

The Reverend Beth J. Fain

PROFILE

My first career serving in a variety of Special Education settings (classroom, itinerant, and home-based) teaching, evaluating, and planning for special needs children and their families paired with an active lay ministry including leadership in pastoral care and outreach, Christian Formation, and Stephen Ministry, was foundational to my ministry as a priest serving as a rector, convocational dean, member of the Commission on Ministry, Examining Chaplain, and as the chair of the committee visioning, planning and bringing into active service the ministry of the deacon in the Diocese of Texas.

EXPERIENCE

Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Cypress, Texas 1997--present

Called to a parish in conflict and with huge debt, we are now a healthy, vibrant, program-sized suburban parish which the Diocese uses as a center for mentoring new clergy and seminarians.

Dean, San Jacinto Convocation, Diocese of Texas 2008--present; 2000--2002

Convene monthly meetings of clergy in one of ten geographical areas; serve as liaison with Bishop and convocational clergy; voice (no vote) on Diocesan Executive Board.

Mission New Orleans 2007--current

Went with parish group to assist with tearing down damaged houses; met, prayed, and worshipped with those still ravaged by Katrina; encouraged and supported other parish trips to other Gulf areas, now the Texas Gulf Coast post-Ike.

Iona School for Ministry, Episcopal Diocese of Texas 2004--2008

Developed curriculum for the Diocese's new school for the preparation of deacons and bi-vocational priests; supervised field work and taught several classes for deacons.

Chair, Committee for the Diaconate, Episcopal Diocese of Texas 2003--2008

Visioned, planned, communicated, and implemented the ministry of the [permanent] diaconate in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

Examining Chaplain, Episcopal Diocese of Texas 1995--2003

One of five members of clergy committee evaluating canonical proficiency of candidates for the priesthood; specialty areas: Holy Scripture and National Canons.

Commission on Ministry, Episcopal Diocese of Texas 1994--present

Serve as one of eighteen committee members entrusted with the discernment of seminary-prepared candidates for the priesthood; assisted with beginning a program for locally prepared priests; chair of subcommittee which rewrote discernment manual for aspirants; chair of committee since 2008.

Mission Ukraine 1993

Went with my father's church as the only non-Baptist to newly independent Ukraine for a two week mission; served on a team with him, finding a way to share a woman's perspective during worship in a patriarchal culture and acted as a liaison with those of the Orthodox faith.

Summer Camp Director, Camp Allen, Diocese of Texas 1993--1995

Planned and led week-long summer camp sessions for elementary age children; trained and supervised high school age counselors.