

The Rev. Canon Edward M. Copland is the Rector of Saint Boniface Episcopal Church, a resource-sized parish in Sarasota, in the Diocese of Southwest Florida, USA. Boniface is an inclusive, progressive parish known for its leadership in worship, teaching, healing, and service. The large and diverse congregation serves as a resource to the community and larger church.

Ted is a native of New England, a graduate of Cornell University and the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, with additional work in education at St. Joseph's College. Since ordination to the priesthood he has served parishes in the Diocese of Connecticut (St. James, Farmington) and the Diocese of Chicago (St. Matthew's, Evanston), as well as school ministries as a teacher and chaplain in Connecticut, and Professor of Preaching at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston.



Overseas he has served in several areas. First, as pastoral consultant to the Bishop of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, in Central America, when he also studied Liberation Theology. He held an appointment of the Presiding Bishop and worked in Central America as part of the church's role in the peace process. Actively involved in relief work in war torn Nicaragua during the 1980s, in 1990 he was a founder and President of the Board of Casa Ave Maria, a mission of service and reflection, which serves the poorest of the poor, especially street children, in Nicaragua. Casa Ave Maria was sponsored by Saint Boniface Church, and operated the largest children's rescue program in Nicaragua, successfully opening a new vocational center and school site in the city of Masaya. He has been the conference leader for La Consulta, an annual meeting of border dioceses of south Texas and northern Mexico. At the invitation of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Johannes T. Seoka, Bishop of Pretoria, Ted has worked in South Africa several times, teaching clergy and laity leadership workshops, conducting preaching workshops and most recently as speaker at the Pretoria Synod. He was honored by being named a Canon of the Cathedral of St. Alban the Martyr in the Diocese of Pretoria.

Ted has been a member of various commissions and committees in several dioceses and served his current diocese of Southwest Florida on the Diocesan Council, as Chair of the Commission on Ministry, and a member of the Commission on Conversation and Reconciliation. He was a founder and the first convener of Southwest Florida Via Media Episcopalians. He has served on several committees of the alumni of the General Theological Seminary, and twice served on the faculty of the Episcopal Preaching Foundation.

He and Judy are the proud parents of David and Ellen and grandparents of Joseph, Sarah, Daniel, Joyce and Maria.