

My story

Pastor, Emmaus ECC

As I read through the document, *ECC Diocesan Bishop as Servant Leader*, I was able to recognize myself in the listed characteristics. My preferred leadership style is to form teams that collaborate for ministry. Christ Jesus sent people off in pairs, and this teaches me that each of us needs to do ministry with others. My 30 years of ministry experience have prepared me well for this role. Born of Roman Catholic parents, educated in Catholic



schools, I am well steeped in Catholic tradition. While I experienced the call to priesthood early, I didn't know what to do with that call. I bumped into that stained glass ceiling. So I volunteered in Catholic parishes, serving in many different ways – as catechist, Eucharistic Minister, lector, in the choir, and on the parish council. I have learned about ministry from the grassroots level of community life. It was in 1984 that I was hired by a parish, and began a life of pastoral ministry.

Ministry became the way I earned my living, and this coming together of ministry and career was a blessing to me. I was told by two of my priest friends that I should be pursuing a master's degree. I also sat down with the Vocational Awareness person at the Chancery, who told me that she believed I was being called to serve as a Pastoral Associate, and advised me to get the degree needed for this work. And so I got my Master of Divinity degree and became a Pastoral Associate.

In 1991 I was selected to be in a training program for Parochial Ministers (Lay Pastors for Catholic parishes). This program affirmed my pastoral gifts and provided education in administration, including budgets. Sadly, when Archbishop Hunthausen retired the program faded away from neglect. Being a product of the Council of Vatican II, I soon noticed that the Church I loved was becoming a place where I no longer seemed to fit. This back-sliding by the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church was worrisome to me. I could not go back with them. Thank goodness I discovered a growing movement of Catholics who were determined to continue moving forward with the Holy Spirit into the promise of the Council of Vatican II.

In 2003 I first met Bishop Peter and his wife Mirella at a retreat in Seabeck WA. The rest as they say is history. My searching brought me at last into the fold of ECC. I attended the ECC Synods as a delegate in the House of Pastors (HOP), even prior to being ordained. I was instrumental in helping to establish two ECC communities, was finally ordained a priest and am pastor of Emmaus ECC in Olympia WA. The first community, *Spiritus Dei*, has not continued in ECC. At the Synod in 2010 I was elected as vice president of the HOP, and in 2012 I was affirmed as the HOP president. Being in leadership within ECC for four years has taught me about the character, the charism, and the constitution of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion. All four of these years had challenges, and I discovered I was able to meet these challenges, mainly because I've learned to turn to others for support. I know better than to try to be a *Lone Ranger* when it comes to ministry. Because of these challenges I've learned where the pressure points are in our Communion.

My husband of 40 years died on February 13, 2010. This was a terrific loss for me. He was my greatest supporter and encourager. I am grateful that for over 20 years I've been part of a wonderful circle of women, and was not left without support and encouragement. This group is the kind of safe place of mutual support, challenge and caring that everyone in ministry needs to stay sane and healthy. Through them I discovered my guiding principle, based on Micah 6:8. We know what is required of us. We are to love mercy, act with kindness, and walk humbly with our God. This statement seems well fitted to Gregory of Nyssa's desire to simply "follow God," and "taking God as our guide."

As for my academic background, I am well grounded in the academic fields required for a bishop, including Church History, hermeneutics and theology, but have specialized in pastoral, scriptural and liturgical studies. I tend to favor liberation theology, and I admit to bringing a hermeneutics of suspicion to the way I look at doctrines and scripture because I am a woman, and because I've been reading the writings of women theologians. I also like to use a bit of the hermeneutics of Heidegger, with poetic creative interpretations. I am fond of Gregory of Nyssa, a great speculative theologian from our distant past, and believe with him that everything, and I mean everything, is being brought together through Christ to God. I like the way he looks beyond the literal meanings of scripture, and to the mystical and spiritual.

Adult Faith Formation is one of my priorities, probably because of my years providing catechesis for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults in parishes, Scripture Studies, Parish Missions, training for Pastoral Councils and other Adult Faith Formation opportunities. I would like to discover a way to provide more adult faith formation in our region for our ECC communities and have been considering a YouTube series, or some way of using available media. I encourage people to watch Bishop Peter's homilies, for example. Now you can also see his scripture studies on YouTube.

My eyes were opened in many ways concerning the sacramental meaning of marriage because of my years serving as an advocate for people going through the annulment process. Since Roman Catholics needed to go through this process to be married again in the Church, I was glad to, as I saw it, set the captives free. My work in this area enabled me to more quickly embrace Marriage Equality for gay and lesbian couples. I find it interesting that the Canons of the Roman Catholic Church would provide the springboard to this new understanding.

