



Much has been written about the founders of Nashotah House, Bishop Jackson Kemper, The Rev. Dr. J. Lloyd Breck, Rev. William Adams and Rev. J.H. Hobart. They were the initiators of a significant movement to form leaders in the Anglican Tradition in the Midwest. Because of their vision, Nashotah House played an important role in the formation and impact of many others in the history of the Episcopal Church.

The history of Nashotah House is an important part of the history of the Church in the U.S. and globally. The House drew immigrants to the New World and played an important role in spreading the Episcopal faith to all four corners of the earth.

In celebration of our 175th Anniversary we are highlighting only a few of the many stories that exemplify the historic impact Nashotah House alumni have had on the Church, the country and the world.

Pioneers in the Faith

The Rev. Gustaf Unonius

(1810 – 1902). He became the first graduate of Nashotah House in 1845. Fr. Unonius was born in Helsinki in the Grand Duchy of Finland, then part of the Russian Empire, and grew up in Sweden.

In 1841, Unonius emigrated to the United States and settled near Pine Lake in Wisconsin. It was there that he founded the early Swedish-American immigrant settlement known as the Pine Lake Settlement or New Upsala. His letters to Swedish, Danish and Finnish newspapers about pioneer life in America prompted a wave of immigration by Scandinavians to the Midwest. It was during this time that Gustaf Unonius became friends with James Lloyd Breck, who encouraged him to pursue his call to ministry and study at Nashotah House.

Following graduation, Unonius was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Jackson Kemper and was later ordained as an Episcopal priest. In 1848, Fr. Unonius became the first rector of St. James' Episcopal Church in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. A year later he founded the Swedish Episcopal Church of St. Ansgarius in Chicago, IL.

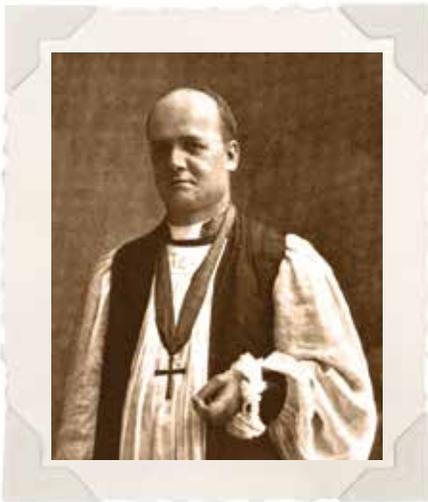
Fr. Unonius returned to Sweden in 1858. The tales of his travels to the United States and his life on the frontier were the subject of his two-volume memoirs, published in 1862. A partial translation, *A Pioneer in Northwest America 1841-1858: The Memoirs of Gustaf Unonius*, was published in 1960 for the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society by the University of Minnesota Press.

A historical marker was erected in 1991 on the grounds of the Nashotah House campus near the Red Chapel and Blue

House by Swedish-American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Linde Lodge No. 492.



The Rev. Gustaf Unonius



The Rt. Rev. John McKim

The Rt. Rev. John McKim

(1852 – 1936). After graduating from Griswold College in Iowa, McKim attended Nashotah House where he received a Bachelor of Divinity (1879) and an honorary Doctor of Divinity (1893). McKim later received honorary degrees from Trinity College and Oxford University, as well as the Order of the Sacred Treasure from the Japanese government. He was ordained to the diaconate and priesthood in 1879 and immediately set sail for Japan. Upon arriving in 1880, Fr. McKim began his missionary work in the Osaka area and became chaplain to St. Agnes School in Kyoto.

In 1883, the General Convention announced Fr. McKim would succeed the Rt. Rev. Channing Moore Williams as Bishop of Tokyo. During his 42 year episcopate, Bishop McKim traveled throughout Japan. He witnessed the nation develop from a feudal state into a great power. He was a part of the spread of Christianity in Japan. He entered the country at a time when there were only a dozen native Christians and no native-born priests. The Church had a reputation for being a political emissary trying to break the Japanese from loyalty to their Emperor. He was a part of transitioning the Church into a constructive force

within the nation, even converting many civil servants. By 1928, the nation had 400,000 Japanese Christians and about 2,000 native clergymen.

