

## New Connections for Retirees

*During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Reverends Len and Lindsay Freeman of The Chaplains to the Retired Clergy and Surviving Spouses in the Diocese of Minnesota have found joy in discovering new ways to overcome isolation and deliver pastoral care. They call helping those they serve get the most out of special CPG resources “a real gift.”*

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| The Rev. Lindsay Freeman | Our role as Chaplains to the Retired here in The Episcopal Church in Minnesota is one of connections, of making connections with the larger church, the Church Pension Fund, with the diocese, the bishops here, and with all the rest of the clergy.   |
| The Rev. Len Freeman     | If I could speak to all clergy, probably the one thing I'd want to say to them is: You have a ministry, and don't forget that. We're friends. We're mentors. We're, frankly, wise older heads. The larger church needs us, but also our fellow retired clergy need us.  |
| The Rev. Lindsay Freeman | It's a challenging time right now in terms of the pandemic in that everyone is in their houses. People are scared to go out. They've been told not to go out.   |
| The Rev. Len Freeman     | Retired clergy already feel a little out of the loop, and then even that loop falls apart. And then your local connection, the local parish, falls apart.   |
| The Rev. Lindsay Freeman | And so we are making connections through Facebook, through Zoom, through phone calls — any way we can.  |
| The Rev. Len Freeman     | We have a new bishop coming in. We were supposed to have a meeting with him. We had to cancel that. I thought: “You know, he's already got the time in his schedule. What if we set up a series of Zoom meetings — you know, smaller groups: 10, 12, 20 — with him?” And so we've been looking at projects like that. |
| The Rev. Lindsay Freeman | The Church Pension Fund is a wonderful resource for clergy, both financially, spiritually, even emotionally, in the sense that we are there for clergy.   |
| The Rev. Len Freeman     | I am, frankly, amazed, gratified, appreciative how much the Church Pension Group actually does for all of us, how much it looks out for us. One of the things I've discovered along the way is they really have our best interest at heart.   |