

# Ruth Woodliff-Stanley

## EDUCATION

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**Yale Divinity School and Berkeley**, Master of Divinity, *summa cum laude*, 1987–1991

**Columbia University School of Social Work**, Master of Science in Social Work, 1988–1991

**Swarthmore College**, Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Psychology, *with honors*, 1981–1985

## ORDINATION

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**Priesthood**, Diocese of Mississippi, *June 28, 1991*

**Diaconate**, Diocese of Mississippi, *June 13, 1990*

## WORK

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**Canon for Strategic Change**, Episcopal Partnership, Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania & Western New York, *2019–Present*

Work with bishop and key leaders to design effective change processes at every scale. Define and sequence necessary steps in each phase of work. Come to understand primary challenges and needs in effecting change in each diocese by listening to local leaders. Design and lead gatherings to build support and capacity for change. Build in feedback loops and incorporate feedback into future iterations. Connect the work of the partnership to others in The Episcopal Church doing related work. (*90 congregations*)

**Senior Vice President for Strategic Change**, Episcopal Church Building Fund, *2019–Present*

Form relationships with key stakeholders in The Episcopal Church to nurture opportunities to partner on strategic change anchored in real property. Guide the Episcopal Church Building Fund in developing a narrative about its new mission initiatives to share at a church-wide level. Together with the President, strengthen ecumenical relationships among other church loan fund partners and develop opportunities for meaningful collaboration. (*11 million dollar fund*)

**Canon to the Ordinary**, Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, *2016–2019*

Served as Chief of Staff and Operations, responsible for the following: budget, diocesan property and legal issues, clergy pastoral care, new call negotiations, disciplinary matters, insurance issues, conflict management in congregations, trusts and endowments, Latino ministries, advocacy and social justice ministries, Commission on

Ministry and Board of Examining Chaplains, support for retired clergy, new clergy mentoring. *(19 member staff)*

**Interim President**, Episcopal Church Building Fund, 2015–2018

Resigned from Board to lead organization in time of transition. Guided a process of strategic organizational change partnering with the Lutheran Mission Investment Fund. Oversaw asset management, loan development, and consulting services. Balanced budget and tripled loan business during tenure.

**Rector and Priest-in-Charge**, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Denver, CO, 2007–2015

Served as Priest-in-Charge for three years then called as Rector in 2010. Focused on revitalization of this diverse, dynamic parish in northeast Denver. *(250 member parish)*

**Regional Missioner**, High Plains Region, Diocese of Colorado, 2010–2013

Served a three year term to provide pastoral support and leadership development for 27 congregations. Oversaw annual regional budget, administered grants, provided pastoral support and leadership development to clergy and lay leaders.

**Consultant**, 2002–Present

Hired by the Bishop, Diocesan and other Episcopal leadership bodies, and by individual parishes for conflict mediation, transitional ministry consultations, mentoring clergy and vestries, visioning and strategic retreats, engaging across lines of difference and other types of leadership development. Worked full-time from 2004–2007. Consulting work now folded into roles as Canon to the Ordinary and as Interim President of the Episcopal Church Building Fund. Examples of this work include the following:

- ▶ **The Adele Franks Crispin Journey Series**, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Diocese of Mississippi, preached and led two-day retreat titled, "Wondering with the Stars: Relating to Those Who Differ from Ourselves," *December 1 & 2, 2018*
- ▶ **Colorado Episcopal Foundation and Standing Committee**, Diocese of Colorado, managed strategic change process, *2017*
- ▶ **Standing Committee**, Diocese of Colorado, facilitated retreats, *2015–2016*
- ▶ **Bishop and Standing Committee**, Diocese of Fort Worth, facilitated strategic change, *Summer 2012 and Summer–Fall 2017*
- ▶ **Parish Vestry**, Diocese of Colorado, provided ongoing consulting after highly publicized trial, property dispute, and departure of rector, *2008–2009*
- ▶ **Recently Ordained Clergy (ROC) and Diaconal Formation**, Diocese of Colorado, mentored formation groups, *2005–2010*
- ▶ **General Convention Deputation**, Diocese of Colorado, facilitated deputation in preparing for Convention, *2006 and 2009*
- ▶ **Commission on Ministry**, Diocese of Colorado, designed and led formation retreats for diaconal candidates, *2004–2010*

- ▶ **Vestries and Parishes**, Diocese of Colorado, designed and implemented processes to guide vestries and parishes through conflict into healing and resolution, 2003–2016
- ▶ **Bishop's Task Force on Communion Public Process**, Diocese of Colorado, facilitated 20+ public meetings for lay leaders and for clergy, 2003–2004
- ▶ **Bishops' Task Forces on Communion**, Dioceses of Rio Grande, Colorado, and Mississippi, facilitated three (one in Rio Grande, two in Colorado), chaired one (Mississippi), 2000–2007

**Private Psychotherapy Practice**, Denver, CO, 2002–2007

Psychotherapy practice drawing on Bowen family systems theory and Jungian psychology, working primarily with professionals focused on life transitions.

**Assistant Rector**, St. James Episcopal Church, Jackson, MS, 1998–2002 (*part time*)

Hired as part of the after-pastor team after a case of misconduct resulting in a six million dollar lawsuit. Worked closely with wardens, vestry, and bishop to provide healing and be a liaison between parish and primary victim of misconduct. Also was responsible for adult education programming and other duties in life of parish. (*1800 member parish*)

**Assistant Rector**, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Jackson, MS, 1991–1995 (*part time*)

Worked in areas of youth formation, adult education, pastoral care and others as assigned. (*450 member parish*)

**Director of Department of Pastoral Care**, Mississippi State Hospital, Whitfield, MS, 1991–1994

Supervised Chaplaincy Staff, recruited and mentored interns, developed program to provide religious services to 1200 patient residential mental health hospital; began a multi-hospital CPE program.

