOTATED CURRICULUM VITAE

PRINCIPAL MINISTRIES SINCE ORDINATION

Interim Pastor, Church of St. Simon the Cyrenian

New Rochelle, New York, 2009-Present (halftime)

Strategic ministry formation is my focus as I work with the vestry and other ministry groups to catalyze parish growth and outreach and prepare for a search for new clergy leadership. Undergirding this initiative is strong and consistent ministry in liturgy, preaching and pastoral care.

Sabbatical for Writing and Consultancy, September 2009-August 2010

Writing projects on mission and prayer

Consultant, Continuing Indaba and Mutual Listening in the Anglican Communion

Sub-Dean, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Professor of Mission & World Christianity

General Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y., 2005-2009

Enhanced communication among campus groups, reinvigorated consultation in faculty committees, a broad-based curriculum review, and an academic program in mission and world Christianity are among the fruits of this ministry. I organized two major conferences at the Desmond Tutu Center: "Reconciliation at the Roundtable: God's Call in the 21st Century" and "An Anglican Covenant: Divisive or Reconciling?" in April 2008. The seminary's financial crisis has led to the position of fulltime Sub-Dean being discontinued.

Priest Associate (non-stipendiary)

Grace Church, White Plains, N.Y., 2006-Present

I assist with liturgy in English and Spanish, preach, and occasionally lead Bible studies, retreats and Sunday forums, the latter especially on developments in the Anglican Communion.

Dean & President

Professor of Mission & World Christianity

Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas, 2002-05

A detailed strategic plan, completion of an \$8.1 million capital campaign, renewed collaboration with dioceses of Province VII, a Hispanic ministry concentration, and intentional global engagement were highlights of this ministry. Five new faculty were called, and a comprehensive faculty handbook and new bylaws were developed and implemented. The first part of a major building

program was completed, and a long dormant endowment campaign to establish a preaching professorship was revived and later completed. I left this fulfilling ministry when the invitation from General enabled my wife, employed in New York City at the time, and me to shift from cross-country visiting to living together under one roof.

Rector, St. Peter's Church, Cambridge, Mass., 1991-2002

A declining inner-city parish became a growing and diverse congregation dynamically engaged in mission in its urban community and the wider world. Particular initiatives were Bible study and prayer groups; formation for lay preachers; newcomer outreach that grew the parish dramatically; formation conferences for lay leaders; Afterworks, an after-school ministry for inner-city children; Wordworks, English for Speakers of Other Languages; hands-on engagement with the Anglican Communion, and a capital campaign that preserved the fabric of the church building. A number of persons sponsored for ordination are now innovative clergy in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

Interim Ministries in Diocese of Massachusetts during Doctoral Study, 1986-91

Priest Associate, then Associate Rector, Christ Church, Cambridge, 1986-88

Priest Associate, All Saints', Belmont, 1988-90

Interim Rector, St. Chrysostom's, Quincy, 1990-91

Rector, Bonda Church District, Diocese of Manicaland, Zimbabwe, 1983-86

Missionary of the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church Healing and reconciliation were vital in the wake of the Liberation Struggle that brought majority rule to Zimbabwe in 1980. My responsibility grew from five to 12 congregations, which included several new and revived groups. Highlights included spiritual renewal using indigenous cultural resources; Bible study and prayer groups; lay empowerment for enhanced pastoral care; and a rigorous program of visiting the congregations regularly. The Bonda Lay Training Institute I founded annually strengthened about 60 local leaders, and it grew to become the diocesan lay education program.

Associate Rector & Interim Rector, Christ Church, Hamilton, Mass., 1979-83

Highlights of this suburban ministry included: youth work revitalized by summer missions in Appalachia; a Sunday School of 125 children energized by committed teachers and a dynamic curriculum; a systematic newcomer ministry that fueled major parish growth to a weekly attendance of 600; and a parish counseling center that was integrated into the life of the congregation. The Christ Church ministry laid the foundation for the preaching work that has been central for me since then and the lifelong habit of daily prayer and meditation that continues to sustain me in ministry.

