



The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

Office of the Bishop

Dear friends in Christ,

I am thrilled to announce the appointment of Tamika Gerhardt as the Frances Joseph Gaudet Missioner for Congregational Vitality and Beloved Community.

Since Tamika joined our team in May 2023, our staff has been enriched by her dedication, strong work ethic, organizational skills, passion for ministry, and sense of humor. We are so excited to watch her step into this new role, where we believe she will have the opportunity to put her gifts and talents to greater use and where all of you in the diocese will be the direct beneficiaries of her wisdom and experience.

Tamika offers an expansive professional background, spanning over 20 years in lay mission and ministry work in the Episcopal Dioceses of New York and Pennsylvania. During her career, she served on the staffs of multiple parishes, including All Saints', Staten Island; Episcopal Feeding Ministry of Staten Island; Grace Church and the Incarnation, Philadelphia; St. Gabriel's; Grace Epiphany; Holy Innocents St. Paul's, and St. Thomas', Whitemarsh.

Hallmarks of her ministry in these places have been the development of various administrative and management support services and the empowerment of lay leadership to grow and revitalize their communities. Her areas of expertise in lay ministry include parish transitions, parish finance, Latino ministry, and racial justice and reconciliation. Tamika's commitment to creating inclusive and expansive spaces, promoting cultural competence and humility, and fostering a sense of belonging for all individuals has led to the flourishing of many communities.

As the Missioner for Congregational Vitality and Beloved Community, Tamika will:

- Serve as the Beloved Community Coordinator and Staff Liaison, where she will support, guide, and provide oversight to all of the diocesan committees, commissions, and boards that fall under the newly-formed Gaudet ministries umbrella. These include the Gaudet Committee, Racial Healing, Youth Leadership Committee, Creation Care Commission, Inclusive Louisiana, and Latino/Hispanic Ministry.

- Enhance our Congregational Vitality initiatives by planning and executing Annual Clergy Conference and Clergy Days. Organize formation webinars and seminars for clergy and lay leaders, including in-person training events for the diocese. Additionally, she will work with the Canon to the Ordinary to support parish development through resources and connections within the diocese and the larger church, following up on Mutual Ministry Reviews and goal-setting workshops to help meet goals and identified needs. Each year, she will aim specifically to offer stewardship-related events and activities to our parishes.
- Organize and coordinate our Diocesan Convention, operating as Dispatch of Business.
- Continue to provide support to the Canon to the Ordinary and the Commission on Ministry by tracking individuals involved in the discernment process.

The creation of this new position has been a hope of mine since the beginning of my episcopacy, expanding mission, vitality, healing, formation, and outreach in our diocese. Building upon the good work of both Canon Reid and Canon Kellogg, this position and Tamika's gifts contribute to our diocese's ongoing efforts to build upon the strengths of our lay leaders and bring a more unified and collaborative energy to our Gaudet ministries.

May we always strive to keep Jesus's work and light at the forefront. It is through His teachings and love that we find the strength and guidance to serve others with compassion and empathy. May His presence continue to guide us in our mission to make the world a better and more loving place for all.

Please join me in congratulating Tamika, who began her role on June 1st!

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Rogers Duckworth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a cross at the beginning.

The Rt. Rev. Shannon Rogers Duckworth
Bishop of Louisiana