

# Walter Lawrence Prehn III, PhD (“Chip”)

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## Currently

Partner, Dudley & Prehn Educational Consultants, HQ'd in San Antonio, Texas, and Charlottesville-area, Virginia. Editor and author, *Saint James School: 175 Years* (2020, by Wipf & Stock). Publish articles quarterly as a member of the TLC *Covenant* writers group. Trustee, Saint James School, an historic boarding school in Maryland, and Board of Directors, The Living Church Foundation, Milwaukee, publishers of *The Living Church* since 1878. Just finished leading a strategic planning process and raising endowment dollars for The Living Church Foundation.

## Professional Strengths

- A. Scholarly/Academic. Strong writer, speaker, thoughtful reader, editor, and independent scholar. Good background in the history of Anglican Christianity on both sides of the Atlantic. Specialty: W.A. Muhlenberg and 19<sup>th</sup>-century Episcopal Church history. Strong in the study of the trans-Atlantic Church Revival in Anglicanism and, as an Americanist, the Early Republic and Antebellum periods. Increasingly interested in Black History (including Religion, Slavery, Emancipation, Reconstruction; Segregation; Jim Crow; and Civil Rights).
- B. Professional/Administrative. Solid track record inspiring and leading organizations to achieve quality and excellence through mission determination, mission focus, strategic hiring, staff supervision, fund-raising, and public relations. Visionary leader. Excellent experience creating and executing strategic plans and reaching goals. Can help any institution (1) gain a clear vision of its first purpose, (2) organize for that purpose, and (3) execute to achieve goals. Can help a purposeful community gain durable competitive advantage and momentum by daring to aim high and stick to the stated mission agenda in every aspect of the program. Strong teacher and speaker. People person. Can effectively sell anything in which I believe. Also experienced and strong in basic priestly ministries: administration, leadership, preaching, teaching, liturgical leadership, and pastoral care.

## Professional Experience 2017-2019

Interim Head of School (2-years July 2017 - June 2019), St. John's Parish Day School, Ellicott City, Maryland, a PreK3-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Episcopal school accredited by the Association of Independent Maryland Schools (AIMS). My job at SJPDS was to strengthen the School top to bottom in the wake of a sudden change of leadership in May 2017; clarify Parish-School boundaries; and address nine consecutive years of declining enrollment. I have organized the organization and made it more competitive for the new head.

## 2010-2017

Headmaster, Trinity School of Midland, Texas, a PreK-3 through 12 independent school of ca. 600 students. Accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) and member of NAES and NAIS. Trinity prepares students for selective colleges with 82 full-time faculty and 123 employees. \$11.5 million budget. Main concerns for this headship were working with the Trustees to re-establish mission clarity, reorganizing the schoolhouse and administration, and then pursuing quality via mission imperatives. Provided the School with enthusiastic leadership for a campus master plan; a successful \$18 million capital campaign (2013-15); and building projects adding 55,000 square feet of space (finished June 2017). Between 2010 and 2015 (when oil-price downturn occurred), Trinity grew in most measurable categories by 27% to 33%, including enrollment, revenue, staffing, salaries, reserve funds, and endowment size. Much time spent in general advancement matters, especially enrollment growth strategies. Served as Chair or Co-Chair of ISAS Reaccreditation Visiting Committees (Christ Church School, Covington LA, and St. Andrew's School, Austin TX). Published *Headmaster's Journal* five times a year for parents and peer heads. Taught elective tutorials annually with motivated members of the senior class (e.g. Marcus Aurelius's *Meditations*, Aristotle's *Ethics*, Plato's *Republic*, studies of Character and the Virtues, and surveys of the great poetry in English). Dedicated teacher.

**2005-2010: Assistant Rector & Chaplain, St. Luke's Episcopal Church & School, San Antonio, TX.**

Served as Chaplain of the PreK-8 school and provided pastoral leadership in a corporate-sized suburban parish of 874 households. Heavy teaching and preaching ministry in the Parish. In the School, coordinated and led Daily Chapel. Taught Grade 8 Religion/Ethics, Grade 6 Religion. Chaired SLES Merit Scholarship Selection Committee. Wider responsibilities during these five years included service as a Trustee, The Episcopal School of Texas (TMI), San Antonio (Standards and Advancement Committees 2006 to 2010). With my wife Co-Chair of the TMI All Saints Chapel Consecration event, 2006.

### **1996-2001: Chaplain & Asst. Headmaster, The Episcopal School of Texas (TMI), San Antonio, TX.**

Part of "comeback" team at the oldest Episcopal college preparatory school in the Southwest. As Chaplain for 5 years: Full responsibility over campus religious life, including return to Daily Chapel (1996); Chair, Dept. Religious Studies; Instructor, Biblical Studies, Middle School Religion, Philosophy, and Elective Tutorials. As *Assistant Headmaster* 1999-2000 reorganized boarding program and supervised Director. Supervised Directors of Advancement and Marketing/Public Relations. Key player in Church Relations and Special Initiatives. Served on Academic Policy Committee and Upper & Middle School Admissions & Scholarship Committees for 5 years. Raised funds for new merit scholarship program for Jewish students. Frequent drafter of school statements and articulations of mission (e.g. "School Philosophy" for ISAS 10-year accreditation 2000). Student advisor. Football coach (varsity and reestablished middle-school program). Staff coordinator of Freshman Retreat; Night School (for parents); and Daunt Memorial Lectures in Religion & Society. Co-chair, major regional C.S. Lewis conference (June 2001). Elected Teacher of the Year by Class of 1997. Honored with Yearbook Dedication in 2001.

