

NOMINEES FOR DIOCESAN OFFICES

Report Prepared for the 231st Diocesan Convention,
As of October 5, 2021

Diocesan Council

(Four seats for 3-year terms,
One clergy and one lay seat for a 1-year term)

**Clergy Nominees (3 Clergy Seats;
one for 1-year term):**

The Rev. Pamela Fahrner
The Rev. Charles Jenkins
The Rev. Laura Rezac

**Lay Nominees (3 Lay Seats,
one for 1-year term):**

Jo Etta Chewning
Penny Philo
Joseph Rutter
Carolyn Sparks

The Diocesan Council is responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of the Diocesan program and budget. Between Diocesan Conventions, the Council functions much like the vestry of a congregation, establishing policies, planning the work of the church, and overseeing its administration.

Standing Committee

(3-year terms)

Clergy Nominees (2 Clergy Seats):

The Very Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker
The Rev. William Watson

Lay Nominees (2 Lay Seats):

Arenilla K. Bush
Gail DeCosta
Minerva King
Thomas Miller

The Standing Committee is comprised of six clergy and six lay members. The Standing Committee's responsibilities are:

- 1) Act as the Standing Committee of the diocese in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, The Constitution of this Diocese (Article IX), and its Canons, including giving consents to Episcopal elections elsewhere in TEC;
- 2) Act as a Council of advice to the Bishop; and
- 3) Act as Ecclesiastical Authority in absence of the Bishop.

Trustee, University of the South

(3-year term)

Clergy Nominees (1 Clergy Seat):

The Rev. Ryan Currie

The University of the South, located in Sewanee, TN, is owned by the Episcopal dioceses of the southeast, each of which elects two lay persons and one member of the clergy to its Board of Trustees. The Trustees meet once each year for two days. Between annual meetings, trustees serve the University by promoting its mission, encouraging enrollment, and supporting it financially.

Additional nominations (or self nominations) may be made between now and Friday, November 5, 2021 at 5 pm. Nominee must provide their personal statement and photo to the Secretary of Convention (along with a nominator statement, if applicable).

Diocesan Council *Clergy*

Name: The Rev. Pamela Fahrner

Church: All Saints Episcopal Church, Hilton Head Island

Nominated by: The Rev. Denise Trogdon



Nominator statement: The Reverend Pam Fahrner has served on several Diocesan committees previously, and is interested in continuing service to the diocese. She is finishing her commitment to the Standing Committee and hopes to become part of the Diocesan Council. She is a valued addition to the All Saints Hilton Head clergy and brings depth and wisdom to her role. She is a seasoned priest and I highly recommend Pam as an addition to Diocesan Council.

Personal statement: It has been my pleasure to have served on the Diocesan Council and then the Standing Committee. My life amongst you in the Diocese of South Carolina began just as the previous diocesan leadership was departing. ...fortuitous timing! My life has been characterized by perseverance and determination-qualities useful in challenging times. I bring to this position long experience as a lay person as well as a clerical perspective. Organized and experienced in multi-tasking, I offer my energy and enthusiasm and hope to serve the council well. As a former business owner and responsible for the financial side of the business, I hope to bring capacities appropriate for the diocesan council in careful fiscal management as well as working with our bishop to bring our diocese to a place of health, peace and exciting new ventures. I have lived and served the Diocese of South Carolina since 2013, after serving in the dioceses of Maryland and Virginia.

I currently serve at All Saints Episcopal Church, Hilton Head as an associate. This has been a wonderful time to serve this diocese. We have all, working together, proved to be strong and resilient through some challenging times. I have been honored and graciously blessed to serve amongst the fine people of the diocese of South Carolina.

I look forward to continuing to serve this diocese who welcomed me so graciously.

