



›A visit with our new president Micah Jackson  
›Who decides what in the Anglican Communion?  
›What does the Lord require in these traumatic times?

# Bexley Seabury

SUMMER 2018 VOL. 6: ISSUE N° 1

## NO LITTLE PLANS





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> **On the cover:** Lay and clergy leaders learning new insights and new tools inspired by best practices from successful nonprofit organizations at last June's Bexley Seabury Leadership Institute at the Kellogg School.

> **On this page:** A glimpse of the May 18, 2018 Commencement Eucharist at St. Paul and the Redeemer Episcopal Church. Visit [bexleyseabury.edu/commencement-2018](http://bexleyseabury.edu/commencement-2018) to view the service online.





*Bexley Seabury Board Chair Bishop Klusmeyer invited then President-Elect Micah Jackson to join him in the recessional procession at the May 18, 2018 Commencement Eucharist.*

**“Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men’s blood and probably will not themselves be realized.”**

—Daniel Burnham

Dear Friends,

Chicagoans are indebted to architect Daniel Burnham and his co-author Edward H. Bennett for their 1909 “Plan of Chicago.” Among other things, the plan set out the city’s magnificent system of parks, including the expansive and accessible network of green space, beaches, and harbor facilities along Lake Michigan. At the time, only one-quarter of the lakefront was open to all. “The Lake front by right belongs to the people,” wrote Burnham and Bennett in the Plan. “It affords their one great unobstructed view, stretching away to the horizon, where water and clouds seem to meet... Not a foot of its shores should be appropriated by individuals to the exclusion of the people.” Their inclusive and far-reaching vision has endured over a century of change.

Burnham’s signature phrase, “Make no little plans,” seems a good touchstone for our community as Bexley Seabury lives further into our commitment to be an open and inclusive seminary beyond walls. Our vision stretches toward a new horizon where the mission of the church and the needs of all those who are called to lead it and share in its mission seem to meet. With your prayers, encouragement, and financial support, we are achieving more of the vision that our imaginative and dedicated Board of Directors charted in their 2015 strategic plan.

Increasing numbers of students are choosing to pursue their baptismal calls to ministry at Bexley Seabury. We will begin the 2018–2019 academic year with more than 30 MDiv and 35 DMin students from 15 different states. Why do they come?

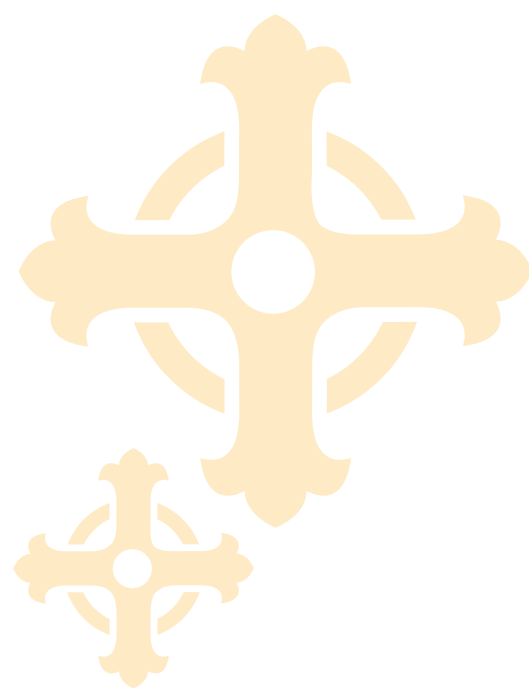
- › Our flexible, non-residential model of theological education provides MDiv and DMin degree-seeking students with a robust curriculum of full- or part-time study consisting of a combination of on-campus, hybrid, and online courses. No one has to leave their homes and families and professional obligations to study with us.
- › Our students are enriched by a regular schedule of community worship when they are here, and by continuous spiritual and ministerial formation when they are not. We are amazed at the degree to which our dispersed students have been able to form and maintain a cohesive community of learning and mutual support.
- › Our programs emphasize contextual learning and formation beyond the real and virtual walls of the seminary, in and with students’ local clergy and congregations and in other ministerial settings.
- › We continue to welcome non-degree learners and others who wish to deepen their understanding of the Christian and Anglican/Episcopal traditions or to enhance their ministerial skills. Most of our courses and our MDiv program are open and available to all.

In order to serve our growing student body, we are expanding our course offerings and increasing our faculty next year. Under the capable and energetic leadership of our new president, the Rev. Dr. Micah Jackson, with your continued support, and with God’s help, we will continue to deliver on our mission to prepare leaders for the 21st-century church. Thank you for all the ways you help us equip lay and clergy leaders for bold inquiry in service of the Gospel and active engagement in congregational and community life.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Michie Klusmeyer".

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer  
Chair, Bexley Seabury Board of Directors



## Giving thanks

Generous gifts from faithful and far-sighted supporters



Finance Director Robert Doak has announced that Bexley Seabury has received three substantial gifts since late summer 2017. Every gift helps us equip lay and ordained leaders for ministry.

- › A gift of \$25,000 was received from the estate of **Robert Bertheau** (Seabury-Western '92).
- › A gift of \$281,000, proceeds of a life insurance policy, was received from former Bexley Hall and Bexley Seabury board member/trustee **Carl Gerdau**, who died May 27, 2017, at age 84. Gerdau served for a decade as canon to the presiding bishop under the Most Rev. Frank Griswold and the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori.
- › Proceeds from a Church Life insurance policy for \$15,500 were received from the estate of **Charles Wood, Jr.** (Seabury-Western '65).

## Bexley Seabury welcomes alumnus as its new president

A visit with the Rev. Dr. Micah Jackson



*Micah T.J. Jackson (Seabury-Western '04) joined Bexley Seabury as president on June 1, 2018.*

Bexley Seabury ended the 2017–2018 fiscal year on a high note, welcoming alumnus and native Chicagoan the Rev. Dr. Micah T.J. Jackson as president. Appointed by the Board of Directors at its May 17, 2018 meeting, Jackson attended the 2018 Commencement Eucharist the following day at St. Paul and the Redeemer Episcopal Church, his former home parish, which he has now rejoined. His first day in his new position was June 1.

### COMING FULL CIRCLE

Jackson has been part of four seminary communities, including Seabury-Western where, in 2004, he earned a Masters in Theological Studies. He also served on staff at Seabury-Western 2004–2005, as associate dean for academic operations and registrar.

For the last 10 years Jackson has been on the faculty at Seminary of the Southwest, in Austin, Texas, most recently as the Bishop John Elbridge Hines Associate Professor of Preaching. He also served five years as Southwest's Dean of Community Life and two-and-a-half years as director of the seminary's Comprehensive Wellness for Ministry program.

Widely known as a prominent preacher, Jackson has been actively engaged with the Episcopal Preaching Foundation (EPF) since 2008. He has served on the EPF board of trustees and currently serves on its program committee. Author of numerous reviews and commentaries, Jackson's monograph, *“Preaching Face to Face: An Invitation to Conversational Preaching,”* is forthcoming from Church Publishing.

### LEARNING FROM MANY FAITH TRADITIONS

From childhood onward, Jackson has learned from multiple faith traditions. Raised in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) and grandson of an American Baptist pastor, Jackson's family life, friends, and theological education all reflect a diverse mix of belief communities.

## SPECIAL REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT JACKSON

### Bexley Seabury

Dear Bexley Seabury Alums and Supporters,

What a gift to return to my seminary community and have an opportunity to contribute to its next phase of service for the church! I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues on staff and on the faculty and with all of you in realizing Bexley Seabury's potential as a fully alive Gospel community. Two requests:

**1:** Send me an email or give me a call—I'm not kidding—and tell me what matters to you. *What is it about Bexley Seabury that is so core that we should never change it? What are some things that we should be changing? What are you afraid I'll do? What are you afraid I won't do?*  
**mjackson@bexleyseabury.edu | 773-380-6780 or 800-275-8235**

**2:** Contribute to the annual fund because that's how we're going to continue our tradition of excellence in forming leaders for the church. Please give what you can, when you can. You can make an online gift at **bexleyseabury.edu/help-us-form-leaders** or contact Susan Quigley.  
**squigley@bexleyseabury.edu | 773-380-6785**

I look forward to learning from and ministering with you.

