

*“The good news is that the harvest of your life and mine is not yet here. There is time. We are ‘works in progress.’ God is patient and kind. If we acknowledge our need of God, our sin is forgiven, and we are empowered to love the world in His Name--as individuals, as brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ...”*

The Rev. Canon V. Gene Robinson, Canon to the Ordinary for the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire since 1988, coordinates diocesan staff and ministry of the Office of the Bishop. Since 1983 he has served as Executive Secretary of the Episcopal Province of New England, and since 2001 on the Board of Trustees, General Theological Seminary.

Gene developed and led the “Being Well in Christ” conference approach to clergy wellness in some 20 dioceses. He initiated “Fresh Start,” the two-year mentoring program for all clergy in new positions, and co-authored the curriculum used in 44 dioceses. Much of his ministry has focused on helping congregations and clergy in conflict, and in studying congregational dynamics, conflict and mediation. Co-author of three AIDS education curricula for youth and adults, Gene has done AIDS work in Africa. Within the diocese and province he has facilitated anti-racism training.

A leader in the diocese’s partnership with the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund for affordable housing, he is on the board of the New Hampshire Endowment for Health, a foundation working for access to health care for the uninsured.

A 1969 graduate of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, he has a B.A. in American Studies/History. In 1973, he completed the M. Div. at General Theological Seminary in New York; after ordination he served as Curate at Christ Church, Ridgewood, New Jersey. Upon moving to New Hampshire in 1975, Gene co-owned and directed an accredited girls’ summer camp and horse farm. As founding director of Sign of the Dove Retreat Center in Temple, New Hampshire, he facilitated spiritual direction and designed programs for a variety of groups. He also managed the diocesan Living Into Our Baptism program of spiritual growth and development.

From 1978-1985, Gene was Youth Ministries Coordinator for Province I, serving for two years on the National Youth Ministries Development Team and helping originate the national Episcopal Youth Event. “Most of what I have learned about being a Christian I’ve learned from young people.” He is one of the founders of Concord Outright, a support group for gay/lesbian/questioning teens.

Gene enjoys entertaining and cooking, gardening, music, and running. The father of two grown daughters, he lives with his partner Mark Andrew, employed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

*“The particular answer to these questions is less important to me than how we as a Church deliberate about them. Are we prayerful about them, listening for God’s voice instead of our own egos? Do we truly value the people who hold an opposing view, while disagreeing with their position? And most of all, can we continue to come to the communion rail, humbly receive the Body and Blood of Christ, respecting the dignity of those who disagree with us. I believe we can. And must.”*