Diocesan Council

Clergy

Name: The Rev. Charles Jenkins

Church: Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community

Nominated by: The Rev. Rob Donehue



Nominator statement: I am pleased to nominate the Rev. Charles Jenkins to serve on the Diocesan Council. He is currently serving as the Director of Pastoral Care and Chaplain at Bishop Gadsden. Charles recently came home to the Diocese of South Carolina after serving at Christ Church in Greenville, SC. Charles' experience working in a resource parish setting with a large staff and multiple programs give him the insight and skills we need on the Diocesan Council at this pivotal moment in our common life. Also, while at Christ Church, Charles served on the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, so he has a working knowledge of diocesan governing structures. His pastoral sensibility and his willingness to be a team player will make a positive impact on our Diocesan Council.

Personal Statement: I was born and raised in Charleston, SC, attending St. John's Episcopal Church on Johns Island and spent summers at Camp Saint Christopher as a young child through college. After earning my bachelor's degree from the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, I served as the parish administrator at St. John's for two years before attending seminary at Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA, in 2009. Due to life circumstances and the split that occurred within the diocese, I sought a career in healthcare, specifically hospice, for nearly a decade where I served as the director of operations for a hospice company in South Carolina.

Noting that God's call is persistent, I returned to the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee in 2018 to pursue a diploma in Anglican Studies to prepare myself to take the General Ordination Exams in the Episcopal Church. After my ordination to the diaconate in June 2019 at Grace Church Cathedral in Charleston, SC, I served as the Associate for Pastoral Care at Christ Church Episcopal in Greenville, SC. In December 2019, I was ordained to the priesthood at Christ Church and transferred my canonical residence to the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

While in the Upper Diocese, I served on the board for Canterbury Counseling Center, as well as chaplain to Happening. I was a member of the Standing Committee and Diocesan Executive Council, as well as the Nominating Committee for the IX Bishop of Upper South Carolina. In August of 2021, I accepted a call to serve as the Director of Pastoral Care and Chaplain at Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community. I am glad to finally be back in the diocese and look forward to being a part of the leadership that helps steer and grow this wonderful diocese. With a background in the operational side of organizations in healthcare, I bring a wealth of knowledge in budgeting, setting and achieving strategic goals, and implementing the mission and work of organizations. If elected to Diocesan Council, I look forward to using these gifts to serve this group which is charged to carry out the work of the diocese between conventions.

Diocesan Council

Clergy

Name: The Rev. Laura Rezac

Church: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Charleston

Nominated by: The Very Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker



Nominator Statement: It is my pleasure to nominate the Rev. Laura Rezac to serve a term as a member of our Diocesan Council. Laura is a strategic thinker, a gifted priest and pastor, and an articulate communicator. Her arrival as St. Stephen's Associate Rector, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, has also highlighted her creativity and ability to adapt to the uncertain times in which the church finds itself. I believe Laura would be an asset to Council not only for these gifts and graces but also because of the perspective she would bring as a younger priest in the diocese, with a ministry focused on children and youth, who is still relatively new to South Carolina. Her Easter attitude is just the kind of voice we need to help us to move forward in faith under the leadership of our new bishop.

Personal Statement: It would be a great privilege to serve on the Diocesan Council for South Carolina. I have been in this diocese for one year, serving as the Associate Rector for Children and Youth Formation at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. I graduated from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in 2020, and was ordained to the priesthood during pandemic-tide here in the Diocese of South Carolina. During my time here, I have enjoyed collaborating with other Episcopal churches on youth events, and look forward to my involvement this year with diocesan youth programs.

For four years prior to starting seminary, I served as the lay youth minister at the Chapel of the Cross, where I was also part of the leadership teams for our CrossTies Young Adult ministry and our Global Mission efforts in South Africa. I also have an M.S. in chemistry, and taught at UNC Chapel Hill for five years as a Visiting Lecturer. Through my teaching ministry and my service in churches, I have an appreciation of the unique challenges our children and adolescents are facing at this moment in our history, as well as a sense of call to mission and evangelism that has only been strengthened by beginning my ordained ministry in the middle of a global pandemic. If I am selected to serve on Diocesan Council, I will bring a missional focus, a listening ear, and a heart to collaborate with others.

