

The Rev. Canon Shawn Wamsley

Work History and Skills

Canon to the Ordinary, Chief Operating Officer, Chief of Staff

Diocese of Pennsylvania | 2016 – Present

My bishop provides the vision and direction for the diocese's life and trusts me to bring it to reality through guidance and collaboration. I help bring the diocesan vision to life by aligning daily operations, mission strategy, and pastoral care with shared goals and objectives. I support collaboration across diocesan staff, governance, parish leaders, volunteers, and ministry partners from the global Anglican Communion, the wider Church, and local communities.

Leadership and Vision:

- Worked with the Bishop to restructure staff, reducing full-time positions from 28 to 13 and creating five new roles tailored to better serve parishes. This restructuring prioritized efficiency and realigned resources to meet parish needs.
- Partnered with budget committees to shift focus toward parish vitality, reducing administrative costs to under 50% of the \$6.5M annual budget and limiting payroll to a third of overall expenses. These changes made room for increased support for local ministry and programs.
- Led a diocesan team in reopening three closed parishes, growing the combined Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) from 0 to 256 by fostering community engagement and shared local leadership.

Governance and Financial Oversight:

- Helped maintain steady diocesan spending while increasing benefits to parishes and encouraging deeper engagement.
- Supported collaborative oversight of seven diocesan campuses and six vicars.
- Facilitated annual budgeting in consultation with governance bodies and parishes, advising on financial strategy and stewardship.
- Worked with the finance office and trustees to align endowment spending with diocesan priorities.

Preaching and Pastoral Engagement:

- Preached and led worship in most of the diocese's 136 congregations, offering support in times of transition and pastoral care during clergy absences or crises.
- Known for preaching that is joyful, thoughtful, and rooted in real life.

Crisis Leadership:

- Partnered with diocesan and parish leaders to establish COVID-19 protocols that kept communities safe and spiritually connected.
- Worked with lay and clergy leadership to guide parishes through post-COVID recovery with the "Casting Nets" initiative, a step-by-step guide for parish revitalization to ensure parishes remain relevant going into the next century.

Canon for Youth and Family Ministries

Cathedral Church of St. John, Diocese of the Rio Grande | 2013 – 2016

Primary Gifts and Skills: Developing youth and family ministries, pastoral care, preaching, teaching, and church growth.

Role Highlights:

- Led the creation of family, youth, college, and young adult ministries, equipping families and lay leaders for spiritual formation.
- Worked collaboratively in pastoral and liturgical leadership while managing Cathedral staff.

Educator and Chaplain

Hope Christian School, Albuquerque, NM | 2001 – 2013

Primary Gifts and Skills: Administration, teaching, curriculum design, and organizational leadership.

Role Highlights:

- Taught English Literature, Philosophy, Christian Doctrine, and Communications.
- Served as Assistant Chaplain and Spiritual Life Director, supporting a 1,500-student school community through retreats, worship, and pastoral care.
- Helped develop and implement the school's Bible curriculum and training for new faculty.

Preaching and Teaching Philosophy

With 25 years of experience in both lay and ordained ministry, I strive to offer preaching that is theologically rich, accessible, and grounded in lived experience. I aim to inspire reflection and action, focusing less on abstract theory and more on practical discipleship and the presence of God in daily life.

Education

Master of Divinity, Church Ministries

School of Divinity, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, 2010

Master's in Theological Studies

College of Bible and Church Ministries, Southwestern Assemblies of God University, Waxahachie, TX, 2003

Bachelor's in Bible and Pre-Seminary Studies

Evangel University, Springfield, MO, 2001

Ordination

- Ordination to the Diaconate, Diocese of the Rio Grande, 2014
- Ordination to the Priesthood, Diocese of the Rio Grande, 2015
- Canonical Residency: Diocese of Pennsylvania

Ministerial Perspective

- **Liturgical Style:** I am rooted in Anglican tradition, blending formality and incarnational theology. Worship should inspire and invite meaningful encounters with Christ.
 - **Pastoral Care:** Embodies a ministry of presence, offering support and guidance through relationships and shared experiences.
 - **Stewardship:** Emphasizes sacrificial giving and fosters a culture of generosity within the church.
 - **Pilgrimage:** Much of my life and ministry are interpreted through the lens of pilgrimage. Our journey together develops and deepens our identity in Jesus.
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Diocesan Leadership

Active service and support on committees and commissions, including:

Governance and Administration:

- The Standing Committee
- The Board of Trustees
- The Diocesan Council
- Diocesan Finance Committee

Clergy Compensation and Parish Revitalization:

- Commission on Wellness
- The Mission Committee
- The Transformation Committee

Justice and Advocacy:

- Anti-Racism Committee
- Anti-Gun Violence Committee
- Anti-Human Trafficking Commission
- LGBTQIA+ Committee
- People with Disabilities Committee
- Recovery Advocacy Committee
- Veterans Committee

Worship and Community Life:

- Diocesan Liturgical Commission
- Convention Arrangements Committee
- Episcopal Church Women Committee
- The Absalom Jones Celebration Committee

Global Mission:

- Compass Rose Society (Since 2018, with visits to the West Bank, Jerusalem, Mexico City, York, Rome, and London)
- Diocesan Global Mission Commission

Personal Interests

- **Family and Home:** I enjoy cooking New Mexican cuisine with my family and renovating old houses or churches, primarily through painting and plastering. Some of my best days were filled with Carne Adovada burritos and laying tile.
- **Sacred Art and Architecture:** Deeply inspired by sacred spaces and art, actively explores churches worldwide.

- **Outdoor Life:** I enjoy fishing and hiking with friends and family, as well as spending time with my boxer dog.
- **Theological Influences:** I draw inspiration from Miroslav Volf, Fleming Rutledge, N.T. Wright and Rowan Williams. More importantly, my most significant influences are the voices of faithful Christians who surround me daily.