



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Chapter Leadership News

February 2021

Daring to Go Virtual

Dear Chapter Leaders,

One of my closing comments in the January newsletter was encouraging everyone to keep moving forward with a sense of fearlessness, in knowing that doing something *new* is better than doing nothing at all. Following my own advice, and with help from many, many others, the AGO decided to go boldly where no one else had gone before (yes, I'm a trekkie) by producing our first virtual leadership conference. Did we encounter technology glitches? Most definitely. We learned a lot about the specific meeting capabilities Zoom has to offer (and what they don't) regarding producing a large conference with 17 concurrent breakout rooms that were different each night. We learned that we needed to be nimble, agile and be able to pivot quickly, to create the learning experience that we wanted to accomplish. It really did take a village to produce the conference and as I write this column, I am also writing 42 thank you notes to volunteer leaders who served on our planning team, as presenters, moderators and note takers. Our internal production team consisted of AGO staff Joshua Freeman, CTO; Eric Birk, Executive Assistant; Molly Davey, Membership Coordinator; Leah Semiken, Chapter Relations Manager; and last but certainly not least, Executive Director James E. Thomashower, whose enthusiasm and support kept us motivated, with the belief that this new huge undertaking would be successful.

We have received some amazing feedback from many of you. From **Linda Beville, Dean of the Winchester Chapter**: "Thank you for planning such an exceptional three-day workshop. I want to add that I am most grateful that you allowed me to participate. I loved being able to meet and share with colleagues across the country. Most impressive were the regional counselors. What an outstanding group you must work with! Congratulations many times over. I am the richer for coming but also for getting to know you." From **Lynn Vera, Lexington Chapter**: "Thank you so much for an excellent conference! I've hosted Zoom meetings for much smaller groups. This one was much more technically challenging. You did a superb job! It was wonderful to see everyone from all around the country, and I picked up some good information. I look forward to the next event."

We are still editing the recordings of Monday's and Tuesday's General Sessions and hope to upload these links very shortly to the Chapter Leadership Toolkits web page. We received constructive feedback from many of you and are looking forward to planning Leadership 2022, January 23rd-25th. Save the date!

This issue of **Chapter Leadership News** will cover:

- ✓ Has Your Leadership Pipeline Sprung a Leak?
- ✓ Chapter Leader Profile: David Jenkins, Dean of the Twin Cities Chapter
- ✓ Upcoming Chapter Events
- ✓ AGO Hong Kong's Choral Conducting Masterclass
- ✓ AGO San Francisco Chapter Honors Black History Month
- ✓ AGO's Employing Musicians in Religious Institutions: A Handbook for Committees and Candidates
- ✓ Chapter Spotlight: The Williamsport Chapter Turns 75



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Has Your Leadership Pipeline Sprung a Leak?

No need to call a plumber. The fix may be easier than you realize.

A fresh supply of eager officers and board members are readily available to chapters with vibrant volunteer pools.

Volunteers . . .

- feel valued by the chapter
- are invested in the chapter's success
- increase attendance at events and meetings
- strengthen relationships between members
- lighten the load of multiple tasks
- are leaders in training.

Whether volunteers are invited to pass out recital programs, bake cookies (post-pandemic), turn pages, or monitor live-stream cameras, they will be pleased to be asked and their enthusiasm for the Guild will increase. At the same time, their leadership potential will be on display for future advancements.

You, as a leader today, bear an important responsibility in assuring the success of tomorrow's leaders. A volunteer pool is an insurance policy against wearing out recycled officers, and everyone will benefit.

Wayne Peterson, FAGO, ChM

Chair, Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support (COMDACS)

Profile of the Month: David P. Jenkins Dean, Twin Cities Chapter

What's sitting on my desk right now:

Actually, my desk in my seminary office is pretty clear right now as I was on a decluttering campaign this month. Usually I have piles of books, papers, and lists.

If I weren't doing this I'd be:

I suppose if I were not in music, I would still be a teacher of some kind, maybe in history or German.