RELATED MINISTRIES

SELECTED PARISH ENGAGEMENTS FOR PREACHING / TEACHING / PRESIDING

St. Paul's Riverside, Conn., February 2010
 St. Alban's Church, Washington, D.C., October 2009
 St. Matthew's Church, Enosburg Falls, Vt., August 2009
 Triduum at Christ Church, New Haven, Conn., April 2009
 St. John's Church, Beverly Farms, Mass., October 2008
 Grace Church, New York, N.Y., September 2008
 Cherry Grove Chapel, Fire Island, N.Y., June 2008
 St. Paul's Church, Riverside, Conn., May 2008
 Grace Church, Brooklyn Heights, N.Y., May 2008
 St. Ann's, Sayville, New York, May 2008
 Caribbean Ministries Annual Service, White Plains, April 2008
 St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis, Minn., February 2008
 Christ Church, Oyster Bay, N.Y., February 2008
 Christ Church, New Haven, Conn., 2007
 St. James, Fordham Manor, Bronx, N.Y., 2007
 Church of the Ascension, Greenpoint, Brooklyn, N.Y., 2007
 Church of the Ascension, New York, N.Y., 2007
 St. James' Church, New York, N.Y., 2007
 St. Luke's Church, Darien, Conn., 2006

GUIDANCE IN SPIRITUALITY

Chaplain, Bowen Conference at Kanuga Conference Center, 2010
theme: "Non-Violence: A Faithful Response"
 Keynote, annual synod of North/West Lower Michigan Synod of ELCA, 2009
theme: "Passionate Spirituality"
 Ecumenical retreat leader: Michigan Lutherans, Anglicans & Roman Catholics, 2008
theme: "Discerning an Ecumenical Shared Journey in the 21st Century"
 Clergy reflection day leader, Region 2, Diocese of New York, 2008
theme: "Immediacy & Expectation: Preaching the Year B Advent Lectons"
 Clergy conference leader, Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, 2008
theme: "Spirituality for Mission in a Time of Anglican Turmoil"
 Keynote, New York Diocese Episcopal Church Women Annual Conference, 2007
theme: "Qualities of Christian Leadership"
 Lenten clergy quiet day, Diocese of Central Gulf Coast, 2006
theme: "Leadership in Light of Lent"
 Holy Week clergy quiet day, Diocese of Southeast Florida, 2003
theme: "Meeting Jesus' Humanity"
 Clergy conference leader, Diocese of West Missouri, 2002
theme: "Spirituality and Mission in Parish Ministry"
 Retreat leader for parishes and religious orders in 80s and 90s
 Chaplain to Community of Holy Transfiguration, Zimbabwe, 1983-90

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

- Visiting Lecturer, Sino-Christian Studies Institute, Hong Kong, June 2009
short course on inter-faith dialogue in missiological perspective
- Lecturer in Preaching, Harvard Divinity School, 2000-2002
worked with Peter Gomes and five other lecturers in an introduction to preaching that stressed practice and coaching in small groups
- Visiting Professor of Anglican Studies, General Theological Seminary, 2000-2002
taught mission courses to which I commuted once a week
- Visiting Professor in Mission Studies, Gaul Theological College, Zimbabwe, 2000
taught a three-week course on African Initiatives in Mission in a small struggling seminary beset by diocesan politics and civil unrest
- Lecturer in Anglican, Global & Ecumenical Studies, EDS, 1990-97
collaborated in forming and teaching in an innovative seminary program

MINISTRY AND ORDINATION PREPARATION

- Field Education Supervisor for 20+ seminarians, 1979-83, 1992-2002
Students came from EDS, Harvard Divinity School and Gordon-Conwell. I participated in mentor groups at EDS and GCTS.
- Sponsor of 12+ postulants from Hamilton, Bonda, and Cambridge parishes
- Preacher at ordinations to diaconate and priesthood
- Chair, Lay Training Team, Diocese of Manicaland, 1984-86
- Secretary, Commission on Ministry, Diocese of Manicaland, 1985-86