God's peace always,



Micah

"I was brought up in one church but I knew that people who loved me had different beliefs," Jackson said. "I never grew up in an environment in which I was encouraged to make us-and-them distinctions."

Jackson said he always considered himself a person of faith. He preached his first sermon at age 12 at the invitation of his pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Park Forest, Ill. That experience led to a series of conversations about what a life in ministry might require. Jackson said he revisited those discussions through high school but eventually put them aside.

More than a decade later, after he had graduated college and had been working several years in the business world, Jackson had a "fateful meeting"

with a theology professor from Chicago's Meadville-Lombard Theological School, who suggested he should consider going to seminary.

"I ended up doing a Master of Divinity at Meadville-Lombard...It was there that I was able to see that while the roots of my faith were planted by the ELCA, I was really much more comfortable and more in tune with the Episcopal Church."

Sponsored by St. Paul and the Redeemer as a candidate for the priesthood, Jackson enrolled at Seabury-Western, in the MTS program. Like the curriculum at Meadville-Lombard, Seabury-Western's MTS studies were linked to the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS). Again, Jackson found the opportunity to learn

alongside seminarians of differing traditions, which enriched and affirmed his choice of the Episcopal Church.

Following his time at Seabury-Western, Jackson went on to earn a PhD in homiletics at Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif., another intentionally diverse community. There, Jackson focused on studying pragmatic linguistics, in particular the work of Herbert Paul Grice. Jackson summed up his doctoral dissertation as an analysis of how hearers make sense of first person pronouns (I and We) in sermons.

"Being part of different seminary communities, each ecumenical and questioning and sometimes radically so, was really a tremendous gift," Jackson said. "You can't use any of your religious shorthand that you might be really comfortable with...If you say, well, this is because of the incarnation, someone in class is going to say, but what do you mean by that and you'd better have an answer!"

#### INVITING PARTICIPATION

As to the range of skill sets he might need to tap to fulfill his responsibilities as seminary president, Jackson suggested he would be right at home.

"I'm a preacher and so I'm a storyteller. I'll be telling the story of Bexley Seabury and talking about the correspondence between our original mission and how we are living it now—inviting people to be a part of it, whether as students or donors, or continuing to be a part of the seminary as alums."

Why should prospective students consider Bexley Seabury? As Jackson sees it, because of two important commitments that the seminary has been delivering on for more than 150 years: academic excellence and the idea that the best formation for ministry happens in the place you will serve.

"Our faculty is really, really good, and our programs are strong," Jackson said. "And there are lots of things about how to love people that are universal, but also lots of them that are context-dependent... Now, through the gift of the internet and technology, we are able to project seminary education into the places where people are serving."

One of the key strengths of Bexley



Seabury's approach to contextual learning, Jackson said, is its continual weaving of praxis into the learning process. "Students take the theological concepts that they learn in the classroom and apply them immediately to the lives of the people that they are living and working among," he said.

### STAYING WELL

Jackson knows the importance of self-care, particularly for church ministers and anyone in the helping professions. His own self-care regimen includes exercising his intellect and imagination.

"I read widely, about 50 books a year, both fiction and nonfiction. I'm reading a lot about leadership transition as you might imagine. On the fiction side, I've been reading the books in the Hogarth Press Shakespeare series. I just finished Edward St. Aubyn on King Lear, which was really, really good. I also like science fiction and history."

Jackson is also interested in physical exercise, some quite vigorous.

"I like to get to the gym every day. I also like to get outside and do some obstacle course racing or rucking, which is walking or exercising while wearing a weighted backpack...Almost nobody asks me complicated theological questions when we're rucking, so it's a rest for me even though it's physically demanding."

### COMING HOME

Among the benefits of returning to Chicago, Jackson highlighted the opportunity to visit museums and summer neighborhood festivals. He hopes his wife, Laura, will be able to continue her private counseling practice, which is focused on assisting people, primarily college-age women, experiencing trauma. The Jacksons' 11-year-old son, Benjamin, was only 18-months-old when the family moved from Hyde Park to Berkeley, so he has a whole city to discover and all four seasons to experience.

"Our son Benjamin is super-excited about coming to a place that has snow in the winter and a beach in the summer," Jackson said. "He thinks that's the greatest, and he's not wrong." ❖

## WANTED: St. Marina Scholars

### Three MDiv scholarships to be awarded

Through the generosity of two anonymous donors, last spring Bexley Seabury received a \$279,000 grant to fully fund three-year scholarships for three incoming St. Marina Scholars—Master of Divinity students who represent the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community and who are committed to pursuing justice ministry in the Episcopal Church. The grant provided for the awarding of one scholarship for academic years 2018–2019 through 2020–2021.

Bexley Seabury St. Marina Scholars are named for an eighth-century woman ascetic who assumed a masculine identity as Brother Marinus in order to join an abbey. Her sex was discovered upon her death. She was later canonized as St. Marina and is venerated by

Syrian, Albanian, Coptic, and Maronite Christians.

If you are a St. Marina Scholar candidate or know someone who may be, please contact Jaime Briceño ([jbriceno@bexleyseabury.edu](mailto:jbriceno@bexleyseabury.edu) | 773-380-7045). ❖



*Saint Marina the Monk being presented to the monastery, 14th century depiction.*

## DMin students beginning studies June 2018

In June, Bexley Seabury welcomed four new students to the Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Development program. The program includes collaborative study in small groups, lecture and discussion, online reflection throughout the year with a core group, case studies, a congregational study, and a thesis. Three of the students are introduced here through a brief bio and a prayer they composed to inaugurate their studies.



**The Rev. Brendan Barnicle** is rector at St. Stephen's Episcopal Parish, Portland, Ore. Located in one of Portland's lowest-income neighborhoods, St. Stephen's distributes more than 150,000 meals per year and is committed to radical welcome.

❖ *Holy One, guide us with patience, persistence, and love.* ❖



**The Rev. Kristofer Lindh-Payne** is rector and lead organizer of Epiphany Church & Community Center, Baltimore, Md. Epiphany's ministries focus on affordable housing, homeless prevention, family stability, and community development.

❖ *God of abundance, make your love known through our lives.* ❖



**The Rev. Paul Rajan** serves as priest for Church of South India Congregations in the eastern tristate region of N.Y., N.J., and Conn., and is CEO of InterChristian Initiatives, which offers pastoral education and conducts research on congregational vitality.

❖ *Help me live the Gospel and affect the next generation.* ❖



# Meet Eileen Shanley-Roberts

## Growing MDiv enrollment sparks addition to faculty

In response to continued growth in MDiv enrollment, in February Bexley Seabury welcomed the Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts as assistant director of formation and contextual learning and lecturer in practical theology.

"I am excited to add my experience and training to Bexley Seabury's innovative approach to forming excellent practitioners for the church who will have the depth of knowledge to be recognized as learned clergy and the wisdom and skills to apply that knowledge to real life ministries," Shanley-Roberts said.

Shanley-Roberts earned an MDiv at Episcopal Divinity School. She holds a BA in anthropology and a master's degree in medieval studies from the University of Notre Dame where she has completed doctoral course work in early and later medieval philosophy and manuscript studies. She is now working to complete her thesis and receive a DMin in Congregational Development at Bexley Seabury.