What keeps me motivated serving as Dean:

I have always enjoyed the associations and friendships with colleagues interested in similar goals and ideals. It's these relationships, and the community, that keep me motivated.

When I'm not at work, I'm:

I have a third-degree black belt in Soo Bahk Do, a traditional Korean martial art related to Tae Kwon Do. During the pandemic I have been feeding my sourdough starter Seymour and have been baking lots of bread.

The best advice I ever got: I was influenced by a 1967 self-help book called "I'm OK – You're OK." I took from it that, as clichéd as it sounds, I am the master of my own happiness.



Upcoming Chapter Events

February Flourish

A Virtual Conference for Church Musicians

Presented by
American Guild of Organists--St. Louis Chapter
in cooperation with
American Guild of Organists--Gateway Confluence Chapter
Handbell Association of Greater Saint Louis
National Association of Pastoral Musicians--St. Louis Chapter and Duchesne Branch

Saturday, February 13, 2021
8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon CST

\$10 registration fee gives access to five video presentations on timely topics with historic and contemporary information and insights into serving faithfully during "Coronatide"



Register at Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com/e/february-flourish-tickets-128018317233

Link also available at www.agostlouis.org/february-flourish/

Recordings will be made available for viewing on February 4, 2021
Live Zoom discussions with presenters will take place on February 13, 2021



AGO Hong Kong Chapter's Choral Conducting Class



On November 21, 2020, the Hong Kong Chapter held a choral conducting class. Three young conductors, Chere Ko, Ivan Leung, and Kenneth Ma worked with an octet of singers and Jonathan Yip (Organist of St John's Cathedral) on the Fisk Op. 149 organ. The masterclass was given by the chapter's

honorary secretary Felix Yeung, Director of Music at St. John's Cathedral. A wide range of repertoire was covered, including John IV of Portugal's Crux Fidelis, Rachmaninov's Bogoroditse Dyevo, Introitus from Fauré's Requiem, Colin Mawby's Ave Verum Corpus, and John Rutter's Candlelight Carol. Amidst the pandemic, the chapter was blessed to be able to organize this masterclass with 11 participants.

In celebrating Vienne's 150 anniversary, members, Ryan Chan, Jennifer Chou, Chere Ko, Ivan Leung, Carlos Li, Ngai Sze Wai and Olga Wong, performed a virtual concert that featured Vienne's music from cathedrals and churches in Australia, Germany, Hong Kong, Singapore

and the United States. The link to the complete video recording can be accessed here: <https://youtu.be/f5u38Brje9s>.

Many thanks to Elizabeth Hung Wong, Dean, for sharing this wonderful information and congratulations to the chapter for producing such a successful event in the midst of the pandemic!



The San Francisco Chapter Honors Black History Month

SFAGO CELEBRATES
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
featuring Organists of the African Diaspora!

LAGOS NIGERIA
ABOLADE OLATUNJI
CHRIST CATHEDRAL

NEW HAVEN
NATHANIEL GUMBS
YALE UNIVERSITY

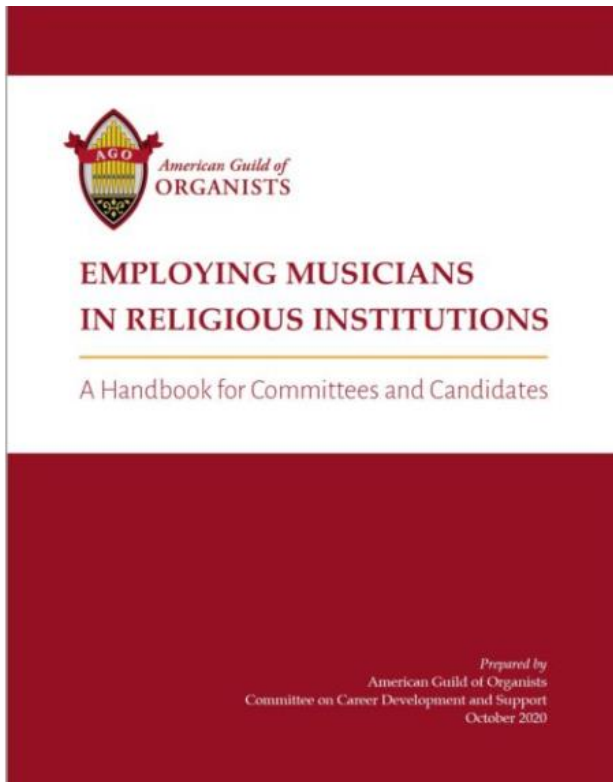
NASHVILLE
DR. ANTHONY WILLIAMS
FISK UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS
DR. COLLIN RICHARDSON
LINDEN-MCKINLEY
STEM ACADEMY

