

## Meribah Mansfield



The Rev. Meribah Mansfield has been involved with Ohio Interfaith Power and Light since its initial meeting in October 2007. She served on its founding board from 2008-2011, and rejoined the board in 2016. Care for creation is fundamental to her faith. She is a vegetarian who believes that all people deserve to have access to fresh, healthy food, so she has served on the board of Franklinton Gardens since its inception in 2013. It is an urban farm that grows and shares fresh food in the food desert of Franklinton. As an ordained Episcopal deacon in the Diocese of Southern Ohio, Meribah currently serves at St. John's in Columbus. In her role as deacon, Meribah volunteers to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need, and to assist bishops and priests during public worship in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments. Meribah previously served on the board of the Worthington Resource Pantry and volunteered as its Resource Center Coordinator. She is also an Ohio Benefit Bank counselor.

Meribah was Director of Worthington Libraries from 1991 to 2010. Meribah worked in Central Ohio public libraries for almost 38 years until her retirement in 2010. After receiving her B.A. degree in English from Wittenberg University and her M.L.S. degree from Western Michigan University, she began her library career as a reference and young adult librarian in 1972 at the Bexley Public Library. She worked in several positions at the Upper Arlington Public Library (including Assistant Director), served as director of the Fairfield County District Library and as director of the Main Library at the Columbus Metropolitan Library before joining Worthington Libraries. She is a past president of the Ohio Library Association and past chair of the Ohio Library Council Board of Trustees. Meribah was a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission that formed the Ohio Public Library Information Network, and served on the OPLIN board from 1995-2001. Under her direction, Worthington Libraries received the national Library of the Year award for 2007 from *Gale/Library Journal*. Meribah received the Ohio Library Council's Librarian of the Year Award in 2003 and its Hall of Fame Librarian Award in 2011, the Friend of the Year Award from Kent State University School of Library and Information Science in 2003, a Key Communicator Award from the Worthington Schools in 2003, and the Leadership for a Lifetime Award from Leadership Worthington in 1999.

Meribah lives in Columbus with her husband, Bruce Mansfield. They have four children and four grandchildren.