



AFEDJ
American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Board of Trustees

The Rt. Rev. Barry L. Beisner
Holly J. Boone
The Rev. Matthew Dayton-Welch
Jane Deland
The Rev. Anne E. Derse
Robert B. Drumheller
Mike Evans, MD
The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez
Christopher Hayes
Elizabeth Keesee Henry
Greg Herrle
Matthew Johnson
John Nasir
Solomon Owayda
The Rev. Canon Nicholas T. Porter
The Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel
Lisa Sams
Robie W. White
Penny Winder
The Most Rev. Suheil Dawani
*Archbishop in Jerusalem
Ex-Officio*

Executive Director

John Lent

Epiphany 2020

Dear Friend in Christ,

As we approach the one-year mark when almost everything familiar in our daily lives radically changed, I think it's vital to remember that in many parts of the world the changes brought about by the pandemic are much direr than what we've experienced.

As the chair of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and a pilgrim to the Holy Land many times, I know first-hand that the humanitarian ministries of the Diocese have been severely impacted by the economic downturn brought on by the pandemic.

This Easter season I invite you and your congregation to engage with the ministry of the Living Stones of Christ's church - the indigenous Christians of the Middle East. These faithful followers of Christ have continued to serve their vulnerable neighbors throughout this incredibly challenging time.

The 2021 Easter Appeal focuses on the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (HLID) in the ancient city of Salt, Jordan. Just before the lockdown in the spring of 2020, I visited this remarkable boarding school for the first time and was deeply moved by the safe haven and family environment offered to more than 100 deaf and deaf-blind, mostly impoverished, young people ages four to 25. The Christian leaders and highly-trained staff at HLID offer students a rigorous education, vocational training, and therapeutic services regardless of religion, nationality, or ability to pay.

I invite you to join me and many others across the Episcopal Church in making our support known to our brother and sister Christians in the Holy Land. Please take a look at the enclosed brochure to learn how AFEDJ can support your efforts to share this 2021 Easter Appeal with members of your congregation.

Thanks for considering this invitation.

Faithfully,

+Greg

The Rt. Rev. Gregory Rickel, AFEDJ Chair
Bishop of Olympia