The diocese divided four times and had six bishops by the time Bishop McKim resigned in 1935. He oversaw the organization of the Japanese Anglican Church two years before Japan adopted a constitution.

Bishop McKim became best known in missionary circles for his cable to New York after the Great Kantō earthquake of September 1, 1923: "All gone but faith in God." He played an important role in rebuilding the infrastructure after the quake, also serving as the Chancellor of Rikkyo University at the time. On December 7 and 9 of that same year, he officiated at the consecration of the first two native Bishops: Motoda and Naide.

The Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano

(1889 – 1988), who became known as the "Saint of Nebraska and Colorado," was an agricultural missionary among Japanese Americans in western Nebraska and a pastor to American soldiers imprisoned for having been AWOL. At the very same time, he himself was a prisoner during the Japanese internment of WWII. With the passage of Resolution A055, the 78th General Convention officially included commemorations for Kano in "A Great Cloud of Witnesses: A Calendar of Commemorations," for use in the next triennium.

Kano, who was from a well-known family in Tokyo, received a Master's degree in agriculture from the State University of Nebraska. A lay missionary first, Kano would become Deacon Kano in 1928 and Fr. Kano in 1936. By the spring of 1934, there were 250 baptized and 50 confirmed through Fr. Kano's ministry.



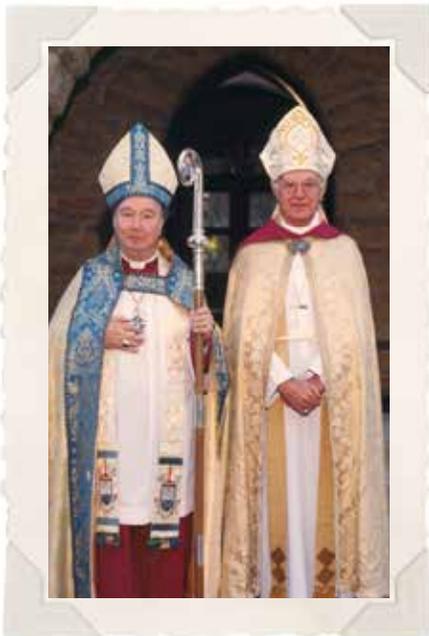
percent of the Nebraska Japanese earning their citizenship. Forty years after WWII, when the U.S. government offered to pay reparations to Japanese Americans, Fr. Kano told his bishop, "I don't want the money. God just used that as another opportunity for me to preach the gospel."

The Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Fr. Kano had just celebrated the Eucharist at the Episcopal Church of Our Savior in North Platte, Nebraska, 180 miles from his wife and children at their Scottsbluff home. He was arrested by the local police and not allowed to notify his family of his detention. He heard the terrible news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the declaration of war on Japan on the police car radio. Because his family in Japan had connections with the Japanese government, he was rated "Class A – the most potentially dangerous of Japanese Americans." He was the only Japanese of the 5,000 living in Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming to receive this rating and to be interned.

Spending the next two years in internment camps, he ministered to his jailers, other prisoners, and German prisoners of war. He served as dean of a school for the internees, teaching courses in Agricultural Study and English, and he preached the gospel. After the war, it was determined that Fr. Kano should not return to his ministry in Nebraska. He was sent to Nashotah House where he earned both Bachelors and Masters of Divinity degrees. He returned to Nebraska and his ministry in 1946.