One of my special loves is liturgy. I took several courses in liturgy while pursuing my graduate degree and have planned numerous liturgies. Along with my other duties as Pastoral Associate I served as Liturgical Minister, preparing the scripts, the environment, overseeing the choirs, and generally preparing for our liturgies. Since vigil, funeral, and graveside services could be provided by lay ministers, I often served as a Funeral Minister, and I provided Word and Communion services. Of course, now, as priest I not only get to prepare liturgies, I get to preside at them. Presiding as priest I know that my role is to call forth the full, active, conscious participation of everyone at the liturgy. Liturgy is not a spectator sport. My heart lifts when I think of celebrating our first Chrism Mass as a region, no matter who is the bishop.

I believe in a Church that is Eucharistic, sacramental, scriptural, liturgical, and inclusive. I prefer inclusive language in our liturgies, including the readings used at mass. I believe in collaboration, in clergy working as servant leaders open to the priesthood of all the

faithful, and open to the sense of the faithful (*sensus fidelum*). I trust that there is the Spirit of God within each individual, whether they know it or not. I believe that each person in a Church not only has the right, but the obligation to share his or her wisdom with the community. In this matter I believe that the Friends, or Quakers, have a lot to teach us about shared decision-making. I believe that as a bishop I can add a unique voice to the conversation within the Communion as together we form a new way to be authentically Catholic.



Rev. Katherine C. (Kedda) Keough

Statement: why I accepted nomination for bishop of our region:

For me a bishop is foremost a Pastor, and my experience is mainly pastoral ministry. I agreed to this nomination after a period of discernment. When I sought discernment from certain key figures in my life, they affirmed that I should make myself available for the role of bishop. In fact, I surprised myself with discovering a “yes” within myself to this call. A bishop not only pastors a Church, but speaks for that Church. Our region is unique and our voice is needed at the Episcopal level in ECC, and I believe I can be that voice. I understand that a bishop needs to be the kind of shepherd that persuades people, rather than relies on positional authority, and I have experience with this kind of leadership, and appreciate its value. I believe in listening to the sense of the faithful, knowing that the Holy Spirit is found in the midst of the community, and not in any one individual. Bishop Peter has sometimes teased me for being a “Quaker Catholic” because I value the way they listen to the Spirit of God in community. As a liturgist I would love to provide liturgies that are associated with a bishop (especially the Chrism Mass), but even more, I would love to provide workshops on liturgy. I am a good writer, and would enjoy writing educational and/or pastoral letters for our communities. I look forward to encouraging growth throughout our region, and am ready to travel. My pastoral and leadership experiences have prepared me for this role, and I am willing to serve, with the help of God, and with the help of the people of God in our region.

Particulars of Rev. Katherine C. (Kedda) Keough

Leadership participation in ECC:

2007 – present -- serving as a pastoral leader for Emmaus ECC in Olympia. Pastor
2010 – 1012 – served as Vice President of the House of Pastors, and on the Leadership Council.
2012 – present – serving as President of the House of Pastors, and on the Leadership Council.

Employment history:

1969 to 1974 -- worked as a Medical Technologist.
1969 – 1972 at Providence Hospital in Seattle WA
1972 – 1974 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup WA

1974 – 1992 I was a Homemaker, Homesteader, and Foster Parent for long-term care children. Foster care led to the adoption of our daughter. We lived on a homestead where we had a small herd of dairy goats, and raised our own food. I served as a volunteer minister up until 1984 in a parish. The time between 1974 and 1984 marked a transition period for me from one career to another.

1984 – 1992 I served as a lay ecclesial minister at Immaculate Conception Parish in Arlington WA. I first served as a Resource Minister, next I became the Religious Education Coordinator, and finally the Pastoral Associate at this parish. With several different priest-pastors I developed the staff position from the ground up. Prior to me the parish had only one staff person, the secretary, and one brief interlude with another Resource Minister.

1988 – 1989 – served as the Executive Director for the North Snohomish County Association of Churches. This was a wonderful ecumenical experience of churches working together.

1992 to 2001 – served at Holy Family Parish in Kirkland WA. I began in Adult and Family Ministry, and soon became Pastoral Associate.

2001 – 2006 – served at St. Nicholas parish in Gig Harbor as Pastoral Associate.

2006 – present -- Real estate professional for Shelton Land & Homes, LLC in Shelton WA. (Having left the Roman Catholic Church I could no longer hold a position as a Pastoral Associate and found this new way to earn a living. I sometimes feel like Paul, the tent maker.)

2009 – Published a book, *All Creation Waits: The Unfulfilled Promise of Christianity*.

Education:

1965 – 1969 Seattle University in Seattle WA
Graduated with Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology degree
1986 – 1991 Seattle University
Graduated with Master of Divinity degree
1991 - ??? Parochial Minister Training program by the Archdiocese of Seattle.
2004-2005 Certificate in Pastoral Leadership from the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University. This is an Ecumenical program.

Continuing Education: I am an avid reader and have attended numerous workshops, conferences and retreats touching on nearly all areas of parish life. This includes administrative areas. I've received more business education through my Real Estate profession. My experience as a real estate broker has enriched my experience by bringing me in contact with a diversity of people and situations. I've also learned how to manage websites and prepare newsletters on Constant Contact.