

Biography and Statement of Interest David S. Deutsch

I was a television director for 38 years. I worked for Public Broadcasting which was called Educational TV when I started my career as a camera operator in 1962. I directed many hundreds of educational, music, and news productions. When I got up out of the director's chair on September 26, 2003 never to return, I had been directing the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer since 1995.

Just before retiring from TV, I became a volunteer verger at the Washington National Cathedral in July 2003. I continue to work at the Cathedral to this day. However, my verging career truly began in 1999 when I was asked to join the newly created verger team at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill. In 2004, I became the head verger at St. Mark's—a position I still hold.

I continue have the unique experience of serving both in both a cathedral and a parish church. BTW: my wife, Stephanie says that I merely took all the skills I learned as a television director and began applying them to the Church!

In 2004, I entered Wesley Theological Seminary and graduated in 2010 with a Master of Theological Studies which is the academic degree. My thesis is titled "Walk Softly and Carry a Big Stick—with Love: The Emerging Ministry of the Verger. During my research, I traveled to England. There I interviewed the head vergers of Lincoln, Carlisle, and Lichfield cathedrals, attended a Church of England Guild of Vergers conference, received a copy of the very first training manual of the CEGV written in 1985, and looked at the definition of a verger in an original copy of Samuel Johnson's first dictionary published in 1775! The thesis is available to all on the VGEC website.

My interest in the VGEC is threefold:

- I enjoy the annual conferences because it is a time of not just camaraderie but of sharing experiences. Maybe a workshop could be created to tell our most embarrassing or most outrageous or most uplifting experience. Call it Confessional 101.
- I am interested in making sure that we vergers are aware of our history. We should travel toward the future knowing from whence we came.
- I feel that we should understand both the theological and spiritual underpinnings of our calling. We need to understand the importance of strong lay leadership as a foundation for the future success of the Church. Ordained clergy cannot do it alone.

Reading the above bullet points, one may not be surprised that I have designed my own bumper stickers (**VERGERS HAVE THE RITE STUFF & VERGERS ARE AT YOUR SERVICE**), written a 100 page thesis on the ministry of the verger and

have agreed to participate in writing the history of the verger in North America for the VGEC.

As is said in the Bible, “Here I am.”