STEWARDSHIP AND FUND-RAISING

- Chair, Stewardship Commission, Diocese of Massachusetts, 1997-2000
 Consultant and member of predecessor groups in diocese, 1987-95
was principal drafter of diocesan stewardship statement
- Trustee, Cambridge Community Foundation, Cambridge, 1993-2002
funded numerous inner-city urban outreach non-profits
- Member, Friends of the Cambridge Council on Aging, 1994-2002
raised funds for new Senior Center located in Central Square
- Member, Ad Hoc Budget Committee, Diocese of Massachusetts, 1991-92

DIOCESAN MISSION

- Co-chair, Massachusetts Volunteers for Mission Committee, 1993-2002
sent over 75 missionaries abroad during this period
- Chair, Massachusetts Scholarship for African Students in America, 1993-2002
hosted and helped fund students at the Episcopal Divinity School
- Member, Jubilee 2000 Task Force, Diocese of Massachusetts, 1997-2002
founded this group, which promoted Jubilee 2000 and 0.7% diocesan commitment
- Co-Chair, Commission on Wider Mission, Diocese of Massachusetts, 1990-93
coordinated diverse groups including college chaplaincies, refugee work, deaf ministry and international outreach
- Secretary, Companion Diocese Committee, Diocese of Manicaland, 1984-86
nurtured link between Massachusetts and Manicaland

GENERAL CONVENTION

Member, Executive Council, 2003-06
 Secretary, International Concerns Committee, 2004-06
 Standing Commission on World Mission: Secretary, 1997-2000; Chair, 2001-2003
led establishment of Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission
led development of vision document for 21st century mission
 Moderator, "Mission with a Hurting World: Conversation on World Mission," 2000
one of four convention-wide "conversations"
 Moderator, "Companions in Transformation" panel, 2003
 Deputy from Massachusetts, 1988, 91, 94, 97, 00; Deputation Co-Chair, 94, 97
 Member, World Mission Legislative Committee, 1991, 94, 97, 00; Vice-Chair, 94
drafter of numerous resolutions in this and other roles above
 Member, Nominating Committee for the Presiding Bishop, 1997-2000

CHURCH-WIDE MISSION

Keynoter, Mission Conference, Diocese of Western New York, May 2010
 Preacher & Chaplain, "Everyone Everywhere" triennial mission conference, 2008
 see ENS report: http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/81799_97717_ENG_HTML.htm
 Keynoter, Mission 2006, American Churches in Europe, Rastatt, Germany, 2005
 Presenter, Orientations for outgoing Episcopal & ecumenical missionaries, 1992-2005
 Researcher for Church of North India, Global Anglicanism Project, 2002-05

SELECTED RECENT CONFERENCES AND CONSULTATIONS

Consultant, Continuing Indaba, Anglican Communion Office, 2009-
 Lambeth Conference, Canterbury, UK, July-August 2008
 Colleges & Universities of Anglican Communion Triennial, Hong Kong, May 2008
 Consultation of Friends of the Diocese of Peshawar, NYC, May 2008
 Trinity Institute, "Religion & Violence: Untangling Roots of Conflict," NYC, 2008
 Luce Consultation on Inter-Faith Dimensions of Theological Education, NYC, 2007
 Consultation with Moderate Muslim Leaders in Egypt, Qatar & Oman, 2007
 Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme Consultation, Cambridge University, U.K., 2006

