

The Reverend Canon Dr. Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew

Call: *To be a faithful leader who listens to, discerns with, and facilitates the joyful transformation of God's people.*

Inclusive leader who empowers others. Cultivates a shared vision and implements strategy. Practices inviting, welcoming, and including others as seekers and followers of Jesus. Works collaboratively with clergy and lay leaders. Creates and evaluates systems and processes. Organized and effective administrator. Builds community and addresses conflict. Engages in racial justice work. Gifts in preaching, teaching, and liturgy. Approachable and compassionate pastor.

Church Leadership

- Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island August 2019 to present
Chief of Staff, assisting the Bishop with the management, oversight, and operations of the Diocese, and in the support of clergy and congregations
- Bishop's Executive Staff- Working collaboratively with the Bishop and Chief Financial Officer in visioning, mission development, strategy, and implementation of diocesan ministries, creation and evaluation of systems and processes, and support of churches, clergy, and lay leadership
- Diocesan Council- Diocesan staff resource person, workday designer and facilitator
- Diocesan Board member- Diocese of Central New York 2012-2019
- Diocesan Continuing Collaboration Team and Diocesan Visioning Team, Diocese of Central New York 2018-2019
- Diocesan Council member- Diocese of Ohio 2007-2010
- Diocesan Convention 2021- Resolution collaborator, writer, and presenter; Convention Eucharist preacher
- Committee on Canons- Revising Diocesan Canons with the Chancellor and members
- Commission on Ministry- Diocesan coordinator and resource person, mentoring new clergy
- Chaired Commission on Ministry, Diocese of Central New York 2012-2019
- Chaired Commission on Ministry revision of ordination process for the priesthood 2017 and the diaconate 2018, Diocese of Central New York
- Wisdom Circle Discernment Team- Facilitated discernment for people pondering a call to lay or ordained ministry, Diocese of Central New York 2010-2012
- Commission on Finance- Chaired Search Committee for Chief Financial Officer, member of the Grants and Loans committee, serving as diocesan staff resource
- Compensation and Benefits- Serving as diocesan staff resource
- Safe Church- Diocesan staff resource person
- Title IV- Diocesan Case Manager for clergy misconduct complaints, Reference Panel staff person, participant in Province One Title IV training and development events
- COVID- Coordinated diocesan response, created daily updates and re-opening documents
- General Convention 2018 and 2015- Deputy, Diocese of Central New York
- General Convention 2018- Served on the Christian Formation and Discipleship Committee, Chaired subcommittee
- Fayetteville-Manlius Food Pantry- Board of Directors Manlius, NY 2012-2019
- East Area Community Support Network- Steering Committee member Manlius, NY 2017-2019

Transition Ministry and Congregational Development

- Transition Ministry Officer for the Diocese of Rhode Island- Working with clergy and congregations to discern calls to serve together, engaging congregations in workshops on parish history and creating a shared narrative, guiding and empowering vestries and search committees, equipping clergy colleagues in search processes, providing resources and answering questions to craft letters of agreement
- Participating in the Transition Ministry Conference- Interacting collegially with Transition Ministry Officers in 40 dioceses to facilitate the discernment process for clergy and churches, meeting both in person and online
- Participating in the Episcopal Church Transition Ministry Gathering- Meeting with Transition Ministry Officers throughout the Episcopal Church at Camp Allen, TX March 2022
- Experience and understanding of differing size parishes from serving as Rector and Associate Rector with Average Sunday Attendance ranging from 75-750 in urban, suburban, and rural congregations
- Congregational Development Commission- Serving as diocesan staff liaison, providing resources, cultivating capacity and leadership skills, responding to needs of churches and ministries August 2019 to present
- Congregational Development Team, Diocese of Central New York 2018-2019
- Congregational Development Commission, Diocese of Ohio 2006-2010
- College for Congregational Development- Completed intensive training and received certificate 2019, completed service as a Trainer Intern 2021, serving as a Trainer 2022. Invited and obtained funding for congregational teams from the Diocese of Rhode Island to attend in 2021 and 2022
- Leading workshops and vestry retreats on congregational vitality, core values, goal setting, conflict resolution, and mutual ministry reviews; addressing congregational concerns
- Participating in Tuesdays at Two- Conversation, skill building, and resource sharing led by The Rev. Thomas Brackett, Episcopal Church Missioner for Church Planting, Ministry Redevelopment, and Fresh Expressions of Church 2020 to present
- *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Time*- Completed coursework led by author the Rev. Susan Beaumont August 2020, coordinated webinar series for the Diocese of Rhode Island by Rev. Beaumont January 2021
- Participated in Learning Communities Initiative to develop lay leadership in prayer, skill building, action and reflection, within the parish and throughout the diocese, Diocese of Central New York 2017-2019
- Trained in the Art of Hosting by The Rev. Thomas Brackett, Episcopal Church Missioner 2014
- Trained in Soldier's Heart, a program to welcome veterans and their families 2014
- Natural Church Development coach and member of Diocesan Health Team, Diocese of Ohio 2007-2010
- Trained in applying Family Systems Theory to congregations by the late Rabbi Edwin Friedman in his Post-Graduate Seminar

Racial Justice and Reconciliation

- Serving as Interim Director, Center for Reconciliation, The Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, April 2021 to present

- Served as Diocesan staff liaison to the Center for Reconciliation, The Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, August 2019 to April 2021
- Participating in the Mayor's African American Ambassador Group and the Truth Telling and Reconciliation subgroup Providence RI June 2020
- Completed *Becoming Beloved Community Racial Reconciliation and Anti-Racism Training* through Bexley Seabury Seminary June 2021
- Completed *Gracious Leaders: Becoming Beloved Community Facilitators Training* through Bexley Seabury Seminary and the Kaleidoscope Institute February 2021
- Completed the *Justice Pilgrimage* hosted virtually by the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing in the Diocese of Atlanta May 2020
- Co-founded and Chaired Diocesan Anti-Racism Team, The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York 2013-2019

Employment History

Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, August 2019- present

Rector, Christ Church, Manlius, NY, February 2010-July 2019

Associate Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Akron OH, May 2006-January 2010

Associate Rector, New Life Episcopal Church, Uniontown OH, September 2005-April 2006

Associate Rector, St. James' Episcopal Church, Dexter MI, January 2000-August 2005

Priest Associate, Church of the Epiphany, Atlanta, GA

Associate Rector, Holy Trinity Parish, Decatur GA

Associate Rector, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, San Pedro, CA

Deacon in Training, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, GA

Education

Doctor of Ministry in Church Leadership and Community Witness Emory University, Atlanta GA May 2017

Master of Theology *magna cum laude* Emory University, Atlanta GA 1994

Master of Divinity Yale Divinity School, New Haven CT 1988

Bachelor of Arts *summa cum laude* Temple University PA 1983