



WOMEN IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

With Diocese of Missouri firsts in italics

- 1785 First General Convention of the Episcopal Church
- 1835 Men and women are members
- 1843 *The ladies of St. John's Church organized St. John's Church Association for the Relief of Orphans and Destitute Persons. Women would manage the Home for almost 100 years.*
- 1845 Episcopal sisterhoods
- 1872 *Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd, led by Sister Catherine Minard, came to St. Louis to run St. Luke's Hospital*
- 1872 Women's Auxiliary
- 1874 First Triennial meeting of the women of the church
- 1874 *Sisters opened the School for the Good Shepherd in St. Louis*
- 1877 Girls Friendly Society
- 1881 *Mary Triplet appointed secretary of the Missouri branch of the Women's Auxiliary*
- 1884 Society for the Companions of the Holy Cross
- 1885 Daughters of the King founded
- 1888 Church Periodical Club
- 1889 United Thank Offering founded
- 1891 *St. Luke's Nursing School opened*
- 1899 *First deaconess to serve in Missouri: Henrietta Bronson*
- 1915 *Missouri branch of the Girls Friendly founded*
- 1917 *First woman seated with voice and vote in Convention in the Diocese of Missouri: Mrs. Brennen, a parishioner from Calvary Church, Louisiana*



- 1921 Altar Guild Founded
- 1941 First woman hired to teach in an Episcopal seminary: Dr. Adelaide T. Case, (Born in St. Louis, MO)
- 1946 *Elizabeth Dyer, elected by the Diocese of Missouri to serve as deputy to General Convention, was seated with voice and vote, and served as chair of the Missouri Delegation.*
- 1949 *Alice Cowdry was elected by the Diocese of Missouri to serve as deputy to General Convention. She and two other women were refused seat, voice and vote.*
- 1966 *First woman in the Episcopal Church to be elected to any Standing Committee: Jane Black in the Diocese of Missouri*
- 1970 Women ordained to the Diaconate
- General Convention changed Canons to allow women to serve as deputies to General Convention
- Jane Black was elected by the Diocese of Missouri to serve as deputy to General Convention. She and other 28 women were seated with voice and vote.*
- 1971 Episcopal Women's Caucus Founded
- 1972 *First woman in Missouri to serve as President of the Standing Committee: Ione Gatch (aka Georgie)*
- 1974 Irregular ordination of 11 women in Philadelphia
- 1975 Irregular ordination of 4 women in Washington
- First women to be ordained to the Diaconate in the Diocese of Missouri: Judith Elizabeth Upham*
- 1976 General Convention approves the ordination of women
- 1977 First woman of African descent ordained in the Episcopal Church: Pauli Murray
First woman ordained priest in the Diocese of Missouri: Judith Elizabeth Upham
- 1980 Episcopal Women's History Project
 Black Women's Task Force
 311 female priests in the Episcopal Church
- 1983 Council for Women's Ministries and Journal of Women's Ministries
- 1985 Committee on full participation of women in the church
- First woman to serve as rector of a parish in the Diocese of Missouri: Ann Brewster Jones, St. Matthew's, Warson Woods.*
- 1988 Committee on the Status of Women



- 1989 First woman consecrated in the entire Anglican Communion: Barbara Harris
- 1,089 female priests in the Episcopal Church
- 1991 First woman elected president of the House of Deputies: Pamela Chinnis
- 1992 Anglican Council of Indigenous Women Founded
- 1993 Mary Adelia McLeod consecrated first female Diocesan Bishop of Vermont
First woman ordained to the Diaconate in the Diocese of Missouri: Charlotte Jane Dey
- 1997 General Convention declares women's ordination canon is mandatory
- 1998 Women bishops at Lambeth Conference for the first time
- First black woman rector of a parish in the Diocese of Missouri: Jonnie L. Cassell, St. Andrew's, Northwoods
- 2006 First woman elected presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church: Katherine Jefferts Schori
- First woman Archdeacon of the Diocese of Missouri: Susan Naylor*
- 2008 18 of the Anglican Communion's 21 female bishops attend Lambeth Conference
- 2009 Episcopal Church celebrates 20 years of women in episcopal ministry
- 3,756 female priests in the Episcopal Church
- 2018 First woman to serve as Dean of Christ Church Cathedral: Kathie Adams-Shepherd
- 2019 24 active female bishops in the Episcopal Church
- 2020 *First woman to serve as Canon to the Ordinary in Missouri: Doris Westfall*



The Rev. Jane Dey