The move to Bexley Seabury marks Shanley-Roberts' return to academia after 15 years in parish ministry, 11 as rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Waukegan, Ill. Her contributions to the life of the Diocese of Chicago include serving four years on diocesan council and six years as dean of the Waukegan Deanery. Shanley-Roberts has also been active in faith-based community

organizing. Since 2007 she has served on the steering team of Lake County United, which has successfully advocated for affordable and supportive housing and college readiness programs. She is co-chair of Clean Power Lake County, an environmental justice campaign supported by the Sierra Club.

Shanley-Roberts also brings four years' experience in campus ministry, at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Prior to ordained ministry, Shanley-Roberts taught theology and Latin and developed curricula at Marian High School in Mishawaka, Ind.

Understanding the complexity of cultural influences that shape our lives has been a strong theme for Shanley-Roberts.

"An interdisciplinary approach to academic and theological inquiry and questions around intersectionality has governed my education and ministry," she said. "I am intensely curious about how things and people relate to each other in different contexts." ✨



# Faculty News

Recent accomplishments and service offered  
to the seminary and the church



*Bexley Seabury faculty assembled at the 2018 Commencement Eucharist. L-R row 1: KyungJa (KJ) Oh, Suzann Holding, Eileen Shanley-Roberts, Ellen Wondra; row 2: John Dally, Therese DeLisio, Milner Seifert, Jason Fout.*

**John Addison Dally**, professor emeritus of theology and culture, retired June 30, 2018. He reflects on his 23 years with Seabury-Western and Bexley Seabury on pages 12-15.

**Therese DeLisio**, academic dean and associate professor of theology and liturgy, continued to serve as acting president following President Emeritus Roger Ferlo's retirement last June until the arrival of President Micah Jackson on June 1, 2018. She also continued to teach Anglican Liturgy and Music with Milner Seifert. DeLisio attended the annual meeting of the North American Academy of Liturgy, participated in the academy's Liturgy and Ecology seminar, and co-chaired its Anglican Liturgy Colloquium. Her review of Maude Barlow's book, *Blue Future*, was published in the Winter 2018 *Anglican Theology Review* special issue devoted to the topic of water justice.

**Jason A. Fout** (Seabury-Western '01), associate professor of Anglican theology, consulted on a proposed church plant in Buffalo, N.Y., and hosted online prep sessions for the 2018 General Ordination Exams. He addressed the February 2018 "Wisdom Calling" theological education conference in a presentation entitled "Seminary From Home: The Distance Learning Model." With Lynn Bowers, Fout represented Bexley Seabury at the 2018 Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes conference. He taught a class on the pastoral offices for the Episcopal Church in Minnesota in March, and in April attended the Society for the Study of Theology annual meeting in Nottingham, UK. Fout received a Conant Grant to convene Chicago-area practitioners of Scriptural Reasoning. An essay that he wrote on religion and violence will be published in a forthcoming anthology from Routledge.





*Suzann Holding and Ellen Wondra congratulate faculty colleague KyungJa (KJ) Oh, having just received her doctoral degree.*

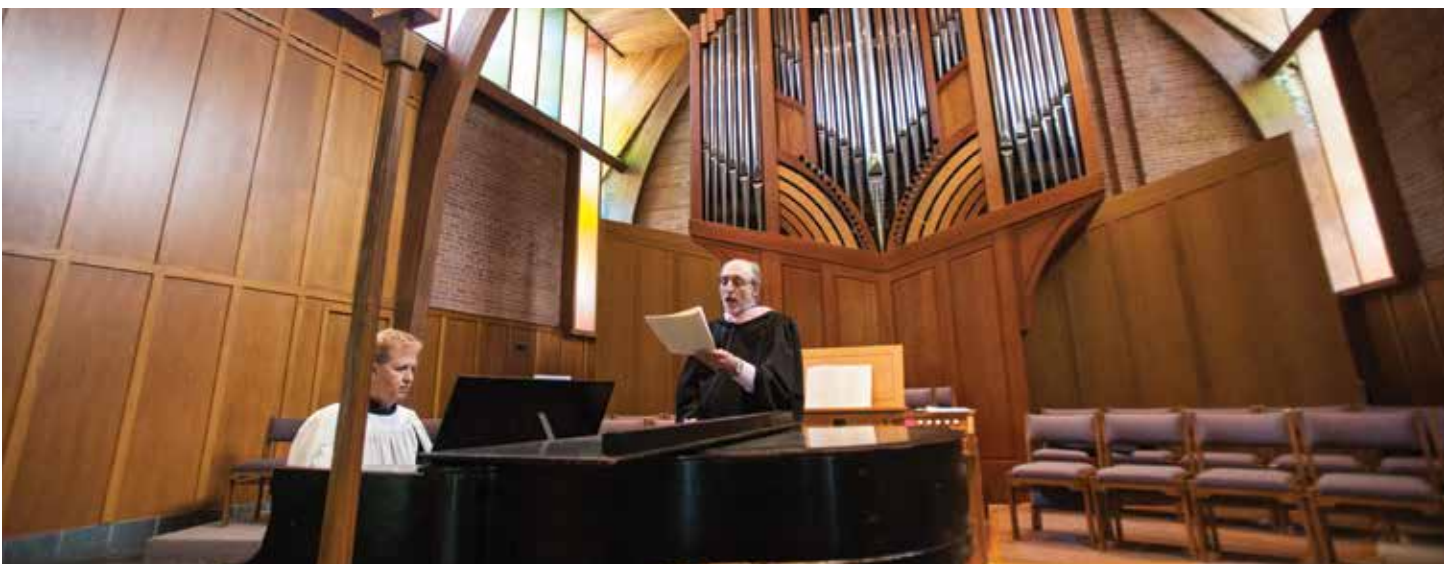
**Suzann Holding** (Seabury-Western '99), director of lifelong theological education and doctor of ministry program and lecturer in practical theology serves the Diocese of Chicago as a member of the Commission on Ministry and by overseeing formation for postulants. In April and May Holding attended the "Festival of Faith and Writing" conference at Calvin College; "Balm in Gilead: A Theological Dialogue" with Marilynne Robinson at which former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams spoke; and the Festival of Homiletics in Washington, D.C. Holding is doing some congregational consulting with local congregations and has been trained as a Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Interpreter.

**KyungJa (KJ) Oh** (Seabury-Western '00, Bexley Seabury '18), director of formation and contextual learning and the most recent graduate of Bexley Seabury's DMin in Congregational Development program (see page 24), was named assistant professor of practical theology. She is preparing to welcome the third MDiv cohort, currently trending toward 19 students, since the revamped program was introduced in 2016. Oh managed the search for a new synchronous, distance-learning environment for Bexley Seabury students, which process culminated in the adoption of the Zoom platform.

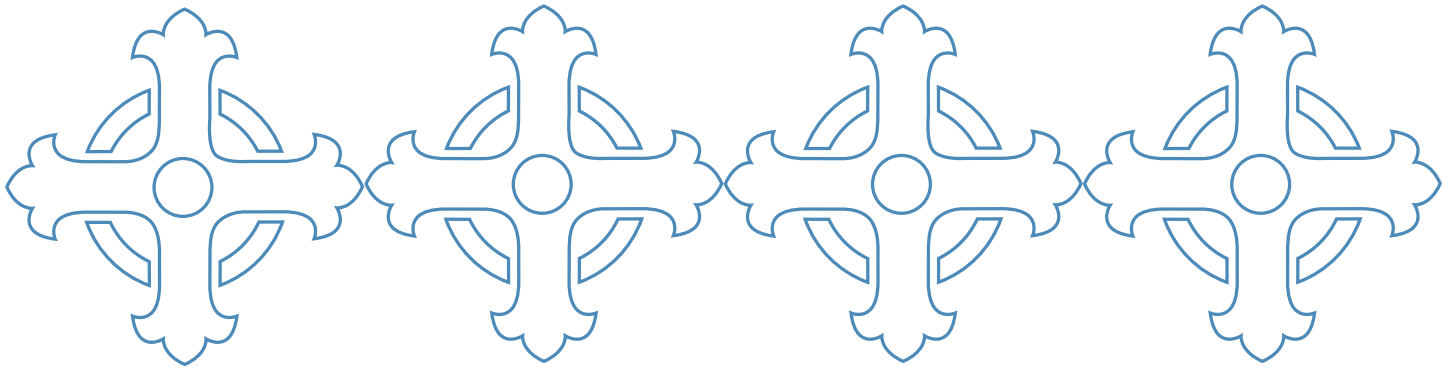
**Milner Seifert**, lecturer in liturgy and music, helped plan and participated in "Centered in Song," a one-day local event of The Center for Congregational Song, the resource arm of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. The February event was held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge, Ill. While visiting family in New Zealand, Seifert and his spouse attended Easter Sunday service at St. Matthew-in-the-City, Auckland, where the Rev. Helen Jacobi, an alumna of Bexley Seabury's DMin in Preaching program, is vicar. Seifert began a three-year term on the vestry at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Evanston, Ill.

