

The Rev. Canon Robyn Szoke-Coolidge

Vision of Ministry

To serve by creating safe formational spaces for congregations and individuals to grow in their faith and in their mission service while coming closer to God together. To Listen, Reflect, Learn, and Respond in the Name of Christ.

Experience that Equips Robyn

Fall 2011- Present: Full time Diocesan staff Canon for Formation includes Development/Dean of School of Christian Studies/oversight of children and youth ministry.

Appreciative Inquiry formational process for Congregational Development in 18 parishes, Youth X-Teen Camp includes 4 day Mission experience, Middle School Lenten Experience, Development of Youth Ministry Internship process, staff to Formation Commission, Development of Young Adult Task Force and VOCARE. Work with Bishop and Bishop's Advisors board for pilot programs in the School of Christian Studies.

Fall 2004-2011 Associate Rector St. John's Episcopal Church, Carlisle PA: Coordinated pastoral teams for lay visitation and LEM, Developed with a team of 10 St. John's pre-school, Vacation Bible School that served about 100 children from the community, oversight and development of mission experience for youth and young adults and

Fall 1998–fall 2004 Episcopal Church Center, New York, NY

Staff Officer for Children's Ministries and Christian Education; supervised 22 lay/clergy volunteers, supervised 2 full time support staff, managed a 3 million dollar budget.

- Produced the *Urgent Now* video as a pedagogical tool for congregations who seek methods of Christian education, generation to generation.
- Collaborated with Development Office of Church Center and Seminaries to include Theological Education for All – web and collateral materials.
- Conducted a two and a half year leadership process with Provincial leaders to connect a theology of Christian formation with congregational development, such as the *Will Our Faith Have Children? Christian Formation Generation to Generation* event, where 91 dioceses participated in dialogue and resource development over a period of four days (Feb 13-17, 2003). Produced the conference and video
- Conducted teacher training and parent seminar sessions for over 19 years
- Visited 9 Episcopal seminaries – taught faith development, Christian Formation, and developing intergenerational ministries during two week visitation.
- Developed resources on Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist with children and adults.
- Supervised *Treasure Magazine Children in Mission* across the Anglican Communion.
- Developed web site including *Treasure Magazine UN* and *Treasure Magazine Jerusalem*.
- Member of Ministries and Christian Education Committees, National Council of Churches:
 1. Public Education and Literacy
 2. Curriculum Theory and Research
 3. Family and Human Sexuality
- **1996-2006 Adjunct faculty at Moravian seminary for the Teaching Ministry courses for MDiv students.** Taught two semesters of Teaching Ministry I and II each year included Faith Development/Teacher Training/Theological Education for ALL

Sept.1994–fall 1998 Diocese of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA

Assistant to the Bishop for Christian education and Director of the Christian Education Resource Center; supervised staff of 5 (3 full time, 2 part time) managed an annual budget of 485,000.00.

- Organized all resources and references, including curricula, to be placed on the database accessible to all 162 congregations in the diocese of PA.
- Developed the first Children's Ministry Center and Children's Presence at the 1997 General Convention held in Philadelphia. Chaired and coordinated a team of 26 folks from every

province to develop intergenerational activities during Convention

- Became a member of the 1998 planning team for the Episcopal Children's Ministries, 1998 National Conference, *Charting a course for Children and the Church*.
- Developed a video, produced by Martin Dobelmeyer and Chris Lee, from the national Church Office, entitled, *Children Against Violence*. This video was aired on ABC TV.
- Developed a video, produced by Karl Schurman and Chris Lee, from the National Church Office, entitled, *Children are a Heritage of the Lord*.
- Developed a Young Adult Task Force and Young Adult Committee.

Jan.1990–Sept.1994 Trinity Episcopal Church Pottsville, PA
Associate to the Rector and Coordinator of Ministry with Children and Families

- Developed Trinity Center for Children.
- Developed *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*; training for the diocese of Bethlehem
- Developed a catechumenate process for children and families with children to be baptized and a retreat for vestry members, "called to ministry".
- Developed consultation process for congregations in transition with Christian Education.
- Organized diocesan retreats for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Diocesan treasure Kids! Project, Youth Leadership training and spiritual direction, Christophany Weekend, Teacher Training and Advent and Lenten events.

1989–1990 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Wikes Barre, PA
Assistant to the Rector

1988–1989 Church of the Mediator Allentown, PA
Diocesan Intern

1984–1987 Cathedral Church of the Nativity Bethlehem, PA
Seminary Intern

**1972–75 and 1980-1983 Parkland School District, Allentown and Saucon Valley
 School District Hellertown, PA**

Teacher

- Developed a curriculum for gifted children at Lehigh University.
- Taught teachers how to teach gifted children during summers at Lehigh University

Education

1987–1988 General Theological Seminary New York, NY

- STM, Liturgical Theology

1985–1989 Moravian Seminary Bethlehem, PA

- MDiv, Theology

1982–1984 Lehigh University Bethlehem, PA

- Masters in Education in Curriculum Development/teacher training
 Taught teachers how to teach Gifted Children at Lehigh University

1968–1972 West Chester University West Chester, PA

- BS, Health and Physical Education

Memberships

National Council of Churches MCE Board
 National Association of Ecumenical Resource Center Directors
 National Catechesis of Good Shepherd

Ecumenical Child Care Network
FORMA, National Association of Episcopal Diocesan Christian Education
Directors Children's Defense Fund

Honors

Invited keynote speaker at the *International Anglican Formation Advisors Conference*, March 2004 – London, England.

Received the **John Hus Award** for outstanding life achievement in Christian Formation and Education by an Alumnae, Moravian Seminary, 2000.

Given the "Key to the City" of Belfast, Ireland, for outstanding ministry of Christian Formation with a focus on Reconciliation.

Publications

Prayer Book Guide to Christian Education

Awake My Soul

Treasure Magazine: Jerusalem, UN Rights of the Child, and Mexico; a mission magazine for children and families.

Educational Inquiry; a formation and ministry development process for congregations and diocese to discern their call to ministry.