**Seminarian then Deacon on Staff**, Trinity Episcopal Church, Branford, CT, 1988–1991

Worked in adult education, youth ministry, pastoral care, liturgy planning, and other duties as assigned.

**Graduation Intern**, Catholic Family Services, Milford, CT, 1990–1991

Conducted individual, couples and group psychotherapy as well as workshops.

**Graduate Intern**, West Haven Veterans' Administration Hospital, National Center for Research for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, West Haven, CT 1989–1990

Worked with Vietnam Veterans in second generation treatment program for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder on unit that was one of four sites for national research for treatment of PTSD.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

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**Four Week Spanish Language Immersion**, Centro Panamericano de Idiomas, Monteverde, Costa Rica, *Summer 2018*

**Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness**, Pendle Hill Quaker Study Center, Wallingford, PA, *Spring-Summer 2015*

**Festival of Homiletics**, Denver, CO, *May 2015*

**Comprehensive Wellness Program for Episcopal Clergy**, CREDO, Duncan Conference Center, Delray Beach, FL, *2013*

**Healthy Congregations Trainer Training**, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Denver, CO, *2006*

**Two Year Advanced Clergy Clinic**, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Chicago, IL, *2005-2007*

**Mediation Training Course**, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Denver, CO, *2005*

**Two Year Certification Program in Archetypal Pattern Recognition**, Assisi Conferences, Brattleboro, VT, *recipient of Award for Outstanding Work, 2000-2002*

**College of Preachers**, Washington National Cathedral, Washington, DC, *1998*

**Multiple Conferences and Workshops for Social Workers and Psychotherapists**, *1991-1999*

## VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

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**Coordinator and Developer**, "Power, privilege, place & persons," Smart Start Session for the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP) conference, Denver, CO, *2016*

**Member and Consultant for Relationships & Leadership Development**, Leadership team for race justice, Denver, CO, *2015-2017*

**Chair of the Board**, The Center at Cathedral Ridge, Diocese of Colorado, *2012-2016*

**General Convention Deputy**, Colorado Deputation, *2012*

**Vice Chair of the Board then Acting Chair**, Episcopal Church Building Fund, *2011-2015*  
(*resigned in order to assume Interim Presidency*)

**Board Member**, Colorado Haiti Project, *2005-2008 (made trip to Haiti in 2006)*

**Facilitator for Post Ordination Consultation**, Diocese of Mississippi, *1993-2002*

**Member**, Board of Examining Chaplains, Diocese of Mississippi, *1992-2002*

**Member**, Commission on Ministry, Diocese of Mississippi, *1992-2002*

**Chaplain to Integrity**, Diocese of Mississippi, *1992-1996*

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Paintbox [blog]**, Weekly reflections on the propers drawing in interdisciplinary resources.

[ruthws.com](http://ruthws.com)

**"Unspeakability"** [sermon], The Episcopal Dioceses of NWPA & WNY, *June 28, 2020*

[facebook.com/watch/?v=744258239663679](https://facebook.com/watch/?v=744258239663679)

**"The Mercy of God"** [sermon], St. John's Cathedral, Denver, CO, *July 15, 2018*

[saintjohns.buzzsprout.com/121416/752938-sunday-july-15](http://saintjohns.buzzsprout.com/121416/752938-sunday-july-15)

**"Healing for the Broken-Hearted"** [article], *Colorado Episcopalian*, *March 1, 2017*

[medium.com/@TEC\\_CO/healing-for-the-broken-hearted-8520e46424c0](https://medium.com/@TEC_CO/healing-for-the-broken-hearted-8520e46424c0)

**"It is Our Duty"** [sermon], St. Thomas Episcopal Church, *June 28, 2015*

[youtube.com/watch?v=LSXunj\\_QD6s&t=10s](https://youtube.com/watch?v=LSXunj_QD6s&t=10s)

**"Disrupting Racism"** [panel presentation], The State of Racism in America Conference of The Episcopal Church, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Jackson, MS, *November 16, 2013*

[youtube.com/watch?v=m5FpYDvmZ0Y](https://youtube.com/watch?v=m5FpYDvmZ0Y)

**"Coconut Cake"** [sermon], St. Thomas Episcopal Church, *December 17, 2011*

[youtube.com/watch?v=RJ\\_mp8cIDDs](https://youtube.com/watch?v=RJ_mp8cIDDs)

**"Reflecting on Anger"** [book chapter], *Anger*, 2010

[books.upperroom.org/book/anger/](http://books.upperroom.org/book/anger/)

**"Love Our Enemies?"** [sermon], *explorefaith.org*, *September 23, 2001*

[explorefaith.org/homilies/911/20010923.html](http://explorefaith.org/homilies/911/20010923.html)

## PERSONAL

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Ruth has been married for 33 years to Nathan Woodliff-Stanley, currently pastor of Two Rivers UU Fellowship in Carbondale, Colorado. They have two sons, George (25) and John (21). Ruth enjoys time with family, being with close friends, creative writing, traveling, hiking, swimming, gardening, bicycling, dancing, freshly ground coffee, cooking, and riding great roller coasters.