EDUCATION

Th.D. in Mission & New Testament, Boston University, 1995
 Episcopal Church Foundation Fellow, 1988-91
 Research Enablement Grant Recipient of Overseas Ministries Study Center: 1993-94
 Episcopal Divinity School, Procter Fellow, spring 1987
 Harvard Divinity School, Merrill Fellow, fall 1986
 General Theological Seminary, M.Div., 1979
 Ministerial Fellow of Fund for Theological Education, 1976-79
 Ecclesiastical History Prize, 1979
 Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 1976-78

Byington Research Fellow in New Testament, 1977-78
 Harvard College, A.B. *cum laude* in Philosophy, 1972
 Woodstock School (Mussoorie, India), High School Diploma, 1968

D.D., *honoris causa*, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, 2005
 D.D., *honoris causa*, General Theological Seminary, 2003

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ordained deacon, 1979, by Bp. John Coburn; priest, 1980, by Bp. Morris Arnold
 Canonical residence: Diocese of Texas since 2002, previously Diocese of Massachusetts

Honorary Canon Theologian, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Diocese of Central Pennsylvania
 Harrisburg, 2008–

Married 1974 to the Rev. Canon Jane Butterfield

Several full-time parish ministries, Diocese of Massachusetts, 1989-1999
 Mission Personnel Officer, Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society
 Episcopal Church Center, 1999-2005
 Priest-in-Charge, Grace Church, White Plains, N.Y., 2006-Present
 Honorary Canon, St. John's Cathedral, Diocese of Peshawar, Pakistan, 2008–
 Four grown children

Work experience before seminary:

Reporter, then Managing Editor
 Old Colony Memorial (weekly newspaper), Plymouth, Mass., 1973-76
 Staff Writer
 Publications Department, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., 1972-73

Childhood and youth were spent in India in a mission family in theological education

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

"Cherishing the personal – eternally. Treasuring the material – consistently.
 Anticipating renewal – confidently." Three reflections on Christ's "Second
 Coming," for an Advent anthology of meditations. Cincinnati: Forward
 Movement, December 2010.

Going Global with God: Congregations Discover Companions in a World of Difference.
 New York: Church Publishing, fall 2010.

"Mission is Ministry in the Dimension of Difference: A Definition for the 21st Century."
 Forthcoming, *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, summer 2010.

"Switzerland's Minaret Ban: Identity and Mission in a Religious and Cultural Meeting Point." *The Meeting Point*. January 2010.

"Telling Stories: The Centrality of Narrative for Encounter among Christians and the Many Religions." *The Meeting Point*. December 2009.

"Real Outreach Backed Up Mission Rhetoric at 76th General Convention." *The Center Aisle*. 16 July 2009.

Alert for Signs: Seeing and Praying through Advent. Cincinnati: Forward Movement, 2007.

"Anglican Communion Crisis: Complex in Politics and Causes." *Episcopal New Yorker* 83, 4 (July-August 2007): 9-10. [Shared in Episcopal Communicators' 2008 Polly Bond award: Award of Excellence in Editorial Writing for Series on a Single Topic in diocesan newspapers over circulation of 12,000.]

[Co-author.] *The Vitality and Promise of Being Anglican*, with Sathianathan Clarke, Donald E. Miller, William L. Sachs, Maurice J. Seaton, and Jenny Plane Te Paa. New York: Global Anglicanism Project/Episcopal Church Foundation, 2005.

"Jesus' Resurrection is a Mystery that Makes Sense." *Austin American-Statesman*, 27 March 2005.

"Leader as Catalyst: Eleven Principles of Christian Leadership." In *The Vestry Resource Guide*. New York: Episcopal Church Foundation, 2004.

"Leaders are Catalysts in a Conflicted Time." *Vestry Papers* (January/February 2004): 1-2.

[Editor.] *Companions in Transformation: The Episcopal Church's World Mission in a New Century*. Vision Statement presented by the Standing Commission on World Mission to the 2003 General Convention. Introduction by Titus Presler. Harrisburg: Morehouse Publishing, 2003.

Horizons of Mission. Vol. 11 in *The New Church's Teaching Series*. Boston: Cowley, 2001.