**Eileen Shanley-Roberts**, assistant director of formation and contextual learning and lecturer in practical theology, joined the Bexley Seabury faculty in February 2018 (see page 7). With KJ Oh, she teaches Bexley Seabury's MDiv program in the classroom, online, and as a part of students' extended learning communities at field education sites. She also advises students and develops courses and assessment tools. Shanley-Roberts brings 15 years' experience in parish ministry, most recently as rector of Christ Church Waukegan, Ill., and four years' experience in campus ministry as well as substantial church and community service.

**Ellen K. Wondra**, research professor emerita of theology and ethics, has completed her fourth book, *Questioning Authority* (more on pages 10-11). She serves on the World Council of Churches Commission on Faith and Order, which met most recently in Pretoria, South Africa. She also participated in WCC working group meetings in Bossey, Switzerland, and Pasadena, Calif. In October she was a panelist at Loyola University's "Reformation and the Spirit of Christian Unity" conference and addressed the personal joys and costs of participating in ecumenical dialogue. ✨



*Milner Seifert and Organist Christian Clough, director of music at St. Paul and the Redeemer Episcopal Church, Chicago, pictured at the May 18, 2018 Commencement Eucharist.*



# Who decides what in the Anglican Communion, and how?

A conversation with Ellen K. Wondra about her new book



*Ellen K. Wondra is research professor emerita of theology and ethics at Bexley Seabury. "Questioning Authority: The Theology and Practice of Authority in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion" is her fourth book.*

The Anglican Communion is a constellation of 39 self-governing national or regional churches around the world (including the Episcopal Church), held together by “bonds of affection.” How does such an institution make decisions and respond to disagreements? Ellen K. Wondra, Bexley Seabury research professor emerita of theology and ethics, offers her recommendations in *Questioning Authority: The Theology and Practice of Authority in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion*.

**The title of your book, “Questioning Authority...” sounds confrontational. Is it?**

Yes, but in a good way. I want to help lay and ordained church leaders think more clearly about how they understand and use authority. We all have a role to play. Authority is fundamentally a matter of relationships rather than rules. When we see authority as a matter of relational mutuality rather than formalized structures, I think we can begin to bridge differences in the Episcopal Church and in the Anglican Communion.

**Who in particular do you want to better understand and use authority?**

Everyone! Everyone in the Church has some authority, and no one has it all. We’re given authority with our baptism. In baptism, we’re marked as Christ’s own forever. From that point on, we belong to the Church, and we belong to each other—irrevocably. With baptism comes both a call and a commission to do the work of the Church: to engage in mission; to worship; to care for others in meaningful ways.

**Do you think people underestimate or overestimate their responsibility to offer leadership and exercise authority in the Church?**

Both. And people not only misunderstand their own responsibilities, but others’ as well. Authority in the church is there to serve the church’s ministry and mission. Authority is not an end in itself; it is the means to more important ends. I’ve seen

many instances where people who have a lot of responsibility are not viewed as having the authority they need to do what they are expected to do. Conversely, some people are viewed as having more authority than they, in fact, have. On top of that, questions like “Who has authority over what?” are answered very differently in different parts of the Church. That’s why we need more conversation about—and more participation in—decision-making.

**How do you see the challenge and promise of the Church?**

The Anglican Church thinks of itself as a communion, which presumes mutual participation among people who are formed by very different cultural norms. That means the Church has to figure out how to unify people who think and act faithfully in ways that are widely diverse. Understanding authority in multi-faceted and flexible ways can make our life together richer. When we see authority as relational rather than juridical, we have more room for flexibility and graciousness.

**What are the earmarks of relational authority?**

Listening to lots of different voices before making decisions. Seeing decisions and actions as provisional and subject to evaluation and reformation. Maintaining flexibility in order to make space for others. Relational authority is responsive, generous, and open to receiving from others. It’s about strengthening connections in as many ways as possible.

**Do you think the Church is ready to exercise power in a fundamentally relational way?**

Yes and no. Most leaders can tolerate and even embrace diversity up to a point, often the point at which they themselves have to change. Change always involves loss, of course. But that loss is often accompanied by the opening up of new possibilities. If we can learn to live with change in this highly ambiguous way, we may be able to be less fearful and defensive. That would help us see each

other more readily as sisters and brothers in Christ.

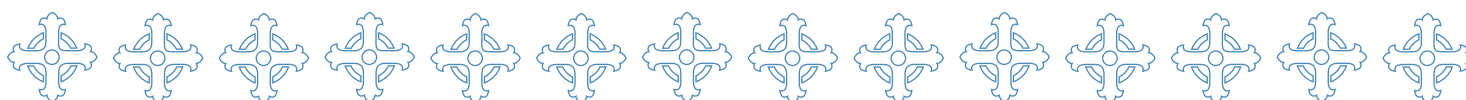
**As we’re speaking, the communion has placed some limits on the participation of three members—the Episcopal Church, Anglican Church of Canada, and Scottish Episcopal Church—because they bless same-sex unions. What is your view on these churches having accepted the primates’ imposition of “consequences for our relationships”?**

First, accepting the consequences has been informal: there is no official, constitutional, binding mechanism that can either levy or accept consequences. And that fact, that we can handle things informally or relationally, is a great gift of the Church. Second, this informal process allows churches to engage in mission appropriate to their own contexts and continue in real if impaired communion with other churches. It’s a relational compromise for the sake of communion. It’s actually helping the Anglican Communion to move forward.

**Do you think your vision of church authority aligns with the Church at large?**

I think what I am proposing is contrary to the way that the Church thinks about itself at the highest levels, but is more like the church really is on the ground. Conflicted. Complicated. Messy. In the real world, we don’t experience the Church as united, but we’re willing to roll up our sleeves and try.

There’s a quote in the book from Michael Ramsey, the much loved Archbishop of Canterbury and terrific theologian. He says of the Anglican Church, “It is clumsy and untidy, it baffles neatness and logic.” And he’s right, but that’s where God is, in the mess and the complication. The fact that we’re a mess, the fact that we’re incomplete is a sign of what it is that we hope for—completeness in God. I’m suggesting we embrace otherness and conflict as integral to the life of the Church, not as disruptive to it. ✨





# Looking back...looking forward

Reflections from John Dally as he retires from the faculty



*John Addison Dally, professor emeritus of theology and culture at Bexley Seabury, retired June 30, 2018. The preacher, he said, must connect with listeners. "You have to figure out what is it that the people listening to me want to hear about the Bible this morning, as opposed to what do I want to say about it."*



Pictured at Bexley Seabury's inaugural event in April 2013 are, left to right, John Dally; Frank Yamada, then president of McCormick Theological Seminary; and Shaun Whitehead, associate chaplain at St. Lawrence University. They are seated in front of one of Dally's meditation installations that use images to stir theological reflection and connect daily life with experiences of the divine.

