

The Reverend Dennis S. Tierney, Ph.D.

The Rev. Dr. Dennis S. Tierney currently serves as Associate Rector at Saint Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park, California where he directs adult education and formation activities as a special focus of his ministry along with responsibilities for children, youth, and family ministry. Prior to his ordination, he was originally a high school teacher of social studies and student activities director. Having earned his doctor of philosophy degree at the Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, California, he then served as a professor of teacher education and program administrator at The Claremont Graduate School, California State University, Fullerton, and San Jose State University. He also worked as a Senior Research Associate at Far West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development in San Francisco, California. His research interests included teacher education policy, teacher assessment, and program evaluation. He is a former President of the California Council on the Education of Teachers, and served as editor of *The 1994 Yearbook of California Education Research*. His last position before entering the Church Divinity School of the Pacific was with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing in Sacramento, California where he served as Director of the Professional Services Division at the Commission, the nation's oldest independent teaching standards board. The Professional Services Division of the Commission governs the development and enforcement of the standards for all P-12 educator preparation, operates the examination system for all educator credential candidates in the state, manages grants programs totaling over eighty-two million dollars, and conducts policy research for the Commission. As Director, he was responsible for the work of nineteen professional staff and ten support staff. During his studies at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California, he served as Head Sacristan of All Saints Chapel, served on the Diversity Committee, the Social Committee, and the Graduation Committee, served on the Board of Celtic Cross, the seminary missionary society, and served as student representative to two search committees. He is married to Dr. Grace E. Grant, a faculty member and department chair at Dominican University of San Rafael, California. In his spare time, he pursues an avid interest in cooking, theatre, opera, and historical murder mysteries.