Diocesan Council

Lay

Name: Jo Etta Chewning

Church: St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, Florence

Nominated by: Jane Hart Lewis



Nominator statement: Jo Etta Chewning has been an active and vital member of St. Catherine's since the beginning of our mission. She is now serving as clerk to the Mission Council and works diligently on the hospitality/pastoral care committees as well. Currently under the tutelage of Frances Elmore, she is also an aspiring altar guild member. An astute observer, Ms. Chewning offers sage advice to our Mission Council with tact and humor. Prior to the formation of St. Catherine's, she was a very active member of St. John's in Florence where she taught adult Sunday School, co-chaired Vacation Bible School several times and regularly worked on the Annual Christmas play. A native of the Pee Dee, Ms. Chewning is keenly aware of the fiscal realities of our region; she is both innovative and creative in offering ways for St. Catherine's to become a beacon of hope to those less fortunate. Ms. Chewning is retired after a 43-year career as a teacher. The loyalty, persistence, and adaptability necessary to have such a long career in public service are qualities from which St. Catherine's has received great benefit, as will the Diocese should she become a member of Council.

Personal Statement: I have lived most of my life in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina, surrounded by small communities and big swamps. As a child, I attended Lake View Methodist Church with my family. But when my husband and I moved to Florence in 1981, we joined the Episcopal Church and attended St. John's with our two sons. Over the years, I taught Sunday School, worked with Bible School, helped with the Youth Group, and assisted with various special hospitality projects.

When St. John's voted to "follow Bishop Lawrence," I began searching for another church, and found St. Catherine's. I currently serve as the Mission Council Clerk, but most gifts of my time to St. Catherine's have been with hospitality.

After teaching in public schools for 42 years, I see the needs of a community through the eyes of its students. One of the reasons St. Catherine's is so dear to me is that its members understand about those needs and willingly participate in the kinds of projects that provide direct person-to-person help to those who often have nowhere else to turn.

Outside of church, I have served on the boards of Hospice of the Pee Dee (founding board), Camp RAE, and the Manna House. I am completing a term as board president for the Friends of the Florence County Library. I am honored that my church thought I might be of service to the Diocese. Doing so would be a privilege.

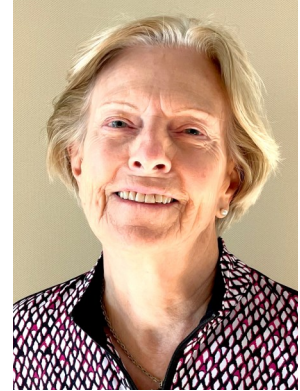
Diocesan Council

Lay

Name: Penny Philo

Church: Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal Church, Pawleys Island

Nominated by: The Very Rev. Wil Keith



Nominator Statement: Penny has served on so many committees and ministries at our parish during my time here that we know each other very well. This includes multiple terms on Vestry, Stewardship Committee, Ushers, Greeters, Hospitality, and is our current Assistant Treasurer. She has never dropped the ball on anything assigned or anything she has taken initiative on herself. She is prayerful and measured in her response, always attentive, and very caring for those around her.

Personal Statement: I am a cradle Episcopalian, having been baptized, confirmed, and raised in the Diocese of Albany, in the northeastern corner of NYS (near Lake Placid). I also lived in New York City for 15 years where I graduated from Columbia University and worked in administrative roles, both in the private sector and for the City of New York. I returned to the northeast for another 8 years before moving to South Carolina where my late husband and I established and ran a retail golf business for some 30 years. I have been a member of Holy Cross Faith Memorial since the late 1990's and have been an active member of the parish for approximately 10 years. I am currently in my last year on the Vestry, am Head Usher, and am or have been active with Hospitality, Greeters, Blessing Box, Kitchen Kindness, Invite/Welcome/Connect, Finance committee, annual Stewardship drives, and a Capital campaign.

In reflecting on my time on the HCFM vestry, and thinking about what I do next, I feel called to serve on the Diocesan level. This time of transition...working with Bishop Ruth...assisting newly developed missions and returning congregations...supporting the strengths of existing parishes...working to strengthen and expand the footprint of the Episcopal Church...all of these excite me and make me want to be a part of it! I would be honored to serve the Diocese and its people.