In 1995 John Addison Dally accepted an offer to join Seabury-Western Theological Seminary as a lecturer in preaching. So began a 23-year teaching career that encompassed an expanding portfolio of teaching and administrative responsibilities across all seminary programs including the Seabury Institute Doctor of Ministry program, in which Dally taught for eight years and directed for five. Now, in his fifth year as professor of theology and culture at Bexley Seabury, Dally has retired effective June 30.

## LESSON PLAN

A review of course evaluations and correspondence through the years produced a wide-ranging yet consistent set of lessons that Dally's students, predominantly DMin candidates, said he taught them. Here are three prototypical examples:

"Thanks for giving me the space to step out, be brave, and relax. Thanks for trusting our voices."

—The Rev. Emily Schnabl (Seabury-Western '99)  
*Rector, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church,  
 Midwest City, Okla.*

"You are the person who helped my sermons come out of the box, told me it was okay to be a little unorthodox, just don't let the illustration overcome the Gospel. The best instruction for preaching were your two questions: 'How do I know this?' and 'Why should anyone care?'"

—The Rev. Jay Angerer (Seabury-Western '02)  
*Rector, All Saints Episcopal Church, River Ridge, La.*

"You have been a great witness to me and to all my classmates of the value of thinking creatively and taking thoughtful risks in preaching, liturgy and life. In a place that tends to play it safe, that has been very important to our formation."

—The Very Rev. Amy McCreath (Seabury-Western '98)  
*Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston*

Paraphrasing, Dally's legacy might be summed up as: go where the Gospel takes you whatever the risk; understand what your audience needs to hear; speak truth from your heart.

Asked whether these points might be a good distillation of

his macro lesson plan, Dally said, “I didn’t have a plan!”

### GETTING TO THE ART OF PREACHING

Dally did have a plan when he entered the University of California, Irvine. “I was supposed to be a concert pianist. I learned I could play fine in a studio, but I couldn’t play in front of people,” Dally said. He soon changed his major from music to comparative literature.

Through seminary at Yale and post-graduate studies in religion and literature at the University of Chicago, Dally claimed more of his voice as a writer and interpreter of scripture. To date, apart from educational and retreat curricula, Dally has written three scholarly books, two works of fiction, eight plays, and nine works for speech choir.

“I think that’s why, when I started teaching preaching, I approached it as an art. Like a pianist or a playwright, a preacher has to practice a discipline but also has to have something to say,” Dally said. “What the preacher has to say should help make life theologically meaningful, help people live their lives, and help improve the world. I’ve found the way into that is through image and through sound.”

That statement seems a solid teaching philosophy. And yet, Dally described his pedagogical approach as instinctual.

“My PhD qualifies me to teach in a graduate school, but no one taught us how to teach. Nowadays you can get such classes,” Dally said. “For me, it has been a lifelong project...The fact that we got to these comments from my former students is a triumph of the intuitive.”



*Addressing the new graduates in his Commencement Day sermon, Dally said, “Now it’s your turn to translate the language of the Christian faith for a new generation.”*

### LISTENING CLOSELY, RESPONDING BOLDLY

Dally’s approach to teaching seems as informed by his experiences outside the church as in it.

“The great gift of not having grown up in the church,” Dally said, “is the ability to see how people are just so shut down by their experiences in the church. A lot of what I do is open them up.”

Part of that work requires un-doing conventional scholarship that works to enshrine scripture rather than enliven it. Many aspiring priests and deacons, Dally explained, arrive at seminary imbued with decades of well-intentioned, but poorly conceived preaching by clergy who were trained under a classic academic approach to the Bible.

“So much Bible teaching is drawn from the 19th-century German university model in which the Bible is treated as an ancient, near-eastern text alongside other ancient, near-eastern texts, so it has no particular authority. It is not the voice of God speaking to our hearts...so preachers become distrustful of the Bible and they end up preaching about movies and New Yorker articles.

“What I’ve tried to do,” Dally said, “is let people hear the voice of God addressing them, and therefore the conversations begin...A lot of the exercises I use with students are meant to help them love the Bible once again and to create something to say out of that love, instead of using the cognitive solely.”

The frequency with which Dally’s students rise to the top in preaching competitions is one measure of his success. Another is the progress of his students’ ministries and their recollections. Case in point:

“John’s teaching has stood the test of time,” Boston’s Cathedral Church of St. Paul Dean Amy McCreath said. “My class celebrates its 20th anniversary of graduation from SWTS this spring, and I am still enjoying preaching, still exploring how to bring the Word to people with creativity and authenticity. I owe that to John Dally.”



## NAVIGATING CHANGE

When Dally joined Seabury-Western in 1995 he said he found it to be a positive environment and dedicated to excellence—"very upbeat." Still, the Episcopal Church was forming priests the same way it had a generation before the Civil War.

Seminary life was learning between liturgies...15 services a week...You had to learn how to chant the psalms, how to sing Anglican chant, how to serve and set up the Eucharist, all the other liturgical rites and seasonal services...You were going to go out and do this for the church: help run liturgy.

"Today at Bexley Seabury we are forming faith communities and leading students to be a part of what the Jews call the repair of the world, *tikkun olam*," Dally said. "Students come to us with these very creative ideas about combining their ordained ministry with their work life and their family life, and it's really exciting. We're not creating functionaries anymore; we're not creating liturgists; we're creating leaders who also know how to do liturgy."

## COMMON THREADS

Dally's plans for the future include teaching at Bexley Seabury. He will teach "The Art of Preaching," a popular course he introduced to the curriculum, plus one elective annually.

His latest course is "Nostalgia Versus the Reign of God: Sunday Morning Smack-Down," introduced in June 2018. Quoting the syllabus, the course "will invite participants to examine the language and behavior of their communities with a critical eye, asking whether these draw the reader/listener toward the reign of God or invite them to reside comfortably in the religion of the past."

Dally will also continue to write. His forthcoming book, *The Death of the Beautiful Young Man: The Erotics of Redemption*, explores the theological implications of two millennia of exalting the suffering Jesus and other saintly males as young and beautiful while coding female flesh as corrupt.

He has also written a novel and a collection of short stories, *The Master Is Here: Stories Christian and Gay*, linked by characters that are comfortably gay and comfortably Christian. "I wanted to write something I'd like to read but have not yet found," Dally said. Next, he plans a historical novel set in the



Dally is shown here accepting the congregation's congratulations on his being named professor emeritus at the May 18, 2018 Commencement Eucharist.

early 1900s at Grosse Point Lighthouse in Evanston, just north of Chicago.

Sparked by his experience last year as a volunteer architectural docent at Church of Our Saviour, Chicago, where Dally is a resident priest, he hopes to find a role leading some type of informal learning community. "I'm interested in interacting with people around something I love to teach—but with no exams!" Dally said. "For example, I'd love to be a docent for the Lincoln Park Conservatory or the restored wetlands, virtually outside my front door, where wildlife has come back and migratory birds vary throughout the year." ✨

## "...BY YOUR PUPILS YOU'LL BE TAUGHT..."

**These are some of the important lessons John Dally says students have taught him.**

*"Students have taught me what a hunger there is for God and for meaningful theology."*



*"My students actually helped me figure out what it is that I do. I've been trying to find out where their gifts meet the needs of the church and the world. They've shown me that I'm not just shooting in the dark."*



*"Students have taught me there is a great need to connect the life you had prior to seminary with your seminary education, to make the skills and life experience you brought with you part of your post-seminary identity."*



*"Students have given me the gift of knowing my priesthood doesn't belong to me, it belongs to the people and they have to grant it continually. I don't have my priesthood by title. I have to re-ask and re-earn it."*

# What does the Lord require?

Convocation 2018



Convocation 2018, “What Does the Lord Require? Pastoral & Prophetic Witness in Traumatic Times,” gathered alums, students, supporters, and friends of the seminary at St. James Commons, Chicago, to consider the challenges of discipleship today.

