

The Right Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen, DD
8th Bishop of Maine (retired)
Assistant Bishop of Maryland



Bishop Knudsen was called to the priesthood long before the Episcopal Church ordained women, enrolling at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in 1977 and receiving her M.Div. in 1980. She was ordained deacon in 1980 and priest in 1981, first pastoring a new mission in Bolingbrook, IL.

In 1987 she was called to a ministry of pastoral care on the staff in the Diocese of Chicago. She offered pastoral care to clergy, their families and congregations in crisis. She was a founder and faculty member in Christian ethics in the program for the Diaconate in Chicago. She developed and managed the Employee Assistance Program for the Diocese of Chicago. As a Trustee of the Church Pension Fund (CPF), she chaired the Benefits Policy Committee during the system-wide revision of CPF's pension and medical insurance programs.

She's a nationally-recognized expert in conflict resolution, congregational development, and issues of addiction and recovery especially within church systems. Bishop Knudsen is co-author of, *So You Think You Don't Know One? Addiction and Recovery in Clergy and Congregations* and *Depending on the Grace of God: A Spiritual Journey through the Twelve Steps*.

Elected Bishop of Maine in 1997, she served until retirement in September 2008, leading the diocese in mission work in New Orleans, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. During her time in Maine she restored the Vocational Diaconate, developed ministries in small rural congregations, oversaw a successful capital campaign, and began campus ministry. Bishop Knudsen is liturgically and pastorally competent in French and Spanish.

Bishop Knudsen has since served as a trustee of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, a board member of the Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage, a popular guest preacher, a retreat/conference leader, an advocate and mission-team trainer for Haiti and a human resources advisor for church and non-profit organizations.

She has also served as Interim Bishop in the Diocese of Lexington, KY (2011- 2012), Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of New York (2013-2014), and Assistant Bishop of Long Island (2014-2015). She was called as Assistant Bishop of Maryland in October, 2015.

Bishop Knudsen is married to Dr. Michael J. Knudsen, a retired computer scientist and make their home in Catonsville, Maryland. Their adult son, Dan lives in Portland, Maine.