

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Blythe Denham-Kieffer

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
People of Faith – Mosaic of Faiths Oral History project

Interview # PFM-A-L-2019-045

Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham-Kieffer, pastor, head of staff and minister of word and sacrament at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *people of Faith – Mosaic of Faiths* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Apr 26 & Jun 20, 2019

Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library,
Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Ed Schoenbaum, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:20 + 0:56 / 1.33 + 0.93 = 2.26 hrs.

Session 1: Early life, seminary training, Lily Foundation and ministry

Session 2: Ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 13, 2019.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

© 2019 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Blythe Denham-Kieffer, *Mosaic of Faiths*, PFM-A-L-2019-045

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Blythe Denham (Kieffer) was born on November 4, 1956 in Chicago, Illinois. She grew up in South Holland, Illinois and was raised in the Reformed Church of America before joining Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, which sponsored her ordination in November 1983. She earned her Bachelor of Arts at Hope College, a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis in Pastoral Counseling from Eden Theological Seminary.

She is a member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and serves on the advisory board of Care and Counseling, Inc. in St. Louis. She was a director of the PCUSA Board of Pensions from 2006-2012. She received a 2011 clergy renewal grant from the Lily Foundation. The theme of her sabbatical Hospitality Rediscovered included (1) a Medical Mission in Colombia, South America (2) multiple cross cultural experiences of spirituality and worship in Geneva, Switzerland; Taize, France; and the Isle of Iona, Scotland and (3) an exploration of her family roots in Holland, Michigan, where ancestors from the Netherlands migrated.

She currently serves on the Contact Ministries Board of Directors, representing WPC, one of the founding congregations of this Springfield outreach. Blythe is married to Dr. Peter S. Kieffer, an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at S.I.U. School of Medicine who works in St. John's Emergency Department and Nursery. Their son Paul is finishing law school at Tulane University in New Orleans where he is on the Law Review.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL; Presbyterian religion in America; Dr. Peter S. Kieffer; Eden Theological Seminary; Reformed Church of America; Contract Ministries, Springfield, IL; Lily Foundation clergy renewal grant; Presbyterian doctrinal theology

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955