Speakers for the introductory webinar of “Beijing +25: Celebrating the Blessing, Realizing the Dream” online study group

July 9, 2020

The Rev. Deacon Jennifer Allen, Diocese of Kansas (Province VII) The Rev. Deacon Jenn Allen, Bishop’s Curate for Mission, has recently returned to Kansas after completing seminary at General Theological Seminary. She served as a member of the Episcopal Delegation to UNCSW 60 and 61. She served as the Episcopal representative for the Anglican Communion Delegation to UNCSW 63. She serves as a member of the leadership team for UNCSW 64. Last summer she traveled to Kenya for her sixth time with the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas’ Kansas2Kenya mission; this time staying for two months, working at Agatha Amani House, a shelter for victims of gender-based violence, as a chaplain. She is currently leading Bethany House and Garden, a new ministry in Topeka, Kansas. The location for Bethany House and Garden is the historic site of a school for women, the College of the Sisters of Bethany. Embracing that history, the site will partner with Agatha Amani House in Kenya to incorporate creation care, social and gender justice, and spiritual care of the homeless and unchurched in Topeka.

Patricia Kisare serves as the International Policy Advisor for both The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her advocacy work focuses on a variety of international policy issues, including on gender justice, global health, human rights, food security, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, development, and humanitarian assistance. Prior to her current position, Patricia served as the Legislative Associate for International Affairs for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Washington, DC., where she led policy advocacy work on similar issues, with a focus on Africa. She has also worked as a Research Assistant for the U.N International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (UNICTR) in Arusha, Tanzania.
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<tr>
<th><strong>Rev Canon Dr. Helen Van Koevering</strong> currently represents the International Anglican Women’s Network in North and South America. Helen has had extensive experience in the Anglican Communion, being raised in the Church of England, ordained in the Church of Wales in 2002, and having served in the Diocese of Niassa (of the Province of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa) from 2003-15 as Diocesan Director of Ministry, served on the Provincial and International Mother’s Union, and been involved in the training of clergy in Niassa (including the first two Mozambican ordained Anglican women). Helen and her husband, Mark (a US citizen) met and married in Maputo, Mozambique, in 1990, and came to the USA in December 2015 where their three adult children reside. Helen is the Rector of St Raphael the Archangel Episcopal church in Lexington KY.</th>
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<td><strong>Lynnaia Main (Presiding Bishop's staff)</strong> serves as The Episcopal Church Representative to the United Nations, a member of the Global Partnerships team. She loves serving Jesus and her fellow Episcopalians by lifting up our people, voices and ministries within the UN community and by nurturing relationships with member states, UN entities and civil society. She advocates for our Church’s concerns and policies in partnership with the Office of Government Relations, accompanies Episcopalians in their UN engagement and partners with the Anglican Communion, faith-based and civil society organizations. She has studied and worked in international relations and political science in academic, United Nations and business settings in the United States, France and South Africa. She hails from South Jersey and is a warden and devoted member of the Eglise française du Saint Esprit in Manhattan.</td>
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<th><strong>The Reverend Glenda McQueen (Presiding Bishop’s staff)</strong> serves as the Partnership Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean. Her role as a liaison for the Church has enriched her faith and ministry. The realities and experiences of men and women of the Church in Mexico, Central America, Cuba, Brazil, the Caribbean, Province IX and South America as they work for justice and peace and to make their countries and communities places where human rights are valued and promoted inspire and give energy to the ministry to which she has been called. She is committed to encouraging and supporting Latin American women in their local ministries and their participation as advocates in UNCSW.</th>
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<td><strong>Dr. Chiseche Salome Mibenge</strong> is the Director, Gender Initiatives at Episcopal Relief &amp; Development, the humanitarian response of the Episcopal Church. She provides leadership on human rights and gender strategy and supports global partners addressing early childhood development, gender equity and climate resilience. Chiseche studied Law at the University of Zambia and received her PhD in International Human Rights Law from Utrecht University’s School of Law. She is the author of <em>Sex and International Tribunals: The Erasure of Gender from the War Narrative</em> (UPenn Press), and is the co-editor of the Palgrave MacMillan book series, <em>Human Rights Interventions</em>.</td>
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<td><strong>The Rev. Annalise Castro Pasalo</strong> is an Episcopal priest serving within The Episcopal Church in Hawaii. Annalise grew up in Portland, OR. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies with an emphasis on Southeast Asia from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2011. Annalise was received into the Episcopal church while studying at UH Manoa. After discerning a call to ministry, Annalise attended Virginia Theological Seminary where she received her Master of Divinity. Annalise served as a school chaplain in the first years of her ordained ministry. She is currently serving as Priest-in-Charge of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Kailua, Hawaii. Annalise was a delegate on behalf of the Presiding Bishop to UNCSW 62. She is a serving as a part of the leadership team for the UNCSW 64 delegation.</td>
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Karen Patterson currently serves as the National President of the Episcopal Church Women and has served in diocesan, provincial and other national leadership roles for the ECW. She has served as a deputy and alternate to several General Conventions/Triennials as well as on the Standing Committee for National and International Concerns. In addition, she has served as the President of the Diocesan Standing Committee, served as Co-Chairman and Secretary on two Nominating Committees for Bishop of Southwest Florida and is a lay Eucharistic minister at her parish, St. Mary’s, Dade City, Florida. Karen serves as a court appointed guardian for individuals who have been adjudicated incapacitated.

The Reverend Margaret Rose (Presiding Bishop’s staff) currently serves as Deputy for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, on the Presiding Bishop’s staff. She represents The Episcopal Church in its official dialogues and interreligious engagement particularly as they relate to the public commitments of The Episcopal Church. Margaret came to the Presiding Bishop’s staff in New York in 2003 as Director for Women’s Ministries. It was during those years that, along with the Anglican Communion Office, the work of bringing Communion-wide delegations to the UNCSW began. Prior to coming to New York, she was a parish priest in Massachusetts and Atlanta and currently serves as Priest Associate at Church of the Heavenly Rest in New York City. She is grateful to have two empowered daughters and for the many women who are committed to the long-haul work of justice and equality for women.

Ann Smith served as founder and director of Women’s Work, director of Women in Mission and Ministry, Episcopal Church USA, director of Global Education Associates. She is co-convener of Millionth Circle, co-founder and director of Circle Connections, regional coordinator of Gather The Women; working globally with Anglican Communion and United Nations NGOs for gender justice, women’s healing and empowerment. Co-author of Stories from the Circle, Women Prints, Women’s Uncommon Prayers and co-producer of Women’s Round Calendar and Journal of Women’s Ministries. She lives in Naples, Florida, with husband and two cats.