SAN FRANCISCO
REV. JAMES PARRISH SMITH
THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH
SUB-DEAN SAN FRANCISCO AGO

You can enjoy this concert on the SFAGO home page: [SFAGO.org](https://www.sfago.org)

Employing Musicians in Religious Institutions A Handbook for Committees and Candidates



For the last four years, the AGO Committee on Career Development and Support has been working to replace resources disallowed by the 2017 FTC Settlement Agreement and Order with legally compliant ones to aid AGO members and their employers in negotiating details and position searches, interviewing, compensation, and working conditions. This effort has culminated in the publication of the latest career development resource, “Employing Musicians in Religious Institutions: A Handbook for Committees and Candidates.” The Association of Church Musicians and the American Guild of Organists have cooperated in the development of this booklet, that is available to all interested religious institutions and musicians.

The Association and the Guild assume that leaders in religious institutions want to recruit, employ, and support qualified persons to provide strong leadership in sacred music. Thus, these procedures have been developed to assist those who participate in the search and employment process. This booklet provides perspective for clergy and lay persons responsible for the process which will bring effective and talented musicians to religious institutions and their diverse memberships. Guidelines will help religious leaders and congregations conduct an effective search and make appropriate choices of personnel. It is important that employers clearly define their needs and expectations regarding the available position(s). A religious institution’s development of a compensation “package” must reflect the time requirements of the position and skill level of the candidate.

The Guild gratefully acknowledges the work of the following individuals in the development of this handbook: David K. Lamb, DMus, CAGO, Councillor for Membership; Vicki J. Schaeffer, DM, Councillor for Membership; Marlene C. Hallstrom, MM, CAGO, Director; Paul B. Carmona, PhD, AAGO; Nicole Y. Cochran, MM; Doris J. Dabrowski, JD, SPC; Adam Detzner, MM; Jessica M. French, MM; Andrew Johnson, SPC; Carol Feather Martin, MM; Nathan Proctor; Anthony Rispo; Eric Birk, MM, FAGO, Staff; James Thomashower, CAE, Executive Director. A copy of this handbook can be downloaded [here](#).



**The AGO Congratulates
the Williamsport Chapter
on Their 75th Anniversary!**



On January 10, 2021 members of the Williamsport Chapter gathered to celebrate their 75th anniversary. This was a beautiful event with several organists playing the Schantz organ at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Williamsport, PA. District Convener Joyce Gerstenlauer, representing National headquarters presented them with a special certificate of congratulations. Pictured from left to right are Joyce Gerstenlauer, Dr. Marcos Krieger, organ professor at Susquehanna University; Nancy Walker Marchal, organist at Covenant Central Presbyterian; Donna Elkin, chapter Dean; Leatha Kieser, Sub-Dean; Carol Waltz, Secretary/Treasurer and The Rev. Kenneth Elkin. You can access their beautiful recording and celebration here: <https://youtu.be/JgNsT2s1XXA>.

During a breakout session at Leadership 2021, chapter deans discussed what their legacy will be when they leave office. What will be *your* legacy be? Please email me: elizabeth.george@agohq.org.