

The Rev. Stephen Vance Schneider
A Biographical Summary
May 2023

Professional Work Experience

Principal, City and Spire

Portland, Oregon and Pasadena, California (2014-present)

City & Spire develops resources to explore the city as spiritual geography (including "The Soul of the City" project and "The City as Sacrament" workshop), consults with religious organizations and engages in congregational ministry.

- Developed web-based resources for "The Soul of the City Project" (2014-present).
- Offered "The City as Sacrament" plunge and forum at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Seattle (2015)
- Served as a consultant in long-range planning to a Benedictine religious community (2016-2017).
- Served as Urban Missioner at St. Andrew Episcopal Church in North Portland during a time of transition (2017).
- Provided clergy leadership to St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church while the Rector was on medical leave (2018-2019).
- Developed a Life Mapping Workbook

Rector of Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Portland, Oregon from 1994—2014.

Led the growth and revitalization of this diverse, multicultural, urban congregation as new ministries were launched serving the Portland region and reaching around the world.

- Supported the development of a variety of parish initiatives including weekly community meals, Grace Lectures (an annual lecture series on the intersection of faith and culture), conversations on race, Music at Grace Concerts, and a labyrinth ministry.
- Founder of Grace Institute, a nonprofit agency, created by the vestry at the invitation of the rector in 1996 to address community needs through innovative programs and projects including the highly regarded Grace Art Camp, now the largest children's summer art day camp in the city.
- Created a wide variety of local, national and global partnerships including: PHAME (serving adults with developmental disabilities through education and participation in fine and performing arts), the New City Initiative (offering arts classes for those who have experienced homelessness), Trinity Institute (offering web-based theological conferences) and Trinity Cathedral in Monrovia, Liberia (as a Companion Parish).

- Established the Grace Memorial Episcopal Church Foundation (2001) to support the long-term growth of the parish and its ministries and began a Grace Community Center Auction tradition that raised over \$52,000 in 2014.
- Initiated the development of a campus schematic plan and managed projects for enhancing the identity and utility of the parish campus by painting the principal buildings and by creating a hallway bookstore and stairwell art gallery, a courtyard shrine, a columbarium, and a small chapel for prayer and anointing for ministry and healing.

Canon Residentiary at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

(Presently the Parish of St. John the Baptist)

Portland, Oregon (1989-1994)

- Developed programs in education and faith formation.
- Created a monthly Family Worship Service
- Built bridges between the congregation and Oregon Episcopal School.
- Involved in planning for the transition of the Cathedral to Trinity.

Executive Director of the Center for Urban Education

Portland, Oregon (1972-1986)

Served for 14 years (1972-1986) as the Executive Director of the Center for Urban Education (CUE), an agency affiliated with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and concerned with the quality of life in the city.

- Organized the first conferences in Portland on “Age Discrimination,” “Citizen Participation,” and “Housing Displacement.”
- Launched a wide range of pioneering projects and programs in the areas of housing (the Oregon Housing Trust Fund Project), telecommunications, refugee resettlement and crime prevention (*Neighborhoods Against Crime*).
- Established Shared Housing, the first Home Sharing program in Oregon.
- Oversaw the production of documentary films including “The People Are Dancing Again” (on the Confederated Tribes of Siletz) and “Where Her Gifts Are Respected” (on the ordination of women).
- Created the *Oregon Media Guide* and edited *Community Safety Information*.
- Provided fiscal and administrative support to the Columbia Willamette Futures Forum and initial support to the Southeast Asian Refugee Federation (now IRCO).
- Negotiated and managed the Urban Semester in Portland program for the College of Wooster.
- Supervised The New Theatre, a CUE affiliate that offered a variety of productions including the Oregon premieres of *Equus* and *Jacque Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*.

Associate Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Portland, Oregon (1972 – 1983)

- Served on the design team that created Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) out of two prior organizations, the Greater Portland Council of Churches and the Oregon Council of Churches.
- Carried a variety of staff responsibilities for EMO including strategic planning, congregational relations (including development of ecumenical clusters), legislation (helping to craft state legislation on the confidentiality of clergy communications), and refugee resettlement.

Acting Director and Associate Director of the Indian Welcome House

Los Angeles, California (1968-1970)

Provided interim leadership to this social service and advocacy agency serving Native Americans which was financially supported by the Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church.

- After securing major public sector funding, helped the agency transition to Native American board and staff leadership.
- Organized young adult Native Americans coming to the city for training programs to address irregularities in the administration of these programs by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Voluntary Service

Board and Civic Involvement

Currently serves as an honorary trustee on the Board of Pioneer Courthouse Square, having previously served as Board President (2013-2015) and earlier as chair of the programming committee.

Previous served as:

- Vice president of the Board of Directors of Holladay Park Plaza.
- President of the Board of Directors of *Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon*.
- Trustee of *Oregon Episcopal School (OES)*.
- Secretary of the Board of Governors of the *City Club of Portland*, also chairing its program, personnel and nominating committees.
- Member of the Advisory Board for the *Providence Child Center* (a center for medically fragile children).
- Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Aurora Colony Historical Society.
- Chaired the *Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects for the Northwest Region of Kaiser Permanente*.
- President of the Board of Directors of *St. Andrew Legal Clinic*.
- President of the Board of Directors of *Burnside Projects* (now *Transition Projects*).

Episcopal Diocesan Service

- Ecumenical Officer for the *Diocese of Oregon*.

- Dean of the Portland Metro East Convocation of Episcopal Churches.
- Elected diocesan member of the Chapter of *Trinity Cathedral* in Portland.
- Examining Chaplain for the *Diocese of Oregon*.

Public and Community Service

- Chaired the Public Advisory Committee of Portland Parks and Recreation for the Pioneer Courthouse Square Project (a bond funded project to repair and renew the Square). (2015-2017)
- Served on the Steering and Finance Committees for the successful \$68,000,000 Parks Replacement Bond Campaign. (2014)
- Appointed to advisory committees for *Portland Public Schools*, the *City of Portland* and *Multnomah County* addressing issues of school closures, cable television policy and housing affordability.

Selected Lecturing and Teaching

- Lectured widely on urban and religious issues including: presenter at Lewis and Clark Law School conferences on animal law and welfare (2009 and 2007); lectured on water in cities and water in Christianity at The Chautauqua Institution in western New York State (2004).
- Taught courses at Portland State University for undergraduate and graduate students in “Urban Information and Communication” and in “Media and Community” (with George Stoney of New York University).

Private Consulting and Training

- Extensive experience as a consultant with a variety of non-profits (including social service and arts organizations) in strategic planning, with congregations in mission planning and program development, and with judicatories in the clergy search process.
- Conducted strategic studies for the Presbytery of the Cascades, the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ, and Unitarian Universalist congregations in the United States and Canada.
- Led leadership retreats for congregations, judicatories, and ecumenical organizations.
- Developed and led a training program for clergy in congregational development consulting.

Honors

- Honored by PHAME with an inaugural Community Champion award for service to persons with disabilities (2014).
- Received the Cecil W. Drinkward Award for Trustee Excellence from Oregon Episcopal School (2006).
- Named “Ecumenist of the Year” by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (1996).

Educational Background

- Certificate in Anglican Studies from *The General Theological Seminary*, New York, New York.
- Master of Divinity from *Princeton Theological Seminary*, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from *Wheaton College*, Wheaton, Illinois.

Ordination and Affiliation

Ordained in the Episcopal Church by The Rt. Rev. Robert L. Ladehoff as a deacon (1989) and as a priest (1990).

Priest Associate at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland.