

I am a cradle Episcopalian from a family of multiple denominations and faith traditions. I have been an ordained priest for thirteen years. I am also a licensed veterinarian and board-certified epidemiologist, having worked mostly in academia and industry before following my call to ordained ministry. My greatest joys as a veterinary professor were equipping veterinary students in their ministry to our society and helping form the careers of future veterinary researchers. This is very similar to my current calling as a parish priest: equipping people in their call to Christ.

I began my ordained life as a Cluster Missioner in the Diocese of North Carolina. These small and vital churches and worshipping communities formed me as a priest. Their worship of God drew in their broader community, and their outreach ministries were, and are, extremely important in their rural communities. They taught me that the Episcopal voice is desperately needed and appreciated in these small communities. In my work through the diocese, I continue to look for creative ways to help strengthen their ministry.

Currently, I am the cochair of the Commission on Ministry for the Diaconate, where part of our charge is to work to expand the vocational diaconate by helping congregations identify future deacons.

I have been the rector of St. Timothy's in Wilson, North Carolina for nearly nine years. It is located downtown in the county seat of a rural farming county. This growing congregation is large for the region. They have a rich history around food-oriented ministries, including founding the area soup kitchen, which recently built their own building. The church continues to offer a Sunday hot breakfast to anyone. And a recently-begun exploration is to become a field education site for an on-line seminary. This would allow local people who may be called to bi-vocational ministry in the region's small congregations obtain the necessary formation.

There are two ministries that combine my ministry love of Christ and animals: the first is the annual pet blessing, to which both pets and livestock are invited. It celebrates the role they have in our lives. The second is still in development: the exploration of experiencing the Holy while working with horses, which validates people's transcendent experiences with this part of creation.

I come with my husband, Bob, who is originally from the mountains of West Virginia. I was raised in a multi-generational military family, living in multiple states and countries before I started school. Our son-in-law continues this family tradition and is currently stationed at Ft. Lewis. Bob and I are the proud grandparents of three teenage grandchildren, one granddog and one grandcat.

So, I am thrilled to join you in this discernment time to elect a new bishop. My introduction to your joys and experiences of being Montana Episcopalians while at the discernment retreat has filled me with much hope and excitement for the future of the Episcopal Church in Montana. My husband and I look forward to meeting more of you this July.