

The Rev. Canon Glenice Robinson-Como
Canon Missioner for Outreach and Justice Ministries
Christ Church Cathedral, Houston, TX

Autobiography



I am the third of four daughters born in Petersburg, Virginia to Ruby and Theodore Robinson. Both of my parents are now deceased, but still very much alive in my spirit. My mother worked at a mental institution and played the piano at our Baptist church. My father served in the Army and later retired from Defense General Supply Center. My dad was a deacon in the church and my very first theologian. Together my parents taught my sisters and I about serving God and our community enforced those principles as they embraced the “it takes a community to raise a child” concept. From my mother I learned compassion as I would hear her stories of those who suffered from mental illness. From my dad I learned the importance of ministry as we spent all day in church on Sundays and watching him prepare his Sunday school lessons on a manual typewriter.

I attended Virginia Commonwealth University upon graduation, accepted a job with the Department of Defense in Los Angeles and lived with my sister and her family in Los Angeles. Later I met my husband Paul. We have two children Paul and Dominique, and a family dog Chance.

A Statement from the Search Committee

In her letter of intent, Canon Robinson-Como writes, “In each of my professions there has been a common thread which weaves throughout my career. This common thread has always been a call into the deserts of life to create a space for something new, while bearing witness to God’s activity in the world.” As a Search Committee, we believe that, if elected, Canon Robinson-Como would be a compassionate and collaborative companion for clergy, congregations, and communities venturing into the wilderness in search of renewal and new life. Glenice is



passionate about creating space for new relationship, creating space for those who get crowded to the margins, and creating space for future leaders.

Glenice is widely known for her capacity to create space for new relationship because she exudes a pastoral presence as she models servant leadership. However, she is successful in multiplying space for new relationship because, in addition to her pastoral gifts and presence, she comes to her priesthood with considerable corporate experience in contract administration and project management. Her secular experience assists her in working toward ambitious, long-term goals and in strategically forming and equipping teams for the

work. As Canon Pastor at Christ Church Cathedral, she has worked with lay people and her fellow clergy to transform a clergy-centric pastoral care system into a wider-reaching community of care that empowers laypeople for the work of pastoral care alongside clergy. Glenice also creates space for new relationship by being unafraid to learn new things that will equip her to do the work of bridge-building. For example, she takes classes in Spanish and participates in liturgy in Spanish so that she can deepen her relationships with the Spanish-speaking community at the Cathedral and in the community beyond. As a Search Committee, we believe that Glenice would bring this capacity to create space for new relationship into her work with the congregations and communities of the West Region at a time when many congregations are trying to reconnect to their local communities.

At the heart of Glenice's ministry is a passion for creating space for those who get crowded to the margins in our society. She writes that she comes to this work with a "desire to finish my personal sojourn well, knowing I have turned over *all* the tables in the temple to ensure human dignity and respect for all of God's children." Prior to ordination, she served as an advocate and ombudsman for the Houston/Galveston Area Agency on Aging. As a priest, her work as chaplain to The Beacon and her work with low income public schools through Kids' Hope and All Our Children point to her desire to serve those whom our society often forgets. Glenice will go into the wilderness with you to see and proclaim hope in dark places. As a Search Committee, we believe that Glenice would be a great encourager for those who are working at the margins (such as El Buen Samaritano) and, with Bishop Doyle, an inspiring advocate for vulnerable communities in the public square and in the House of Bishops.

One of the aspects of the Bishop Suffragan job description that excites Glenice most is the "opportunity to plant seeds and nurture our next generation of leaders who face a world full of new challenges." Through her work as Chair of the Commission on Black Ministry and through mentoring relationships, Glenice has sought to identify, encourage, and make space for young leaders, especially young women and people of color, who are hopeful for the future of the Church and want to be part of its growth and flourishing. The work of guiding people as they seek to claim their call to be God's people in the world is not new to Glenice, and she would bring this experience into her work as Executive for Ministry as well as the Seminary of the Southwest and St. Stephen's Episcopal School.



Letter of Intent from The Rev. Canon Glenice Robinson-Como

When reviewing the job description, the diocese seeks a Bishop Suffragan who has the skillset to oversee the ordination process and have pastoral oversight and care for our congregations. In each of my professions there has been a common thread which weaves throughout my career. This common thread has always been a call into the deserts of life to create a space for something new, while bearing witness to God's activity in the world. My response to this work has been accomplished through business experience, community networking and strong leadership skills within the church. This common thread has also encouraged my work and my desire to finish my personal sojourn well, knowing I have "turned over all the tables in the temple" to ensure human dignity and respect for all of God's children. This work often supports walking with others to identify their God-given gifts for ministry and service. My passion for literacy and education has been exemplified in my work with HISD low income schools, the All Our Children Network and Kids Hope program. The next Bishop Suffragan has a unique opportunity to plant seeds and nurture our next generation of leaders who face a world full of new challenges. Nevertheless, I am hopeful about the ideology and voices of our future generation of leaders and recognize the importance of nurturing their call to lay and ordained ministry.

