

Résumé

WALTER JACOB BAER

Office

Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe
23 Avenue George V
75008 Paris, France
archdeacon@tec-europe.org
+33 1 53 23 84 06 (office) +33 6 78 97 34 29 (mobile)

Home

Graf Seilern-Gasse 20
1120 Vienna, Austria
+43 664 535 1649
wbaer85@aol.com
+1 504.481.5799 (U.S. mobile)

WORK EXPERIENCES

- 2017 - present **Archdeacon and Transition Officer:** Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, Paris, France; convocation-wide ministry in seven countries.
- 2016 - 2017 **Team-Ministry:** Old Catholic Parish, Krems-St. Pölten, Austria; and Old Catholic Mission in Bratislava, Slovakia; mentoring seminarians, preaching, celebrating.
- 2014 - 2015 **Interim:** St. Michael's Church, Mandeville, Louisiana, December 2014 - June 2015
- 2012 - 2014 **Director of Service Learning, Chair of Performing Arts, School Chaplain:** St. Martin's Episcopal School, Metairie, Louisiana (Pre-K to 12th grade)
- 2010 - 2012 **Interim Headmaster:** St. Martin's Episcopal School, Metairie, LA (Pre-K to 12th grade)
- ▶ Two and a half-year appointment rebuilding the school after an intensely conflicted period, with full administrative, financial, personnel, and academic responsibilities with \$11M budget and a staff of 135 employees and 565 students.
 - ▶ Implementation of strategic plan; increasing enrollment. Renovation of Lower School and development of a Learning Commons. Oversight of ten-year evaluation and reaccreditation process (ISAS/SAES)
- 2008 - 2010 **School Chaplain:** St. Martin's Episcopal School, Metairie, Louisiana
- ▶ Character education, life skills, service learning, religion classes, chapels.
- [2008 - 2015] **Parochial ministry (part-time while in school work):**
- ▶ Interim at **Church of the Annunciation** in New Orleans, Sept. 2012 - Nov. 2014.
 - ▶ Long-term Interim at **Holy Comforter**, New Orleans, September 2009 - August 2012
 - ▶ **German Church Service** - Officiating and preaching in German at a monthly ecumenical German Service at Central St. Matthew's United Church of Christ, 2011 - 2015. (*Auslandsgemeinde der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland.*)
 - ▶ Interim priest at **All Saints** in River Ridge LA, September 2008 - June 2009
- 2003 - 2008 **Rector:** Grace Church, Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana
- ▶ Community outreach and post-Katrina rebuilding, community advisor to neighborhood charter school. Inner-city, multicultural church and pre-school, badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and fully rebuilt and renovated through a partnership from throughout the US.
 - ▶ Advocacy for immigrant rights and community organizing; Anglo/Latino parish
- 1996 - 2003 **Rector and Campus Minister:** St. Thomas' Church, Monroe, Louisiana
- ▶ Pastor to town and campus congregation. Great increase in racial diversity
 - ▶ Developed an interfaith community outreach and advocacy organization
 - ▶ Work with international students and mission trips
 - ▶ **Adjunct Instructor in Religion and History:** University of Louisiana-Monroe, Department of History, 1997 - 2003
- 1990 - 1996 **Canon to the Ordinary and Clergy Deployment Officer:**
- ▶ Diocesan Administrator: Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana
 - ▶ **Bishop's School for Ministry** (Dean 1998 - 2003; Instructor 1991 - 2003)
- 1987 - 1990 **Assistant Rector (1987-89) and Interim (1989-90):** St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport, Louisiana

- 1985 - 1987 **School Chaplain and Administrator:**
St. Mark's Cathedral School (pre-school to 8th grade), Shreveport, Louisiana
▶ Chaplain and assistant school administrator, religion teacher
- 1985 **Deacon-in-training:** St. Andrew's Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
▶ Inner-city parish and community center on the near West Side
- 1982 - 1985 **Seminarian:** Nashotah House Theological Seminary, Nashotah, Wisconsin
- 1978 - 1982 **Environmental Engineer:** State Bureau of Environmental Health, Madison, Wisconsin