Diocesan Council

Lay



Name: Joseph W. (Woody) Rutter

Church: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Port Royal

Nominated by: The Rev. James C. Dannals

Nominator Statement: Woody is deeply committed to Christ and the Mission of the Church. He has been valued and trusted by lay leaders, priests and bishops, including in the Diocese of South Carolina. He understands the historical dynamics and the opportunities and challenges ahead. He is a born leader and teacher and has exercised these gifts effectively over many years. At St. Mark's, Woody has served on the Vestry including as Sr. Warden. Over the years he has been part of the leadership team and helped to shepherd the congregation from worshipping community to mission to thriving parish. I believe Woody would be a tremendous asset on Diocesan Council at this exciting and crucial time in the life of our diocese.

Personal Statement: A resident of Beaufort for nearly 25 years, I moved here to head Beaufort Academy (now retired), after 31 years as a teacher and administrator at Salisbury School. Salisbury is a fine Episcopal boarding school in the Berkshire hills of Connecticut. I spent time as Director of Development, and Assistant Headmaster.

As a lifelong Episcopalian, I served on the Vestry of St John's in Salisbury. When I arrived in Beaufort, I became a member of St. Helena Episcopal Church. Although I knew many of the members of the church, I never was fully engaged, and gradually drifted away. When St. Mark's was meeting in a motel and various other places, I attended a few services, but joined as a regular member when they rented the historic Union Church in Port Royal. I loved our three part-time priests: Roger Smith, Jack Nietert and Patricia Daniel-Turk, and I joined the Vestry. When we called our first Vicar (we were then a mission)- Jim Dannals- I became Senior Warden. We became a new parish of the Diocese and I continued in that position when Jon Coffey succeeded Jim, and a search committee was appointed to call our first full-time priest- Rev. Roy Tripp. No longer on the Vestry, I actively participate in the Southern Deanery. With the blessing of Bishop vonRosenberg, the Stewardship & Development Committee was formed shortly after the schism, with Ray Sabalis as our wonderful leader. We were charged with helping to raise awareness and funding for the newly reconstituted Episcopal Church in SC. I gained an appreciation of the needs and wishes of many of our parishes, as our committee was asked to visit various churches in the Diocese. I have developed a particular affection for The Church of the Heavenly Rest (Estill), and I try to support its "revival" I continued on the S&D Committee under Bishop Adams, and look forward to working with Bishop Ruth. I was asked to Chair St. Mark's recent capital campaign, "A Home of Our Own." Thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit and a great group of Parish volunteers, we successfully raised nearly \$800,000 in about 3 months over the summer of 2019! We were thus able to purchase the Union Church, completely renovate it, and add a sizable new sacristy. I was elected to the Diocesan Council in 2014, and enjoyed my term tremendously. If elected again, I think I could be a resource for the Council, and for Bishop Ruth, as a liaison with the Stewardship & Development Committee. I am fully committed to the work of the Episcopal Church, both nationally and in South Carolina.

Diocesan Council

Lay

Name: Carolyn (Sparkie) Sparks

Church: St. Francis Episcopal Church, Charleston

Nominated by: The Rev. Fred Thompson



Nominator Statement: Sparkie has been an Episcopalian for over 30 years beginning at Old Saint Andrews Parish Church with the Rev George Tompkins III and was active in the church in many ways. She served on the vestry, as a Lay Reader, LEM, LEV, choir, bell choir, stewardship, in the ECW and Community Ministries. Sparkie is currently attending St Francis Episcopal Mission Church since its inception in 2012. She is currently on the vestry, and serves as an acolyte, Lay Reader, Eucharistic Minister, and Altar Guild, as well as publishing the Church's weekly newsletter. She has been a Daughters of the King for 20+ years and served as Chapter President/VP at both OSA and St Francis. She is currently the President of the St Clare of Assisi's Chapter and the 1st Vice President of the Assembly DOK.

She served as a member of the Episcopal Forum of South Carolina (EFSC) and on the Executive Board; bringing common sense, knowledge and support to all churches/missions in the Diocese after the schism. She has participated in numerous Outreach both in the Diocese and internationally for Liberia and the Dominican Republic. She was instrumental in helping ship medical supplies and equipment to the DR so that the diocese there could open several medical and retirement facilities.

Sparkie served her country as a United States Marine and is currently working full time as the Program Manager for a technology company with employees in Charleston, Virginia, and Louisiana supporting the Department of Defense.

Personal Statement: : I would very much appreciate the opportunity to serve the Diocese of South Carolina as a lay member of the Diocesan Council. The diocese has been through so much. And during the last almost 20 years, it has done so much for all of us; parishes, missions, and individuals. This would provide me with the chance to give back in some small way, by dedicating my time and talents in assisting this diocese continue to grow and move in a strong, positive, inclusive, loving direction. Our diocese is my community, my family, my heart. And it takes all of us, each and every one, serving as we are called, to allow it to be even better, to serve our wider community -the entirety of the Body of Christ. I wish to work closely with our new Bishop in our next steps to restoring our diocese. It would truly be an honor to bring my knowledge, and dedication to serve on the Diocesan Council and if selected, I would give this opportunity the very best of my enthusiasm and experience.

Standing Committee *Clergy*

Name: The Very Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker

Church: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Charleston

Nominated by: The Rev. Dr. Philip Linder



Nominator statement: Adam has established himself as a leader in the Diocese of South Carolina. His service on the Diocesan Council, as Dean of the Peninsula Convocation, as well as the Transition Committee following the election of our Bishop, have certainly prepared him for the Standing Committee. Adam believes in and practices collaborative decision making. This is a critical and important time in the life of our diocese, and we need the skills and experience that Adam will bring to this post.

Personal Statement: It continues to be my great privilege to serve as Rector of St. Stephen's in downtown Charleston, a diverse and inclusive community of Jesus followers. I also serve as Dean of the Peninsula Deanery, am a delegate of our diocese to the next General Convention, co-chair our diocesan commission on racial justice and reconciliation, and am concluding a three-year term on our Diocesan Council.

In the community and wider church, I am an active priest in the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (or CAJM), Charleston Pride, and am a leader with the Micah Project, a new justice oriented initiative in our city that is a partnership of St. Stephen's and Historic Mount Zion AME Church. I also serve on the Bilateral Committee between The Episcopal Church and the Episcopal/Anglican Church of Brazil and serve as Secretary for the Legislative Committee on World Mission for the next General Convention. I was a Young Adult Service Corps missionary in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 2005-2006.

I believe our diocese is beginning an exciting new chapter in our common life together with the consecration of our new diocesan bishop. I would enjoy the opportunity to serve on our Standing Committee at this time and to work with Bishop Ruth in continuing to build up the life and ministry of the Diocese of South Carolina.

Standing Committee *Clergy*

Name: The Rev. William (Bill) Watson

Church: The Episcopal Church in Okatie

Nominated by: Dennis Toney



Nominator statement: The Rev. Bill Watson has shown great dedication and leadership in his role as Interim Priest at the Episcopal Church in Okatie. He has also served on the Standing Committee in a former position in the Diocese of Kentucky. I would recommend Bill without reservation.

Personal Statement: I thankful to now be canonically resident in the diocese after serving for the past two years as Priest-in-Charge of The Episcopal Church in Okatie. The divided state of the diocese is part of what attracted Sallie and me to the diocese in retirement. We have long been friends with Bishop Skip and Bonnie Adams. I had hoped that resolution of the diocesan split might occur during his service to the diocese. Alas, this was not to be. Skip has returned to New York but we are here and happy to serve if needed.

Previously, in the Diocese of Kentucky and the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, I have served on Standing Committee and Executive Council as well as a Deputy to General Convention. I would be honored to serve on Standing Committee if elected.

