

The Reverend Terry Shields Dirbas was born and raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina, a largely military community situated close to Ft. Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. She received her bachelor's degree cum laude from Duke University, where she majored in religion and earned a certificate in elementary education. Her participation in campus ministry and her experience as a student teacher led her to formally discern a call to the priesthood. After graduation she continued this discernment in Philadelphia, where she worked with Interfaith Hospitality Network to serve homeless families.

Terry received her Master of Divinity with honors from General Theological Seminary in New York City, where she served at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and at Christ Church in Bronxville, New York. Though she is passionate about many areas of ministry, much of her training focused on adult formation, school chaplaincy, youth and family ministry, and liturgics. She has a particular interest in the intersection between Christian education and outreach, and has a significant background in service-learning. In seminary Terry was awarded the McVickar Alumni Prize in Biblical Greek, as well as the J. Wilson Sutton Prize for her thesis on intergenerational worship.

While at General, Terry also met her husband, the Reverend Joseph Dirbas, a former member of Christ Church who now serves as an associate at St. Peter's in Del Mar. They live in South Park with their Weimaraner, Quark, and their Persian cat, Pebbles. When she is not working, Terry enjoys going for long runs and playing the violin. She is an introvert, but you probably wouldn't know it. Though she will always miss the land of sweet tea and barbeque, Terry is excited to be in California and looks forward to joining Christ Church in its ministry.