Through my organizational skills, collaboration with community agencies, and social justice work at The Beacon and the Cathedral, I am equally excited about the work at El Buen Samaritano-Austin. I have worked with those who suffer from the injustice of poverty in obtaining resources and services for the basic needs of life as well as advocating and raising awareness. My past and present work has also involved developing and organizing volunteer programs, collaborating with community agencies and forming ecumenical partnerships and networks. I have also participated in our Latino Worship Service within the church and neighborhoods by celebrating the Eucharist in Spanish.

As a spiritual leader in our diocese, my skill set with diocesan level organizations and the Episcopal church at large, have provided unique opportunities to serve and share resources. I am hopeful that my gifts and talents are exemplified through my application and for the work ahead for the next Bishop Suffragan.

The Reverend Glenice Robinson-Como

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

As Canon Pastor of Christ Church Cathedral, I oversee the pastoral care ministry council for our Cathedral community and serve as a priest on staff. This ministry provides a broad spectrum of resources, such as pastoral care and spiritual support for our members and their families, educational resources/workshops on death and dying, funeral planning, a weekly healing service and annual Longest Night Service. In my former role as Chaplain to the Beacon (a social service agency of the Cathedral). These activities and programs have often intersected and are often still utilized to serve our downtown homeless population and are inclusive of social justice advocacy.

SKILLS

Team Building/Leadership/Strategic Planning

As chaplain to The Beacon, formed ecumenical volunteer teams to support the spiritual development of our clients. Redesigned the pastoral care program at the Cathedral; implemented a team of lay pastoral leaders who support clergy staff in caring for our members (The Shepherds of Christ Church Cathedral). As chair of the Commission on Black Ministry (COBM), developed new mission and vision statement, new policy and procedures and new programming to identify and increase black leadership within the diocese of Texas.

Partnering and Collaboration

As Chair of the Commission on Black Ministry, created a network of organizations which focus on social justice programming and a sharing system to foster partnership and support between groups.

Communication Skills

As a member of the All Our Children Program, served as a presenter at the 2015 General Convention to bring awareness to the partnership program between churches and schools; featured in diocesan videos for Black History Month, "Why We Celebrate Black History Month; interviewed in Texas Annual Methodist news article, "Women Clergy Becoming More Common in Southwest Houston Churches and Synagogues; served on planning team to form Compassionate Houston and featured on their website; interviewed by local news station about "Turn Toward Love," in response to the increase in African American violence by police officers. Author of meditations for Forward Movement.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Canon Pastor/Chaplain to The Beacon (June 2010-Present)

Christ Church Cathedral, Houston, Texas

As Chaplain to The Beacon, implemented an ecumenical spiritual program for clients utilizing community volunteers; obtained financial support to provide worship and educational materials for clients; worked with The Beacon team of social workers, mental health and legal experts to assist clients in returning to the workforce and/or to their families; counseled clients suffering from drug/alcohol abuse, post-traumatic stress and human trafficking; collaborated with Daughters of the King to establish a prayer partner program for Beacon clients.

As Canon Pastor, revised previous pastoral care system to support the Cathedral community through lay ministry, education and training programs; reorganized the pastoral care ministry team to effectively address current needs of members (pastoral care hotline, pastoral care data base tracking system, clergy hot-line, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, flower ministry, shawl ministry, Human Resource Database system and a meal delivery program); recruited and trained volunteers for Walking the Mourners' Path and established the Community of Hope International program as the training module for lay leadership; implemented a new program to our ministry to include services through Amazing Place (an agency which provides care for mild to moderate dementia).

Staff Ombudsman/Benefits Counselor (January 2000-May 2010)

Houston/Galveston Area Agency on Aging, Houston, Texas

Served as an advocate for residents in licensed nursing homes, adult residential care homes and assisted living facilities; investigated and resolved complaints made by or on behalf of, residents of long term care facilities related to acts concerning health, safety, welfare and rights of residents; presented at local and state conferences on various aging topics including: establishing memory care units in nursing homes, elder abuse and end of life care.

Contract Administrator (January 1990-December 1999)

Los Angeles METRO, Los Angeles, California

Served as lead administrator on contracting teams to assist company departments in drafting and issuing contracts for professional services. Ensured contractor compliance with terms, conditions and specifications in accordance with Federal, State and local requirements. As Lead team member worked with budgeting, legal and finance for contract negotiations.

Contract Administrator (October 1984-December 1989)**Department of Defense-Office of Contract Administration, El Segundo, California**

Worked directly with contracting staff at Lockheed and Northrop in the pre and post — award of government contracts; served as lead administrator of a team which included price/cost analysis and property disposal members; served as Termination Contracting Officer on all Air Force contracts; served as a mentor and assisted in development of a community service project for Air Force officers called Adopt-A-School. This team served as mentors for public school students in low-income areas of Los Angeles.

Education

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia
Bachelor of Science/Rehabilitation Services, 1982

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
Master of Divinity/Certificate in Urban Ministry, 2009

Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas
Certificate in Theological Studies, 2010

Organizational Affiliations

Deep Calls to Deep Preaching Fellow
National Secretary for the Union of Black Episcopalians
Member of the Bishop's Peace and Justice Task Force, Diocese of Texas
Member of John Epps Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE)
Member of the Diversity Committee, Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest
Previous Board Member of Amazing Place
Veriditas Trained Labyrinth Facilitator
Chair of the Commission on Black Ministry for the Diocese of Texas
Previous Kids Hope USA Mentor
Member of All Our Children National Network