

Last Episcopal diocese holdout ordains female

by [Daniel Burke](#) in the [November 16, 2010](#) issue

Women have been ordained as priests in all dioceses of the Episcopal Church, now that the last holdout—Quincy, Illinois—has ordained its first woman.

Margaret Lee, a grandmother of five and former chemist, was ordained a priest October 16 in the Peoria-based Diocese of Quincy, according to Episcopal News Service. She had been a deacon since 1996.

A spokesperson for the Episcopal Church said all 110 dioceses in the 2.1-million-member church have now ordained at least one female priest. The Episcopal Church voted to open the priesthood to women in 1976.

Quincy, which has about 1,800 members in 24 parishes, was one of three dioceses that had refused to ordain women, but its former bishop, a staunch conservative, retired in 2008.

The other dioceses—San Joaquin, California, and Fort Worth, Texas—had also refused to ordain women, but conservative parishes in those dioceses and the bishops who led them have seceded from the Episcopal Church in the past three years. Remaining Episcopalians in those dioceses have since ordained women. —RNS