

## Diocese of Texas Spring Assembly 2026 – SPEAKERS

The speakers for our Assembly are:

- Rev. Francene Young - Living Eucharistically: A Journey into Thanksgiving, Gratitude and Joy
- Lisa Bortner - Sharing in Jesus' Humanity
- Kathy Akin - Workshop on Forgiveness
- Eddie Mendoza - Healing Circles



**Reverend Francene Young** – The Rev. Francene Young is the Dean of Administration for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas' Iona School for Ministry. <http://www.ionaschool.com/>. In the Diocese, she served as Chair for the Diocesan Commission on Ministry and was the Rector at St. Luke the Evangelist in Houston's Third Ward from January 2012 until February 2021. While at St. Luke, Rev. Young served for three years as the Transition Minister for the Diocese of Texas. In this role, she assisted churches in transition through the search process, seeking new clergy. Prior to her ordination, she worked for Shell US in Human Resources for 23 years. At the time of her retirement in 2013, she was the VP for Diversity for Shell US and Canada and VP for Talent Management for Shell's Upstream business. Prior to her career at Shell, Rev. Young worked in the healthcare industry. She is a graduate of the Iona School for Ministry and the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (MPH). Her undergraduate degree is in Social Services from Cleveland State University. She is married to Ken Jones, an accountant in the Research Grants Division at the University of Houston. They live in Houston.



**Lisa Bortner** - Lisa Bortner has been involved in women's ministry for over 20 years, serving faithfully at the parish, diocesan, and national levels. She currently serves as President of the National Episcopal Church Women Board. Her ministry experience includes:

- Leadership within the Daughters of the King at parish and diocesan levels
- Membership in the Myra McDaniel Union of Black Episcopalians, where she served as Correspondence Secretary
- Graduate and past mentor of Education for Ministry (EfM)
- Presenter of numerous workshops throughout the Episcopal Church

Lisa credits God's grace for her strong organizational gifts and deep passion for service. She believes true fulfillment in Christ is found through immersion in the church community and active participation in ministry. Through the lens of National ECW initiatives, Lisa encourages Episcopal women to engage more fully in the broader life of the Church—growing in faith and inspiring others along the way.



**Kathy Akin** – I am a cradle Episcopalian. Born in Omaha Nebraska. I was baptized as an infant and confirmed around 11 years old. Moved to Austin in 1972.

What I have done within the church:

Jr. Altar Guild, Jr. Choir, Sr. Choir member for more than 30 years, EYC participant, Taught Sunday school over the years, Vestry/Bishop Committee member, Sr. Altar Guild, Managed Sunday Morning Nursery, Set up the Bread Ministry for Visitors, Attended Cursillo, On Team for a Cursillo, Daughter of the King since 1978, Daughter of the King Glory Bound Singer since 1998, Attended 6 International Triennials for the Daughter of the King,

Diocesan Treasurer for the Daughters of the King, DOK Chapter President for multiple years, DOK Chapter Treasurer for multiple years, Head of Operation Christmas Child at St. Luke's for 5 years, Community of Hope Training, Disciples of Christ Training, Facilitator for the Sunday Morning Meditation Class, Attended multiple Order of St. Luke's conferences, Attended TAEHS classes.

Here in Austin I am a founding member of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. Attended there for over 30 years. Moved my membership to St. Luke's on the Lake 8 years ago to worship with my daughter, Sarah Grissom and her family, Darren, Grace, and Libby. Family worship is very important to me. I am blessed to be able to see my granddaughters, Grace and Libby Grissom, growing up in the church.

Professionally, I was the founder and President of Akin Business Service, a business management company started in 1987. We provide accounting, income tax preparation, personal financial management and business management services. I have recently sold this company to my son in law, Josh and am now the CFO for a Family Office.



**Eddie Mendoza** –

Eddie Mendoza retired after 38 years working in the criminal justice field. He now does consulting work in Restorative Justice programs in Texas prisons and in Mexico. He has worked in public schools with high-risk students.

He graduated from Pan American University with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work in 1980 and a Master of Arts in Counseling from Southwest Episcopal Seminary in Austin, Texas.

He co-authored a book "Circles of Reflection: A Space for the Soul. Restorative Practices".