Fr. Kano and Mrs. Kano earned their citizenship soon after the law permitted it in 1952, and by teaching citizenship classes, were instrumental in nearly 100



*The Most Reverend The Lord
Archbishop Robert Runcie
and The Rt. Rev.
William C.R. Sheridan*

The Rt. Rev. William C. R. Sheridan (1917 – 2005) graduated from Nashotah House in 1942, and was ordained in the Diocese of Maryland immediately thereafter. A loyal alumnus of the House, he served as a member and president of the board of trustees and received an honorary Doctor of Canon Law degree in 1984.

While serving as pastor and rector for several parishes, Bishop Sheridan was involved in numerous community activities including the Marshall County Ministerial Association and the Marshall County Historical Society. He helped found Alcoholics Anonymous in Plymouth and was instrumental in the formation of PIDCO (Plymouth Industrial Development Corp). He also served as chaplain at Culver Military Academy, the Marshall County Jail and St. Joseph's Hospital and its predecessors.

In 1972, he was elected the fifth Episcopal bishop of the Diocese of Northern Indiana and served for 15 years. Sheridan was invited by the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, then president of the Notre Dame University, to be consecrated in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. In an interview with the South Bend Tribune, Sheridan said, "At that time, by my not being a Roman Catholic, it was an earthshaking decision." Sheridan believed that he was the first non-Catholic to have been so honored, making it possible for his two successors to be consecrated there also. For the next 15 years he traveled far and wide throughout the Diocese constantly performing a myriad of Bishop's duties.

In 1997 Sheridan published a book, "A Gathering of Homilies," that outlined his life of service with a collection of his favorite sermons.

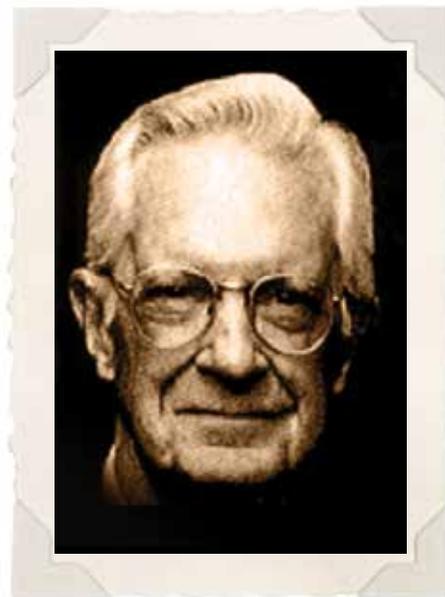
The Rt. Rev. Arthur Anton Vogel (1924 – 2012) was educated at Nashotah House, where he received a Bachelor of Divinity in 1946, the University of Chicago, and Harvard University. He was Professor of Philosophical and Systematic Theology at Nashotah House from 1952 to 1971, served as Sub-Dean in 1969, and was Diocesan Bishop of West Missouri from 1973 to 1989.

Bishop Vogel was a prolific writer, publishing 14 books including *Body Theology: God's Presence in Man's World* (1973), *I Know God Better than I Know Myself* (1989), *Christ in His Time and Ours* (1992), and *Radical Christianity and the Flesh of Jesus* (1995). He was a frequent contributor to other books, journals, and magazines.

He was also an active and enthusiastic participant in a wide variety of ecumenical endeavors, including the Consultation on Church Union (1962-66), the First and Second International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commissions (1969-90), the National Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission (1964-84) and the 4th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (1968).

Bishop Vogel and Bishop Charles H. Helmsing of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph established a covenant between their cathedrals in 1974. The covenant celebrated the cordial relations between the cathedrals, which are a block apart in downtown Kansas City, and committed them to shared works of mercy.

On August 16, 1976, Bishop Vogel offered the invocation at the opening of the 1976 Republican National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.



*The Rt. Rev.
Arthur Anton Vogel*

The Women of Nashotah



Class of 1970,
Miss Elizabeth Constantian

*Congratulatory Letter from
The Most Reverend The Lord
Arthur Michael Ramsey to
Miss Constantian*



The impact of women formed for ordained or lay leadership is a recent evolution, since the first alumna of Nashotah House graduated in 1970. Although their contributions to the Church have been more recent, they are no less important.

