

The Rev. Dr. Adam J. (Haggagi) Shoemaker
Rector, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Charleston, SC

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Core Competencies

Preaching, public speaking, communication, worship leadership, pastoral care, strategic planning, fundraising, congregational development, civic engagement, staff development, cross-cultural competence.

Parish Experience

2017 – Present: Rector, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Charleston, SC – a downtown congregation of ~500 communicants with assets of approximately \$1,000,000

- Increased the congregation by 50% and ASA by 50%
- Tripled the number of active families with children or youth (from 25 to 75)
- More than doubled the pledged income of the parish (by \$500,000)
- Doubled the staff
- Led a successful nearly \$3,000,000 capital campaign to renovate the parish campus
- Participated in the leadership of a \$150,000 renovation of St. Stephen's classrooms
- Led the move to a third Sunday worship service geared towards families with children
- Co-Founder of "Three Churches United," a partnership with neighboring St. Mark's and Calvary Episcopal Churches
- Co-Founder of the St. Mark's and St. Stephen's Justice Fellowship, an emerging diocesan initiative to form young people in faith-based community justice and equity work
- Led the effort to make the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (or CAJM) a key mission of the parish
- Supported the creation of a parish Mission Standing Committee to initiate and guide further mission endeavors
- Participated in the leadership of shifting the parish to a vibrant digital ministry during the pandemic
- Sponsoring two postulants for ordained ministry
- Regular Faith Columnist for the Charleston Post and Courier

2011 – 2017: Rector, Holy Comforter, Burlington, NC – a downtown congregation of ~500 communicants.

- Nearly doubled the staff (paid staff by 50%)
- Increased pledging by 12% and the number of pledging units by 6%
- Increased programmatic year worship offerings by 20%
- Founded an award-winning bilingual school for preschoolers directed by two staff and serving approximately thirty students, securing approximately \$100,000 in grant money in two years (the first bilingual school for preschoolers in Alamance County, NC)
- Initiated a mission partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Costa Rica, co-leading annual mission trips for youth and adults
- Initiated a Stephen Ministry program
- Supported the Initiation of a partnership with a neighborhood Title I elementary school of 800 students
- Participated in the leadership of a \$246,000 capital campaign to fund the construction of an elevator to open up full accessibility to all levels of the church

- Regular faith columnist for the Burlington Times News

2007 – 2011: Assistant Rector, Christ Church, Andover, MA - a suburban congregation of ~500 communicants.

- Shared responsibility with the rector for leadership of worship and programs. Preached regularly emphasizing daily living as it relates to lectionary readings.
- Oversaw the work of the parish during the rector's six-month sabbatical in 2009.
- Participated in the leadership team of a multi-million-dollar capital campaign to renovate the church's worship space and build and install a new organ.
- Led a weekly adult Bible study. Facilitated a yearly adult confirmation class and organized an adult book group.
- Led Pastoral Care Team of 15 parishioners who were trained to visit the sick or the homebound.
- Oversaw a church school of approximately 80 children and 10 teachers and developed a monthly children's chapel program.
- Oversaw a J2A youth group program of approximately 45 teens and served as co-leader of J2A pilgrimage trips to Iona, Scotland and Punta Gorda, Belize
- Co-leader of domestic youth mission trips to New York City in 2009 and Washington, D.C. in 2007

2005-2006: Missionary, Episcopal-Anglican Diocese of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – served a thirty-member mission in “The City of God,” a community on the western outskirts of Rio de Janeiro.

- Supported regular worship in Portuguese serving as the staff person in charge for six months.
- Taught two intergenerational ESL classes of thirty students each as a parish outreach.

Summer 2004: Seminarian, the Church of the Holy Apostles, New York, NY

- Assisted coordinator of the parish soup kitchen which serves approximately 1,500 meals a day.
- Led a summer adult education program entitled “Faith in Film.”

2003-2004: Seminarian, All Saints Church, Brookline, MA

- Co-led 20's and 30's group and developed a Sunday evening Taizé service for that group.
- Co-led Rite-13 class of approximately 15 teens.

2001-2002: Micah Project Intern, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Lynn, MA

- Led parish outreach to approximately 20 Sudanese refugees.

Diocesan/Wider Church Experience

2026 – Contributor to Forward Movement's “Sermons that Work”

2025 – Episcopal Service Corps Program Development Cohort Member

2024 – Deputy to the 81st General Convention (member of the Legislative Committee on Social Justice and International Policy)

2022 – Deputy to the 80th General Convention (Secretary of the Legislative Committee on World Mission), Diocese of SC

2022 – General Ordination Exam Reader (Practice of Ministry)

2021 – 2023 – Standing Committee member, Diocese of SC (President in 2023)

2020 – 2024 – Co-Chair of the Diocesan Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation, Diocese of SC

2019 – 2024 TEC – IEAB Bilateral Commission member (Co-Chair 2022-2024)

2018 – 2022 Dean of the Charleston Peninsula Deanery, Diocese of SC
2018 – 2021 Diocesan Council member, Diocese of SC
2016-2017 – Costa Rica Companionship Committee, Diocese of NC
2015 – Alternate Deputy to the 78th General Convention, Diocese of NC
2014-2017 – Committee on Constitution and Canons, Diocese of NC
2014-2017 – Commission on Ministry, Diocese of NC
2009 – 2011 – Commission on Ministry member, Diocese of Massachusetts
Summer 2007, 2008 – Volunteer chaplain, diocesan summer youth camp
2007 – 2008 – Diocese of MA Brazil Committee member
2004 – 2005 – Diocesan Urban Task Force
2003 – 2005 – Diocesan Convention Planning Committee
2002 – 2003 – Micah Project Board Member

Community Involvement

2022 – 2024 – President, Charleston Area Justice Ministry, Charleston, SC
2020 – 2023 – Racial Healing Circle Facilitator, The Sophia Institute's Social Justice Racial Equity Collaborative, Charleston, SC
2017 – 2020 – Mayoral Clergy Advisory Council, Charleston, SC
2015 – 2017 – Mosaic Interfaith Association, Burlington/Elon, NC
2011 – 2017 – Downtown Clergy Association member, Burlington, NC
2009 – 2011 – English Teacher, Brazilian Ministry Center, Peabody, MA
2009 – 2011 – Merrimack Valley Project Participant

Education

2020 The Divinity School, Duke University, Durham, NC, D.Min.
- Doctoral Thesis focused on the congregational impacts of urban gentrification
2007 The General Theological Seminary, New York, NY, Diploma in Anglican Studies
2005 The Divinity School, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, M.Div.
2001 Boston University, Boston, MA, B.S. in Communication

Languages

Portuguese - advanced at speaking and writing; Spanish - elementary speaking ability; student of Arabic

Hobbies

Travel, skiing, language learning, Liverpool and Egyptian soccer, NY Mets baseball

References

The Rev. Canon Philip Linder, colleague and Diocese of SC Canon to the Ordinary –
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Mr. John Byrnes, St. Stephen's parishioner and former vestry member
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Mrs. Susan Klopman, Holy Comforter parishioner and former Senior Warden –
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