

The Very Rev. Benjamin Thomas, Th.D.

The Very Rev. Benjamin Thomas, Th.D. has served in rural dioceses for most of his ordained ministry. After his ordination 2007, he was an Associate Rector at Grace Church (NYC) before moving to Salina, KS where he served as Dean (2010-2016). Since 2016, Fr. Thomas has been bi-vocational, working as an executive in non-profit organizations alongside his ministry within the church, first as the Director of Church Relations and Social Justice Programs at St. Francis Ministries (2016-2020) and later as the Executive Director for Rakhma Homes (2021-2023).

From 2019-2024 he was the interim dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Eau Claire. He currently works for Episcopal Homes as the Executive Manager of Becketwood, a 55+ senior housing cooperative, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Father Thomas's COVID project was earning an Executive MBA (2022) from the Carlson School at University of Minnesota. He also holds an M.Div. (2007) and Th.D. (2011) from the General Theological Seminary in New York as well as an M.A. in Philosophy of Religion from the University of Colorado-Boulder (2000); his undergraduate degrees, a B.A. in Letters and a B.S. in Chemistry (1997), were completed at the University of Oklahoma. His doctoral dissertation, *An Anglican Hermeneutic of the Transfiguration* (2013) was published by Peter-Lang as the first volume in "Studies in Anglican and Episcopal Theology." His other publications include journal articles on patristic and early medieval theology, church history, and sermons.

His service to the church outside of the parish includes three years on the Commission on Ministry in the Diocese of Western Kansas, a decade of teaching at the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry, and four years as a provincial representative to the Alumni Executive Committee at General Seminary. He was on the Standing Committee in Eau Claire from 2022 until its reunification with the Dioceses of Fond du Lac and Milwaukee last year. During the reunification process, he was the co-chair of the Trialogue structure task force, which was charged with envisioning the shape of diocesan ministry, in particular the role of a bishop and diocesan staff in a geographically large, and largely rural, diocese.

Fr. Thomas grew up mostly in Oklahoma while his wife Holly spent most of her childhood in North Dakota. They married in graduate school and have four children, ages 14-18 as well as a French Brittany spaniel. He is an avid (but rather slow) runner and is learning to play ukulele. In the fall, he enjoys chasing pheasants with the dog.