The alumnae highlighted in this article exemplify the path that women have traveled over time to become more active in the leadership of the Church, leaving their own legacy.

Miss Elizabeth Constantian, Class of 1970. In 1969, Miss Elizabeth Constantian sent a letter to the Dean of Nashotah House, Donald J. Parsons, inquiring about becoming a student at the House. Though he was on sabbatical, he welcomed her inquiry and referred her to Arthur Vogel, Acting Dean. In a letter addressed to Miss Constantian, Fr. Vogel confirmed that Nashotah House is able to accept women students and, "If your plans work out, you will be the first woman to enter under our new provisions, but don't let that bother you – it should be fun being a pioneer in some things!"

At the time, Nashotah House only offered Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology degrees.

Both Dean Parsons and Fr. Vogel encouraged Miss Constantian to come to Nashotah House for one year and complete her studies at a different Episcopal Seminary to earn a Master of Religious Education. In 1970, Miss Elizabeth Constantian earned a certificate for satisfactorily completing academic work as a Special Student. During her year at Nashotah House, she received a hand-written letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend Arthur Michael Ramsey, with a blessing to her "as the first woman student at Nashotah House."

The Rev. Mary Ann Peters, Class of 1975 and 1976. The Rev. Mary Ann Peters earned a Master of Theological Studies in 1975 and a Master of Divinity in 1976 from the House. She was the first woman to earn either of these degrees from Nashotah House. Rev. Peters was also a trailblazer in the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee as the first woman to be ordained to the sacred ministry of the diaconate. She served as deacon curate at Trinity Episcopal Church in Janesville, but was also involved in efforts regarding gender issues and vocations in the Church. She was a member of the Diocesan Commission on Ordained Ministry & Sexuality and a panel of Janesville women actively involved in their churches to discuss the changing role of women in religion. Rev. Peters authored two essays for Nashotah House publications: “Yes, I am a Woman” in the 1975-76 Nashotah House Catalog and “The Tapestry” in the Nashotah Quarterly Review.

In her essay, “Yes, I am a Woman”, Peters wrote, “Each student coming to Nashotah has apprehensions concerning what it means to be a seminarian and to be a member of a faith-oriented community. For women these apprehensions and expectations are somewhat different, especially at the House, which has been so traditionally monastic and male oriented. Yet the feelings are also similar, as each person who comes to seminary feels certain of only one thing: that he or she has been called by God to some form of ministry, perhaps in the diaconate, priesthood or education.”

She concluded the essay with this personal insight, “As I reflect upon my life at Nashotah, I see and feel what this type of community has done for me as I prepare to embark on a new facet of developing ministry. The conviction I feel within regarding where my ministry is to go has developed because of the community in the Spirit which has

functioned as a catalyst and a generator. Yes, I am a woman, but I am also a student. The community, as we have grown together, has been able to recognize both of these very important parts of who I am.”

The Rev. Mary Ann Peters passed away in 1990. Her ashes are interred in the Nashotah House Cemetery. On her marker are the words “First woman to earn Master of Divinity from Nashotah House”.

The Rev. Canon Carole J. McGowan, Class of 1979. Canon McGowan has served the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande, New Mexico, in a great number of roles in her career. She is currently co-chairing the Diocese General



*The Rev. Canon
Carol J. McGowan*

Convention Deputation and is the Diocese Canon for Formation. She heads the Examining Chaplains in the Diocese where she uses the experience gleaned during her two terms on the General Board of Examining Chaplains. She has served in the past as the Canon for Ecumenical Affairs and Canon Liturgist.

She is also currently Dean of the Bishop's School for Ministries and Honorary Canon of the Cathedral of St. John. Canon McGowan is also a

member of the Ecumenical Institute for Ministry, an adult theological program that exposes students to the faith traditions of various Christian denominations while providing theological education. She recently led a women's retreat exploring the Mysteries of God and how the deductive thinking involved in reading them has an impact on our spirituality.