EDUCATION AND ORDINATION

Doctor of Ministry, Columbia Theological Seminary (Presbyterian PCUSA), Decatur GA, 2011
Master of Divinity (*cum laude*), Nashotah House Episcopal Theological Seminary, Wisconsin, 1985
Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, University of Wisconsin (Madison), 1979
Engineering Study Abroad, Technische Universität Karlsruhe (Germany), 1974-75
Ordination: Deacon 30 March 1985, Priest 28 October 1985; The Rt. Rev. Roger White (Milwaukee)

WIDER CHURCH RESPONSIBILITIES

Task Force to Coordinate Ecumenical and Interreligious Work (established by 79th GC), 2018-present, with responsibility for the European full-communion relationships and ecumenical dialogues.
General Convention: Deputy to 80th GC 2022 from Europe; Attended 2018 GC as exhibitor; Deputy or Alternate to 1991, 1994, 2000 and 2003 from Western Louisiana
Province II synod delegate from Europe 2018; **Province VII synod** delegate 1990, 1993, 1996
Episcopal/Independent Schools organizations: member of NAIS, ISAS, NAES, SAES, annual Conferences and Heads Conferences, (1985-88, 2008-2012)
Churches in Metropolitan Areas (Clergy peer group for those active in inner city work), met twice annually
Transition Ministry Conference, member, attend semi-annual gatherings of transition ministers - mainly Northeast USA. Formerly, in Deployment Officers networks for Province VII and Province IV.
Episcopal Communicators, member and attendee at annual conferences, 2017 - present
Church Pension Group's Client Council, member, 2018 - present
Community Organizing, Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) 10-Day National Training, 2000; founding member of Northern Louisiana Interfaith 1997-2003, active in Jeremiah in New Orleans 2003-2015.

MISSION TRIPS, CONTINUING EDUCATION, AND CONFERENCES

Ramadan Conference in Morocco, July 2014, with Diocese of New York interfaith officer
Mission Trip to Cuba, 2013, with Students of St. Martin's Episcopal School
Mission Trip to Haiti, November 2009 (6 weeks before earthquake)
Speaker at Hurricane Conference in Havana, Cuba, April 2008
Ethiopia Timkat Pilgrimage, January 2007, Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Music, St. Gregory of Nyssa St. George's in Jerusalem, conference on issues of Israel-Palestine, 2004;
Plowshares China Seminar, 2006: ecumenical delegation to Hong Kong and mainland China
Mission Trips to the Dominican Republic, 1999, 2001, 2003; to Honduras, 2004, 2005
United Nations Presbyterian Office: "The Church in ethical discourse," 2004
Diocesan Heritage Tour - chaplain/speaker: Central Europe 2002, Turkey 2001, Greece and Turkey 1998

Other Training and Affiliations

Appreciative Inquiry Training, Oct. 2014-2015; Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer, 1988-2003 (Western Louisiana), 2003-2015 (Diocese of Louisiana); Diocesan Jubilee Officer (2004-2015); CODE 1990-96
Doctor of Ministry Program, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur GA, 2002-2011, under Professors Walter Brueggemann and Kathleen O'Connor; Thesis: "Disasters of Biblical Proportions: Jerusalem (587 BCE) and New Orleans (2005 CE)"

PERSONAL

- ▶ Upbringing: Born to immigrant parents (Swiss and Austrian) in 1954 in Wisconsin, grew up in Madison WI in a multi-lingual environment; US and Swiss citizenship. Fluent English and German, intermediate French, some Spanish.
- ▶ Family: Living between Paris and Vienna with my spouse Peter Neusser; together we have 4 grown children living in the US and Austria. Three grandchildren.
- ▶ Health: Excellent health.
- ▶ Spirituality: Member of the Fellowship of St. John the Evangelist - SSJE (since 2005); and the Society of Catholic Priests - SCP (since 2013); regular retreats
- ▶ Other Interests: I enjoy books, hiking, biking, music, opera, fine arts and travel. Since childhood I have traveled extensively in the U.S., Canada and Europe. Additionally, more recent travels have included Haiti, Morocco, Cuba, Honduras, Turkey, Israel-Palestine, Ethiopia, and China. My reading is quite broad and includes spirituality, theology, politics, history, scientific literature, education, psychology, and fiction. Currently writing articles on German-occupied Paris.