



Dena A. Harrison

Pastor, Preacher, Visionary, Strategist, Servant Leader. As Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Texas you have strengthened the church and its institutions, especially the Seminary of the Southwest.

You graduated with a Master of Divinity from Seminary of the Southwest in 1987, led parishes with intellect and style, and then returned to serve with distinction on the Board of Trustees since 2005 and as its Chair since 2009.

You have identified and built upon the seminary's strengths, nourishing this community with your trademark kindness and passion. Your expectation of excellence empowers others to be their very best. Your skillful oversight, fierce and unflinching faithfulness, and unyielding, steady, unwavering advocacy over fourteen years have been critical in bringing Seminary of the Southwest to this season of flourishing and fruitfulness.

You participated in the restructuring of the board and the reorientation of its membership as a geographically diverse, multi-talented, development focused board.

You oversaw the long needed renovation of Rather House and the Austin Diocesan Center. Insisting on quality of interior spaces, your keen sense of pride and design increased the aesthetic beauty of the campus, aligning us with our first core value of hospitality.

Serving as Chair of the Dean Search Committee, you recruited Doug Travis as Dean in 2006 and appointed Cynthia Briggs Kittredge in 2013. As Board Chair you have served as trusted counselor and colleague to Deans Turner, Travis, and Kittredge.

An innovative and strategic thinker, your vision brought together representatives from the Iona School for Ministry, Seminary of the Southwest, and nine founding dioceses to create the Iona Initiative, then the Iona Collaborative. Now the Iona Center at Seminary of the Southwest, this program resources local formation programs in 29 dioceses, serves countless students, and addresses a critical need for leadership in the Episcopal Church.

In fundraising you are irresistible and indefatigable. You ensured the long-term fiscal health of the seminary by leading the \$16 Million Campaign for Leadership, and you are deeply invested in the quiet - but vital - phase of our next transformational effort. A compelling spokesperson and representative of Seminary of the Southwest you have been our strong advocate in the House of Bishops and in the wider church.

You are known to say that you do this work mostly, "for the old ladies and the little girls," so that the old ladies can see how far we've come, and the little girls can see how far they can go. As much as you improved the standing of our beloved seminary, it is your impact on the many generations of priests and lay people that is your greatest legacy. In the words of Executive Chair, Clarke Heidrick, "As Dena steps aside from the role of Chair of the seminary Board and prepares to retire in 2019, she enjoys the trust, admiration, and the affection and love of her fellow board members, faculty and staff, students, and the whole seminary community."

In gratitude for your guidance, leadership, and pastoral presence, as well as your willingness to focus your many gifts on the well-being of this institution and the Episcopal Church, your fellow members of the Board of Trustees present you with the Trustees' Award for 2018.