



# THE REV. HELEN SVOBODA-BARBER, D. MIN.

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## JOY, HUMOR, BALANCE, SIMPLICITY, CONVICTION, BEAUTY, AND FIDELITY

ARE THE VALUES WHICH  
FORM AND SHAPE MY LIFE.  
I HAVE LIVED THESE VALUES  
WHILE WORKING IN FAMILY,  
PASTORAL, AND PROGRAM SIZE  
CHURCHES. THESE VALUES  
HAVE KEPT ME GROUNDED  
AND CENTERED ON GOD'S GIFT  
AND CALL IN MY LIFE AS I HAVE  
TAKEN ON LEADERSHIP ROLES  
INTERDENOMINATIONALLY,  
IN MY DIOCESES, AND  
CHURCHWIDE. THESE ARE  
THE VALUES WHICH I WILL LIVE,  
MODEL AND SHARE WITH YOU.

## WIDER CHURCH EXPERIENCE

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### **Founder**

Women Embodying Executive Leadership (WEEL)

### **Churchwide**

Organizer, Leading Women • Council of Advice for  
the President of the House of Deputies • General  
Convention Deputy

### **Diocesan Work**

Diocesan Council • Episcopal Community Services  
• Constitution and Canons •  
Christian Formation Chair • Mission Area  
Treasurer • Convocation President • College Works  
Committee • Board of Examining Chaplains

### **Ecumenical/Inter-religious**

Director, Kenyon Board of Spiritual and  
Religious Life • Co-founder, Kansas City GenX  
Interdenominational Clergy Group

## ORDAINED EXPERIENCE

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### **Rector**

*St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Durham, NC*

*2014-Present*

- Leading through times of transition.
- Revitalizing worship enhancement dream, guiding Capital Campaign.
- Mentoring postulants, seminarians, and clergy.

### **Rector**

*Harcourt Parish Episcopal Church, Gambier, OH*

*2004-2014*

- Led parish into new model of ministry from supporting staff chaplain to direct ministry with students and greater connection to Kenyon College.
- Increased annual parish giving to outreach from \$7,000 to \$18,000.
- Mediated conflicts for area non-profit groups.

### **Assistant Pastor**

*Holy Cross ELCA, Overland Park, KS*

*2001-2004*

- Instituted small group ministry, trained over thirty leaders, initiated a dozen groups.
- Founded congregation's Stephen Ministry, trained fifteen caregivers.
- Regularly led traditional, contemporary, and extemporaneous worship services.

### **Canon**

*Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Topeka, KS*

*1998-2001*

- Founded young adult ministry with two dozen active participants.
- Coordinated formation for children, youth, and adults including classes and outreach.
- Curate as part of three-priest clergy team, then priest-in-charge, then canon for formation.

## CIVIC EXPERIENCE

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**Latino Educational Achievement Partnership (LEAP)**, Board of Directors

**Interchurch Social Services**, Board of Directors

**Kansas House of Representatives**, Chaplain

**Hollis Retreat Center**, Board of Directors

**Topeka Center for Peace and Justice**, Secretary, Board of Directors

**La Leche League**, Leader and Presenter

**Planned Parenthood**, Religious Advisory Board

**Sundog Farm Alliance CSA**, Co-creator

## ORDINATION

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**Deacon (2/9/98) • Priest (9/12/98)**

*The Rt Rev William Smalley, Diocese of Kansas*

## EDUCATION

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### **Doctor of Ministry**

*Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Austin, TX, 2017*

### **Master of Divinity**

*Seminary of the Southwest  
Austin, TX, 1998*

### **Bachelor of Arts**

*Psychology and Human Development (honors)  
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 1991*

### **Continuing Education includes:**

Lombard Peace Center Mediation Training  
• Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Grant  
• CREDO I and II • Executive Leadership  
Assessment Seminar (PCUSA)