Therese DeLisio, then acting president and academic dean and associate professor of theology and liturgy, welcomed participants with a meditation on Micah 6:8b:

*“...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

DeLisio offered three framing questions for the day’s program, each its own challenge:

- › How do we model leadership in the midst of a governmental matrix of growing cruelty?
- › How do we speak up, stand up, act up for those who are suffering?
- › As we minister to those who suffer, how can we nourish and sustain one another, and live out our baptismal calling?



*Therese DeLisio is academic dean and associate professor of theology and liturgy at Bexley Seabury.*



*Suzann Holding (Seabury-Western '99) is director of lifelong theological education and doctor of ministry program and lecturer in practical theology at Bexley Seabury.*

As backdrop, Suzann Holding (Seabury-Western '99), director of lifelong theological education and doctor of ministry program and lecturer in practical theology, offered what might be considered a litany of 21st-century life. Although now 20 years old, the U.S. Army War College assessment of the post-Cold-War geopolitics as “volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous” still resonates, but with new overtones as witnessed by the emergence of radical terrorism. Lamentably, the “VUCA” scenario has been rendered even more grim due to a resurgence of xenophobia, misogyny, and systemic racism “on full display, even at Starbucks,” Holding noted.



**KEYNOTE 1** by the Rev. Dr. Pamela Cooper-White  
**“The Pastoral and the Prophetic: Speaking Truth to Power in Love”**

*Pamela Cooper-White is Christiane Brooks Johnson professor of psychology and religion, Union Theological Seminary, New York. She is an Episcopal priest, a licensed clinical social worker, author of five books and many scholarly articles, and has taught at multiple seminaries, including Seabury-Western.*

*“They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”*

– Isaiah 51:11

This verse, Pamela Cooper-White suggested, reflects a both-and vision—of unending joy and liberation, of healing and justice, of the pastoral and the prophetic. It is a vision she believes is possible when the church moves beyond charity into real relationships and acts in partnership with the community.



**CONTEXT IS EVERYTHING**

To achieve that vision in the realm of pastoral care, Cooper-White said, those providing care must take into account not only the workings of the individual psyche and family dynamics, but also the larger context in which we all live. That is, to be effective pastoral care must recognize the social, political, economic, ethnic, racial, and cultural factors that shape our lives—as well as the additional stresses and anxieties they bring.

Pastoral counselors today are called to empower (not fix) clients, and to draw on a diversified set of resources and care partners inclusive of both clergy persons and lay persons. Pastoral care was prescriptive, provided one-on-one by a self-sufficient resident expert. Pastoral care today is responsive, shaped by the real-life needs of the person being cared for and is conducted through teamwork and collaboration.

**SHEPHERD OR SAMARITAN?**

Such renewed pastoral care, Cooper-White said, calls for a new image to replace the traditional icon of pastor as Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep.

“If we exhaust ourselves in giving, what use are we to anyone? Even God suffers.” Cooper-White said.

Rather, she suggested, pastoral care givers consider modeling their work on that of the Good Samaritan. In contrast

to the self-sufficient, self-sacrificing Good Shepherd, the Good Samaritan offered healing as one member of a community. The Good Samaritan assisted the injured man, then solicited the help of the innkeeper while promising to return to offer ongoing support. “Share the caring task with others; stay connected but not over-involved; stay whole yourself,” Cooper-White advised.

The communal approach to pastoral care that Cooper-White proposes requires a shift in how care is provided and who is involved as well as a shift in who benefits. When successful, healing extends well beyond the person being counseled—too much for any one person to orchestrate, but achievable in community.

**SEEK COMPANIONS**

“Remember Jesus sent the disciples out two by two. He did not send individuals, but partners,” Cooper-White said. “Bearing the wonder of the message of healing and liberation that we have received, we can become companions to one another on the journey. And as we go we may find, as did the disciples on the Emmaus road, we may even end up, without realizing it, walking side by side with Christ himself.”



**KEYNOTE 2** by the Rev. Dr. John Addison Dally**“Like Treasure Hidden in a Field: The Untapped Resources of the Christian Faith”**

The Rev. Dr. John Addison Dally retired June 30, 2018 as professor emeritus of theology and culture at Bexley Seabury. Dally is an Episcopal priest, author of three scholarly books, two works of fiction, and many dramatic works. He began teaching preaching at Seabury-Western in 1995. He shares reflections on the church and lessons learned from students on pages 12–15.

*“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in her joy she goes and sells all that she has and buys that field.”*

– Matthew 13:44

Dally assaults on the dignity of women, LGBTQ persons, people of color, and immigrants. Laws ignored and reversed. The reawakening of white supremacy. John Addison Dally admits there is much to mourn about the state of our nation and the world. So much, that the answer is hiding in plain sight.

“I refer to the Gospel of Jesus Christ: the cure for every human ill to which we have paid little but lip service for lo, these 2,000 years,” Dally said.

**CONVERSION, NOT STRUCTURE**

Dally understands the Gospel as a call to embrace a life of “continual conversion” in which “there can be no indelible theological stances, only provisional ones.” Instead, humanity’s innate craving for structure and for the need to get it right have produced a Church that insists on doctrinal certainty as to theological concepts (e.g., two natures of Christ, the Anselmian theory of atonement as satisfaction), but yet is blind to, or feeds heresies that teach us that some lives are more valuable than others (e.g., Doctrine of Discovery, the inviolability of the Second Amendment).

**MAKE THE REIGN OF GOD POSSIBLE**

Even today, as the Episcopal Church begins to own up to its role in promulgating the slave trade, Dally sees an institution unprepared to lead. “We have largely reduced the preaching of the Gospel to religious entertainment,” Dally said. “That’s why we have so few resources to face the current climate, when our still-adolescent democracy has developed a serious crush on fascism.”

Dally sees only one choice: “At this moment in history the ‘correct’ Christian theology is the one that opens an aperture for the in-breaking of the reign of God.”

**START NOW**

Dally imagines an “eyes-wide-open theology” that includes these key propositions:

- › “The cross is only meaningful if we choose it.” Take at face value Jesus’ injunction to deny one’s self and follow him.
- › Jesus didn’t die for our sins but to make way for the reign of God. We, too, must freely choose God’s reign.
- › “Don’t come to church and pray for Jesus to do this or that. Continue his work. Only then is he truly risen.”
- › Abandon the theology of blood sacrifice as atonement for sin. It teaches us that violence is good if it benefits us. It is used to justify death in war and underlies misogyny.
- › Above all, let us seek the restoration of paradise, including the ecological and gender justice that flourishes in Eden. Let us be in a right relationship with God now, not later.

Gauntlet, thrown.

## CONTINUING CONVERSATION

### “Do Not Be Daunted: Christian Engagement in Context and Practice”

As an initial response to the keynote presentations, KJ Oh and Eileen Shanley-Roberts invited convocation participants to reflect in small groups. Oh and Shanley-Roberts suggested each group use one of the formation rubrics that Bexley Seabury students use: RELATE (share relevant background), INVITE (ask another group member a concrete question), and REFLECT (offer a thought or opinion that represents your viewpoint).