### **1990-1996: Rector, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church & School, San Antonio, TX.**

Helped ambitious people lead their Parish and Pre-School from fledgling to flight status via pursuit of quality at every level. Served Episcopal Diocese of West Texas as Chairman, Liturgy & Music Commission (1991-94); founder Bishop Elliott Society (a theological fellowship that sponsored conferences for clergy & laity); Instructor in Historical Theology ("Anglicanism 1700 to Present"), Bishop's School for Ministry (1993-96); Bishop's Examining Chaplain in theology, liturgics, and ethics (1993-96); and several terms as Dean or Chaplain at Camp Capers (Texas Hill Country summer Church camp). Retreat conductor. Guest preacher. Cursillo team leader.

### **1985-1987**

- o 1987-90: Curate, Church of the Good Shepherd, Rosemont, PA; and Episcopal Chaplain, Bryn Mawr College.
- o 1985-87: Curate, Church of the Holy Cross, Dallas, Texas; and Trustee, St. Philip's Episcopal School.

## **Education**

In addition to the formal education sketched below, significant work experiences during or after college included track laborer for railroad; deck-hand on Mississippi River; free-lance journalist; retail asst. manager; bookseller; and recruited clients for a stockbroker.

- (1) Ph.D., University of Virginia (History of American Education), 2005. Dissertation title: "Social Vision, Character, and Academic Excellence in Nineteenth-Century America: William Augustus Muhlenberg and the Church School Movement, 1828-1877." Jacksonian and Antebellum America. Worked extensively in Depts. of American History and American Religious History. 2003-04 Fellowship with Undergraduate Dean of School of Engineering & Applied Science (taught class of struggling students, worked on alumni/ae surveys, researched problem-based learning in Europe).
- (2) Master of Divinity, *cum laude*, Nashotah House Seminary, Wisconsin, 1985. Traditional core curriculum. Studied both Hebrew and Greek. Demanding daily community life. Superb priestly formation.
- (3) Bachelor of Arts (History), Texas A&M University, 1979. Western Civilization concentration. English minor. Started in wildlife science then changed to College of Liberal Arts. Studied Latin and Philosophy. Paid Resident Advisor. Winner, 1978 university fiction prize. Poetry editor, student literary journal. Intramurals. A founder of a new social club.
- (4) Graduate of Chamberlain-Hunt Academy, Port Gibson, Mississippi (Diploma 1975), a now historic boarding school founded in 1830. Faculty Medal of Honor and Choir Award, 1975. Senior Class President. Battalion Commander of ROTC, 1974-75. Three-year Letterman in football, basketball, track, and tennis. All prep-

league honors in football (quarterback and punter) and track (mile relay). Sports Editor, school news. Yearbook staff. 1990 C.H.A. Distinguished Alumnus Award and Baccalaureate Speaker.

## **Professional Development & Publications**

Since 1985, I have participated every year in leadership training, skills development, continuing education, and professional development. I embrace learning opportunities provided by the NAIS, ISAS, AIMS, NAES, and TEC. Not only my professional work but my work as a trustee of four different schools has taught me much about team building, team work, strategic planning, good governance, and the need to change with the times without abandoning mission ideals or historic institutional identity. For my formation as a mission-driven educator and administrator, I gained much from my own schooldays: My headmaster was a model human being and a great educator. My teachers and coaches modeled my own future calling to me. In both church and school work, I've had the opportunity to lead workshops and present both professional and scholarly papers (e.g. used Collins's *Good to Great* with Trinity Midland trustees for eight weeks of strenuous but fruitful work regarding the very purpose of the school). Other work includes Adjunct Instructor in Church History at Nashotah House Seminary (Summer 2007); Founding Fellow, the Saint James Conference for Church School Educators (Muhlenberg Institute); and editor of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary history of Saint James School, Maryland. Member, Am. Hist. Assn.; Org. Am. Historians; Hist. of Ed. Society; and Hist. Soc. Episcopal Church. Invited by Dr. Prichard of VTS to give a paper at a COACH meeting in Wisconsin in 2003.

**Author** of reviews, articles, and poems in various media (e.g. *San Antonio Express-News*). Wrote chapter on Episcopal Schools for *Praeger Handbook of Faith-Based Schools in the United States*, two vols. (2012). Member of the TLC *Covenant* Writers Group thus publish quarterly articles in the online blog, *Covenant*. Working on a book about the application of W.A. Muhlenberg's educational principles to 21<sup>st</sup>-century needs. Hope to publish an article on "Muhlenberg's Religion" soon. Presented on Muhlenberg for the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. James Church, Lancaster, PA (April 2020), which is retrievable via YouTube and the key-words "Muhlenberg, Prehn, Lancaster."

## **Personal**

Born 1957, Palo Alto, CA. Deep Mississippi and Texas roots. Ordained Episcopal priest by the Bishop of Dallas in 1985. Current canonical residency: Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. Married Cecilia Anne Jones of Dallas 1988. Two grown boys, one daughter a year out of college. Worked 12 years in parish ministry until powerful calling to serve schools in 1996. Hobbies and interests include studies of great leaders and wide reading in non-fiction and fiction; fly-fishing, bird hunting, bird dogs, sport horses and hunting; all types of music, performing and visual arts (learning harmonica); avid fan of college sports; and perennial writer of poetry, non-fiction, and fiction). Poor but avid golfer and tennis player; poorer horseman. People person. Excellent health.