

## History Committee Overview

### Mission

The History Committee exists to preserve the history of the Diocese and promote a deep understanding of it. It acts as a resource for any official, parish, or organization in the Diocese that wants to discover and/or celebrate its history.

It fosters mutual understanding and reconciliation among our diverse membership by calling attention to our participation in or failure to oppose all forms of racism, discrimination, and injustice. It encourages the preservation of relevant diocesan, parish, and personal records and artifacts.

### Background

Founded in 1784, the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania is the oldest in the United States. It has played a leading role in the church, the state, and the nation ever since. It has been the subject of many books, including *A History of the Diocese of Pennsylvania of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, 1784-1968* by Wesley Twelves (1969) and *Spanning Four Centuries: Pages of Parish Histories of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania* (1997). A Parish History Project Committee produced *Spanning Four Centuries* in advance of the General Convention that met in Philadelphia in 1997. Led by the diocesan historiographer at the time, the Rev. F. Lee Richards, the History Committee began work shortly thereafter. Under Dr. Sheldon Hackney, once the president of the University of Pennsylvania, it oversaw the team of ten historians who wrote *This Far by Faith: Tradition and Change in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania*, David Contosta, ed. (2012). Today the History Committee sponsors educational events, provides advice on parish records management, and undertakes research projects. Among its achievements are: an oral history project that has preserved the memories of more than thirty people with intimate knowledge of the history of the Diocese; an annual forum on parish history that features the relationship between a parish and its community; and workshops devoted to such topics as the diocesan archives, parish records management, and the care and preservation of historic church properties.

### Membership

Loretha Badger, St. Luke's, Germantown	Libby Browne, St. Peter's Philadelphia
David Contosta, St. Martin-in-the-Fields	Jane Cosby, St. Luke's Germantown
William Cutler (chairman), Church of Our Saviour	James Duffin, St. Luke and The Epiphany
Ann Greene, St. Timothy's Roxborough	Clark Groome, St. Paul's Chestnut Hill
Nancy Iredale, Church of Our Saviour	Debbie Klak, All Saints' Torresdale
Michal Krasulski, St. Luke and The Epiphany	The Rt. Rev. Edward Lee
Arthur Sudler, The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas	
Ex officio: Peter Moak, Diocesan Archivist	

## Contact Information

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