Canon McGowan is also an avid community leader. She is a past board member of the New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light, currently serving as its liaison for Episcopalians. The organization works for climate justice by mobilizing faith communities, faith leaders, and people of faith to reduce the causes and consequences of global climate change through inspiration, education, outreach, implementation of sustainable practices, and advocating effective climate protection policies.

She recently received the “Turquoise Chalice Award” from the New Mexico Conference of Churches for her ecumenical work.

The Rev. Canon Hope G. Koski (1939-2016), Class of 1980. Canon Koski received a Masters of Sacred Theology from Nashotah House Seminary in 1980.



*The Rev. Canon
Hope G. Koski*

In 1983, she was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church and was among the first 100 women nationwide to do so. She later became the first woman in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, NY to be appointed rector of a parish and later became Dean of the region, overseeing 10 churches. She served as Rector of St. Lawrence of Canterbury Episcopal Church, in Dix Hills, NY for 17 years and was also elected the first female president of the Long Island Council of Churches. The council is an ecumenical organization representing 750 local Protestant churches that also included nonvoting representatives from the Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Jewish Communities. Rev. Koski retired to Gainesville, Florida where she served as interim at St. Albans Episcopal Church in Chiefland and ministered in several other parishes in the area.

The Rev. Dr. Margaret J. Neill (1939-2013), Class of 1990. In 1983, Margaret Neill experienced an “awakening” as a spiritual call to become a priest. She began a discernment process through St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan which led her to Nashotah House. She graduated, earning a Masters in Divinity with honors. Reverend Neill was the first African American woman to complete studies at Nashotah House.

After graduation, Rev. Neill became the Rector of St. Phillip’s Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan where she served for three years. Acting on a call to go to the desert led Rev. Neill to Tucson, Arizona. She formed small groups of Episcopal women and men for the purpose of helping them create a deeper life of prayer. She also developed a healing ministry focusing on “gifts of knowing”. She centered on such topics as: How to help those in need heal their bodies; improving relationships; and growing and enhancing spiritual lives.

She then moved to Wilmington, North Carolina where she served as the

Associate Pastor at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. She worked for several years as a retreat facilitator at the Trinity Conference Center in the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina, Salter Path, North Carolina. She also served as Chaplain of the Order of the Daughters of the King, an Episcopal lay order.

Mother Margaret, as many of the members of her groups called her, celebrated the Holy Eucharist in area churches around Wilmington and Hampstead. She appeared on the Presbyterian Hour radio program and continued to lead retreats around the United States.



*The Rev. Dr.
Margaret J. Neill*

The Very Rev. Heidi E. Kinner, Class of 2004. Upon graduation from college, Heidi Kinner attended U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, receiving her commission to Second Lieutenant in 1993. Her military occupational specialty was logistics, and she served with the Third Marine Aircraft Wing in El Toro, California in that capacity. She also served as Operations Officer, Series Commander and Company Commander

with the Women’s Recruit Training Battalion at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina.

It was during Kinner’s service at Parris Island when she felt the call to ordained ministry. After completing the discernment process at St. Helena’s Episcopal Church in Beaufort, Diocese of South Carolina, Bishop Salmon sent her to Nashotah House.

Following graduation from seminary and ordination, Rev. Kinner accepted a call to a mission church in Twenty-nine Palms, California. In 2005, she became the Canon for Missions and Outreach at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, Alabama. She also served as the Chaplain for the Advent Episcopal Day School, and became the Vice Dean of the Cathedral. Dean Kinner then moved to Helena, Montana to begin her ministry as Dean at St. Peter’s Cathedral in 2011.

In 2017, Dean Kinner embarked on a new journey...to begin a Master’s Degree in Biblical History and Geography at Jerusalem University College in Israel.



*The Very Rev.
Heidi E. Kinner*