

Peter Buss, Jr.

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Objective

I have been a pastor within the General Church since 1993, and now find myself privileged to serve my church in an Episcopal role. My objective is to provide excellent spiritual and organizational leadership that allows pastors to be successful and the church to function smoothly. I enjoy the challenge of helping people figure things out and find direction—on a personal level, and on a group or organizational level.

Professional History

Assistant to the Bishop, General Church of the New Jerusalem, Bryn Athyn, PA

July 2013 to Present

- Assist the Executive Bishop in Episcopal oversight of clergy functions and world-wide General Church operations. Regional Pastor, South Africa. Coordinator, West Africa and US Visiting Minister Program.
- Director of General Church Education with oversight of General Church schools and religious educational materials for families, as well as responsibility to promote the use of New Church education.

Regional Pastor, Midwest District of the General Church of the New Jerusalem

July 2009 to June 2013

- Provide support for pastors and congregations within the District
- Serve on the Bishop's Advisory Committee, which provides counsel on pastoral moves and pastoral support

Pastor, Glenview New Church and Schools, Glenview, IL

July 2002 to June 2013

- Overall priestly leader of the congregation, coordinating the spiritual program, providing organizational leadership and pastoral care, managing church and school staff, and overseeing preschool to eighth grade school system.
- President, Midwestern Academy of the New Church, with responsibility to oversee all programs supported by this educationally oriented corporation.

Assistant Pastor, Glenview New Church and Schools, Glenview, IL

July 1996 to June 2002

- Core member of pastoral staff responsible for pastoral care, preaching, special services, school teaching, adult education, leadership of community outreach program, and pastoral management of New Church Preschool.

Assistant (to the) Pastor, Washington New Church, Mitchellville, MD

July 1993 to June 1996

- Assist the Head Pastor with pastoral responsibilities. Assigned duties included preaching, school teaching, adult education, pastoral visiting, and regional travel.

Ordinations

- First degree: June 6, 1993
- Second degree: June 8, 1995
- Third degree: June 9, 2013

Personal

- Birthdate: July 13, 1967
- Confirmation into the New Church Faith: January 8, 1989
- Married to Teresa Farrington Buss since August 10, 1991
- Four children: Jason (25), Kayla (23), Amanda (21), and Kevin (17)
- Interests: running, golf, and travel as time and money allows.

Education

- MBA, June 2009, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN (Chicago campus)
- MDiv, June 1993, Academy of the New Church Theological School, Bryn Athyn, PA
- BA, Classical Studies, June 1990, Davidson College, Davidson, NC
- AA, June 1988, Bryn Athyn College of the New Church, Bryn Athyn, PA

Other Experience

- Bishop's Consistory, July 2013 to present
- Bishop's Advisory, July 2009 to present
- Professor, Bryn Athyn College Theological School, July 2013 to present (Doctrine of New Church Education, Festival Talks and Special Services)
- Chair, Education Leadership Team, July 2013 to present
- Vice President, General Church Board, July 2013 to present
- Co-Chair, Women's Participation Task Force, September 2016 to June 2017
- Co-Coordinator, General Church Religion Curriculum, July 2013 to April 2016
- Strategic Funding Principles Committee, October 2010 to Spring 2013
- Bishop Selection Process Committee, February 2009 to February 2010
- Chair, Glenview Clergy Association, June 2006 to June 2010
- Board Member, Academy of the New Church, September 2005 to September 2007

Sample of Presentations and Publications (available upon request)

- “Timeless Messages in the Word”—New Church Life, November/December 2017, Regional Clergy Meetings 2016-17
- “936 Sundays”—Sunday School Conference, April 2017 (together with Sarah Odhner)
- “Pastoral Leadership”—Regional Clergy Meetings, May and August 2016
- “The Marriage of Love and Wisdom: Responding to the Same-sex Marriage Ruling in the United States”—New Church Life, September/October 2015
- “What Is New Church Education and Why Should We Care?”—New Church Life, January/February and March/April 2015
- “That Which Reigns Universally: An Easter Message”—New Church Life, March/April 2014
- “Essentials of the Church”—Regional Clergy Meetings, Spring 2013
- “The Ball is in Your Court”—New Church Life, November/December 2011
- “Women, Men, and the Church”—Glenview New Church, Regional Clergy Meetings 2011
- “Thoughts on the Role of the Executive Bishop”—Council of the Clergy, March 2010
- “A Most Precious Revelation”—Sermon in New Church Life, June 2010
- “The Kingdom of Heaven,” Sermon in New Church Life, May 2009
- “The Lord's Vision and Our Reality: Problems Caused by the Gap”—Eldergarten (Boynton Beach Retreat), January 2008
- “Chastity—An Ancient Concept Applied to Today's Culture”—Sermon in New Church Life, September 2006
- “Gaining Momentum in Marriage”—Glenview New Church Marriage seminar, May 2006
- “Updating the Open Word Logo: A Doctrinal Perspective”—Presentation at Council of Clergy Meetings, Spring 2006
- “Serving a Broader Student Base”—Paper re: New Church Education, February 2006
- “Responding Affirmatively”—General Church Assembly, June 2005
- “Strengthening the Home-front: Families in the Eyes of the Lord”—General Church Assembly, June 2000