With gentle coaching from Oh and Shanley-Roberts, four groups began considering a few of the many questions and concerns stirred by the day’s program. Observed from a distance, the conversations became more animated and more intense as they progressed. One participant described the experience as “brief, but already revelatory.” ✨



*KyungJa (KJ) Oh (Seabury-Western '00, Bexley Seabury '18) is director of formation and contextual learning and assistant professor of practical theology at Bexley Seabury.*



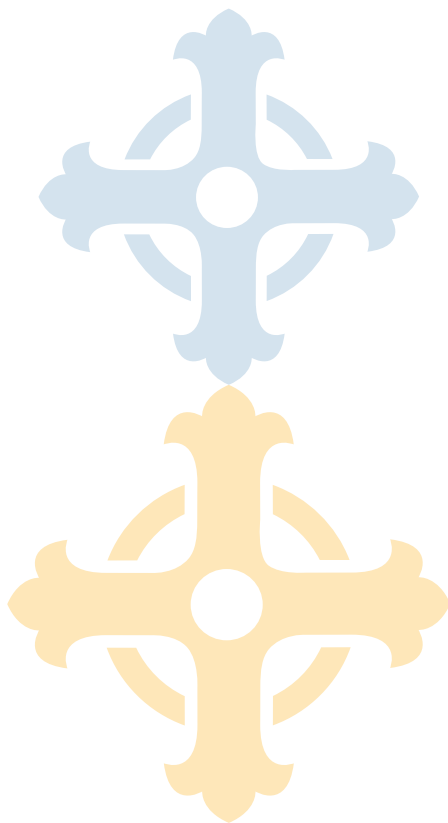
*Eileen Shanley-Roberts is assistant director of formation and contextual learning and lecturer in practical theology at Bexley Seabury.*



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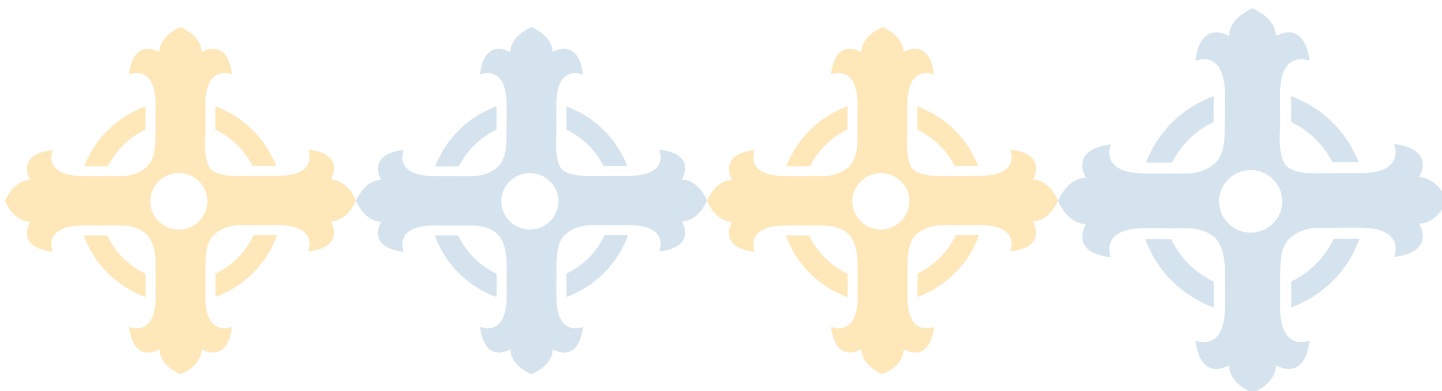
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If you would like to provide for Bexley Seabury through your estate and want to discuss planned giving options and potential tax benefits, please send an email to Robert Doak ([bdoak@bexleyseabury.edu](mailto:bdoak@bexleyseabury.edu)) or phone him at **773-380-6783**.

With deep appreciation we recognize on these pages contributions received from July 1, 2017 through June 6, 2018. Contributions received after that point will be recognized in 2019. Please alert us of any unintentional errors or omissions by contacting Susan Quigley at [squigley@bexleyseabury.edu](mailto:squigley@bexleyseabury.edu) or **773-380-6785**.



# On campus and beyond



Seven of the 10 members of the Class of 2018 who participated in the Commencement Eucharist at St. Paul and the Redeemer, Chicago, on May 18. From left, front row: Anthony George Dahl, Asa David Coulson; row 2: KJ Oh, Lisa Belcher Hamilton; 3rd row: Donald Harold James Hermann, Scott Lybrand Zaucha, Stephen Benitz. Graduates not pictured here: Erin Elizabeth Houglund, Lindsay Ross-Hunt, and Gail Ann Shafer.

## TRANSITIONS

### Degree Presentations

#### ANGLICAN STUDIES

Bexley Seabury awarded a Diploma in Anglican Studies to: **Asa David Coulson, Donald Harold James Hermann, Erin Elizabeth Houglund, Lindsay Ross-Hunt, Gail Ann Shafer,** and **Scott Lybrand Zaucha.**

#### MASTER OF DIVINITY

Master of Divinity degrees were presented to two Episcopal Divinity School scholars who completed their studies at Bexley Seabury: Deacon **Stephen Benitz**, who is a candidate for the priesthood in the Diocese of Iowa; and **Anthony George Dahl** from the Anglican Diocese of the Bahamas, who plans to be ordained in Chile.

#### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

A Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Development degree was presented to **KyungJa (KJ) Oh** (Seabury-Western '00), director of formation and contextual learning and assistant professor of practical theology at Bexley Seabury. Oh's DMin thesis imagines a model for formation based on "understanding a growing multitude of new voices and contexts based on different lived experience," which contributed to Bexley Seabury's pioneering approach to field education, introduced in 2016.

A Doctor of Ministry in Preaching degree was awarded With Distinction to **Lisa Belcher Hamilton** of the Diocese of Southwest Florida. Hamilton hosts **thinplacepodcast.com** which utilizes story and scripture to invite listeners to the "thin place" where grief can be heard and can heal.

## Ordinations

Diploma in Anglican Studies student **Erin Houglund** was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 14, 2017 by Indianapolis Bishop **Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows** at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Brownsburg, Ind. On hand for the ordination was Erin's father, **Wayne Houglund**, bishop of Western Michigan.

Diploma in Anglican Studies students **Shay Craig** and **Scott Lybrand Zaucha** were ordained to the transitional diaconate on Dec. 16, 2017 by **Jeffrey Lee**, Bishop of Chicago, who serves on Bexley Seabury's Board of Directors. They were ordained with **Joseph Butler** and **Brian Prall.**



*Shay Craig after being vested as Deacon by her three children.*

Diploma in Anglican Studies student **Estimé Frader** was ordained to the priesthood in the Iglesia Episcopal Anglicana de Chile by Archbishop **Patricio Viveros Robles** on Dec. 30, 2017. Frader has been attending All Saints Episcopal Church in Chicago. He earned an MA in Theology from Catholic Theological Union, Chicago.

**Scott Lybrand Zaucha** has accepted the call of St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Woodstock, Ill., for a half-time position as priest-in-charge. After 12 months, his title will change to rector. A 2018 Diploma in Anglican Studies

graduate of Bexley Seabury and 2018 MDiv graduate of Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Scott was ordained to the priesthood on June 16.

## FACULTY & STAFF

(ALSO SEE FACULTY NEWS PAGES 8-9)

**Lynn Bowers**, accountant, human resources officer, and event coordinator continues to do good work with a variety of volunteer groups—Ravenswood Community Services; PAWS; The Chicago Saints, a volunteer theater organization—and as a lay chaplain. She traveled to New Orleans twice this past year to reconnect and strengthen bonds with those affected by hurricanes Katrina and Isaac.

**Jaime Briceño**, recruiter and digital missionary, facilitated an open forum regarding the need for diaconal formation at the Association for Episcopal Deacons' Archdeacon and Deacon Directors Conference in Atlanta, Ga., in February 2018. In April he attended the Global Episcopal Mission Network (GEMN) conference at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria and was elected to the 12-member GEMN board of directors.

**Jason Fout** bicycled 100 miles last August as a part of Pelotonia, a fundraising ride in support of cancer treatment and cancer research at the Ohio State University James Cancer Center; it was his fourth year riding. He began his appointment as co-editor in chief of *Anglican Theological Review* in September 2017, and is guest co-editor of the journal's centenary issue, scheduled for publication this summer.

**Ron Fox**, assistant to the president and faculty secretary, is a life-professed brother in the Brotherhood of St. Gregory, a canonically recognized community of the Episcopal Church, and is in his 27th year as director of vocations. He is working on a second master's degree from Providence Theological School.

**William H. Petersen**, emeritus dean and professor of Bexley Hall for 26 years, has written a new book, *What Are We Waiting For? Re-Imagining Advent for Time to Come* (New York: Church Publishing, 2017). The book details the practice he developed with fellow liturgical scholars at the North American Academy of Liturgy of observing an expanded seven-week Advent season.

**Susan Quigley**, registration administrator and annual fund coordinator, visited Columbus, Ohio, to watch her son Charlie (sophomore at College of Wooster) play in an Ultimate Frisbee tournament, and Clermont, Fla., to watch her daughter Allison (senior at Middlebury College) compete in a spring softball tournament. Her family spent Memorial Day weekend in Middlebury, Vt., celebrating Allison's college graduation.

**Ellen K. Wondra**, editor emerita of *Anglican Theological Review*, worked closely through the fall of 2017 with new ATR Co-Editors Jason Fout and Scott MacDougall.

## ALUMNAE & ALUMNI

**Christopher R. Beasley** (Bexley Seabury '14), rector at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lebanon, Ind., reports the parish is one of 30 congregations that was awarded nearly \$50,000 in grants to open the Harvest House Community Center in May 2018. Harvest House teaches children to plant, prepare, and preserve food from the garden.

**Deborah R. Brown** (Seabury-Western '08, Bexley Seabury '17) was called as the next rector of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Milwaukie, Ore. She began serving at St. John's in October 2017.

**Edmund Der**, who attended Seabury-Western as a postulant of Hawaii for Taiwan in 1958–59, is an honorary assistant at the Cathedral Church of St. James, Toronto and chaplain

at Scarborough General Hospital, Scarborough, Ontario. He was ordained a priest in Hong Kong in 1962. His son Matthias is dean of St. John's Cathedral in Hong Kong. Another son, Philip, is a canon in the Anglican Church of Canada and incumbent of St. Christopher's in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

**Katherine Doyle** (Seabury-Western '12) became the 7th rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Louisville, Ky., on Nov. 17. Doyle's institution was celebrated by Bishop **Terry White** (Seabury-Western '85).



Deborah R. Brown, pictured at 2017 Commencement prior to receiving her Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Development degree.

**Edward J. Konieczny** (Seabury-Western '01) was elected in January 2018 by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church to serve as the bishop member on the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC). The ACC is one of the four instruments of communion that strengthen the "bonds of affection" that bind members of the Anglican Communion (see pages 10-11). The ACC website describes the role of the ACC as facilitating the cooperative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion. Konieczny is bishop of the Diocese of Oklahoma and is a member of Executive Council.

*continued*

**Amy Ebeling McCreath** (Seabury-Western '98) was appointed ninth dean of Boston's Cathedral Church of St. Paul by **Alan M. Gates**, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and former Bexley Seabury director. Dean McCreath began her new ministry on April 22, 2018.

**Jessica Nelson** (Seabury-Western '09) began serving in July 2017 as organist/choirmaster at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Jackson, Miss.

**Christine Plantz** (Seabury-Western '09) retired from active ministry on May 1. She has served at St. Hilda's in Kimball, Neb., and Good Shepherd of the Plains in Harrisburg, Neb., since 2010.

**Andrew Kunihito Shirota** (Seabury-Western '09) was installed as the 20th rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Louisville, Ky., by Bishop **Terry White** (Seabury-Western '85), on the Feast of St. Andrew, Nov. 30, 2017.



A celebration of new ministry for Andrew Shirota brought together these Seabury-Western graduates (from left) Edgar Wallace ('84), Roger Walker ('09), Bill Bippus ('84) and Andrew ('09).



## DEATHS

### In Memoriam

**George Council**, 11th Episcopal bishop of New Jersey, died May 21st. He was elected as a Seabury-Western trustee in 1998 and served until 2006. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and daughters Martha and Sarah.

**Charles Allan Forbes Jr.** (Bexley Hall '55) served the Episcopal Church as priest for his entire ministry in the Diocese of Olympia with the exception of three years in Montevideo, Uruguay. His last parish was St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Marysville, Wash.

We received word that **James M. Gibbs** (Seabury-Western '57) died in Birmingham, England on July 23, 2017.

**Enrico Mario Gnasso** (Seabury-Western '64) died on March 23, 2017. A "tentmaker" priest, Gnasso was at one time bursar and business manager at Seabury-Western. He was a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.

**Miriam U. Hoover**, a longtime member of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, died at her home in Palm Springs, Calif., on March 6, 2017, at the age of 104. An active philanthropist, Hoover supported many local Episcopal organizations including St. James the Less, Northfield, Ill.; St. James Cathedral; Seabury-Western Theological Seminary; Episcopal Charities and Community Services; and Bishop Anderson House. A memorial service was held at St. James Cathedral, Chicago.

**Stephen P. Pressey** (Bexley Hall '58) died in February 2018 in Ohio at age 88. One of five priests in his family, Pressey served congregations in Ohio and Michigan. He is survived by his wife, Constance; their four children and their families; and his sister Lois.

We learned of the death of **Allan W. Reed** (Bexley Hall '55) on April 24, 2017 at age 88. Reed served congregations in Ohio and Michigan before being named director of clinical pastoral services at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. He later worked for Episcopal Community Services in Philadelphia, and taught pastoral care courses at St Luke's Hospital, New York until his retirement in 1994. Author of *Problems of Impending Death: Concerns of the Dying Patient and His Family*, Reed is survived by three children, six grandchildren, two great-grandsons, and his sister Rosemary.

**Thomas C. Seitz, Sr.** (Bexley Hall '51) died on Jan. 2, 2017. Seitz' father the late William Clinton Seitz served on the faculty of Bexley Hall as professor of practical theology. He is survived by his wife, Jan; their four sons, three of whom are priests, and their families; and his sister Lucy.

We learned last fall of the Sept. 14, 2016 death of **William C. Shirey** (Seabury-Western '64) after a short illness. St. Bartholomew's in Estes Park, Colo., where he assisted in retirement, offered his Requiem. Shirey was ordained following several years in corporate law and served congregations in Texas and Oklahoma. Our prayers are with his wife, Shirley, and family.

We received word of the death of **Claud Adelbert Thompson** (Seabury-Western '64) in Canada. Thompson moved to Canada in 1970 with his wife, Phyllis, to teach at the University of Saskatchewan. Once retired, Thompson spent many years as a hospice volunteer. A memorial service was held on Aug. 9, 2017, at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Nanoose Bay, BC. ✠



# CAN YOU HELP?

## Give a Gift to the Annual Fund to make more possible for our students and for the church



Gifts from alums and others who support Bexley Seabury’s mission are crucial for the seminary’s future in service of the church. You can help with a gift to the 2018-2019 Annual Fund.

Contributions to the Annual Fund help bridge the gap between the actual cost of high-quality, accredited degree, diploma, and lifelong learning programs and what the seminary takes in, in tuition and fees.

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### PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

Three ways to contribute:

- BY MAIL** Bexley Seabury | 1407 East 60th Street | Chicago IL 60637
- BY PHONE** Susan Quigley 773.380.6785
- ONLINE** [bexleyseabury.edu/help-us-form-leaders](http://bexleyseabury.edu/help-us-form-leaders)



## Comments? Suggestions?

### thank you

Our community is stronger and our courses are more relevant because of feedback that alums, students, and supporters have offered.

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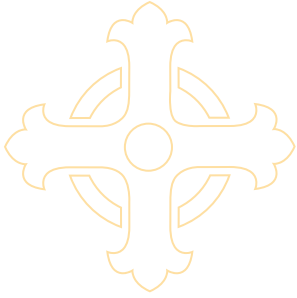
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