

The Rev. Canon Janet C. Waggoner Biographical Statement

Dear Friends in Christ –

My name is Janet Waggoner. My passion is sharing the love of God in Christ. As a child of God and an Episcopal priest, I seek to uphold the dignity of each person I encounter, each community I serve, and to nurture the growth of faith, justice and hope in their lives.

My vision for our Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement is *revival* for individuals, congregations and dioceses. Individuals are revived in Christ when we reconnect with the power of Jesus' saving love in our lives and as we bear witness to that love in word and action. Congregations are revived when they reclaim their calling as havens of hope in the world, not because they are filled with perfect people, but because they are filled with people who practice love. Dioceses are revived when they renew their commitment to be cradles of transformation which birth, nourish, and support congregations as they reach out in love in their communities.

Currently, I serve as the Canon to the Ordinary in the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. As our bishop, diocesan staff, clergy and lay leaders have dreamed and worked together, we have seen *each and every one* of our congregations grow in one or more ways over the past six years – in evangelism, outreach, stewardship, and/or membership. This growth has come by the grace of God and through intentional efforts to share God's love with people outside our doors, in our wider communities.

I have lived and worked in a variety of communities and contexts. I grew up on a small farm on the border of a Yakama Nation housing area near Goldendale, in south-central Washington state. Some of my earliest memories are of going to Goldendale Church of the Nazarene with my parents and little brother. There, I learned to love and interpret the Bible and to experience joys and sorrows in Christian community.

A first-generation college student, I attended Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. There, I encountered two things that changed my life: Ed, the brilliant, adventurous man who would become my husband, and St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, a place of mystical liturgy, ancient prayers, and people with enticing faith.

I spent my 20s wondering what I would do when I "grew up", wandering solo around the US by train, and working – as campus minister, in-home health care aide, administrative assistant, recreational therapist, and advertising, marketing and development director. All of these turned out to be great training for ministry in the Church!

Less than a year after Ed and I married, we trekked across the US in a Ryder truck. At Yale Divinity School, Ed prepared to fulfill his call as a theology professor, and I prepared for a life of ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church. Recently, Ed and I celebrated our 22nd anniversary. We have two hardworking, talented teenaged children, Wynne and Ben, and a delightful Christmas-gift rescue pup named Comet.

In over 17 years of ordained ministry, I have served three Episcopal congregations, a Lutheran congregation, and an Episcopal diocese. In each of these places, lives have been transformed as we have known and shown the love of God – in liturgy, in formation, in caring partnership with neighbors near and far, in advocacy for justice, in welcoming *all* to our kitchen tables and to Christ's table.

The Holy Spirit is stirring in the Diocese of Maine. You know that you are being called to “new and frightening ways of being Church . . . to more creative ways of gathering in Jesus' name.” We have been living into a similar calling in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Many are the challenges in this calling to be church in new ways. But we have discovered that true joy is found in trusting God for resurrection in places where we are too tired to go on, where we cannot see a way forward. Our loving, liberating, lifegiving God is faithful in ways beyond what we can ask or imagine.

I am humbled and delighted to discern with you whether I am called to share this new, frightening, creative journey with you as your bishop.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,
Janet+