Standing Committee

Lay

Name: Arenilla K. Bush

Church: Calvary Episcopal Church, Charleston

Nominated by: The Rev. Dr. Ann J. Broomell



Nominator statement: I am writing in support of the candidacy for Arenilla K. Bush for election to Standing Committee. Mrs. Bush has significant experience in the community, coming to South Carolina from Georgia after receiving her Master of Social Work degree and working for the state government for 38 years as a Manager and a Clinician specializing in serving people living with mental and physical disabilities. She would bring to the Standing Committee her significant experience in leadership as a devoted member of Calvary Episcopal Church, Charleston where she has served on the Vestry, as Clerk of the Vestry, as a member of ECW, the Altar Guild, the Finance Committee, and the Rector Search Committee. Lastly, she has experience at the Diocesan level as well through her election to and service on Domestic Council. Her term ends December 2021. Mrs. Bush has a keen interest in serving the Diocese and our new Bishop as we begin ministry together here in the Diocese of South Carolina. Her unique blend of knowledge and experience grounded in the broader community as well as parish and diocesan life would enhance the breadth of the gifts the Standing Committee offers to our Bishop.

Personal statement: I am submitting my name for election to the Standing Committee because of my interest in bringing my experience in the church and in the community to contribute to the Diocese of South Carolina in any way that I can. I have attended Calvary Episcopal Church for over 35 years, having served on the Vestry and as Vestry Clerk, and on the Finance Committee, Altar Guild, ECW, and Rector Search Committee. I am currently a member of Diocesan Council, with my term ending Dec 2021. I grew up in Georgia and earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Georgia before moving to Charleston in 1974. I am retired from state government having worked there for 38 years as a clinician and manager mostly with mental health and developmentally disabled clients. I am married and my husband and I have two adult children.

Standing Committee

Lay

Name: Gail DeCosta

Church: Grace Church Cathedral, Charleston

Nominated by: The Rev. Rob Donehue



Nominator statement: I am happy to nominate Gail DeCosta to serve as a member of the diocesan Standing Committee. Ms. DeCosta serves in multiple roles at Grace Church Cathedral and is widely recognized as a leader of the cathedral community. Prior to moving to Charleston, she was an active leader at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Columbia. She is also currently serving on the Diocesan Racial Justice Commission. Ms. DeCosta has expertise in the area of consultancy and strategic planning, and these skills will be incalculably helpful for the Standing Committee and our new Bishop.

Most importantly, Ms. DeCosta's faithfulness and patient witness to our Lord's commandment to love one another have convinced me that she brings a spiritual awareness to her work in the church that will greatly benefit us all.

Personal Statement: I was born & raised in Charleston and was baptized and confirmed at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. I left Charleston in the 10th grade to attend a Friends boarding school in Pennsylvania. I graduated from Brown University with a degree in Psychology and earned a M.Ed. from GA State University. I initially worked as a social worker and rehabilitation counselor, but most of my work career has been in the IT field. Currently I work part-time for a consulting company in Atlanta as a Business Analyst, Facilitator and Trainer.

For most of my adult life, I lived in Atlanta, GA where I attended St. Timothy's and St. Bartholomew's Episcopal churches. My second husband was an Episcopal priest on the staff at St. Bartholomew's and while there we began & led an Anti-Racism group for the parish. In 1994, we moved to South Africa where we lived for 7 years and worshipped at St. Paul's Anglican church in Durban. In these congregations, I served in many lay positions, including lay reader, chalice bearer, vestry person, wardens, verger, stewardship chair, and others.

Seven years ago, after the death of my husband, I returned to Charleston with my 10-year-old granddaughter, Kanyisile, and we are now communicants at Grace Church Cathedral. At Grace I am currently serving on the vestry and as a lector. I am also a member and group leader of the AME- Episcopal book study which was initiated in response to the killings at Mother Emanuel and has been an educational and growing experience. And I represented our diocese at the Province IV Conversation on Racial Healing & Reconciliation at the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing in Atlanta 3 years ago. Last year I was appointed the co-chair of the newly formed Diocesan Commission on Racial Justice & Reconciliation. I am looking forward to working with Bishop Ruth as we begin the important & necessary work of that commission. Kanyisile has been an acolyte for many years. Last year, in response to the COVID crisis, Grace expanded its adult acolyte team to cover additional weekday services and at that time I became an adult acolyte. Kanyisile and I had the privilege of serving together for the first time as a grandmother/granddaughter acolyte team at Bishop Ruth's ordination (where Kanyisile led me!) If elected, I would be honored to serve on the Standing Committee of our diocese.

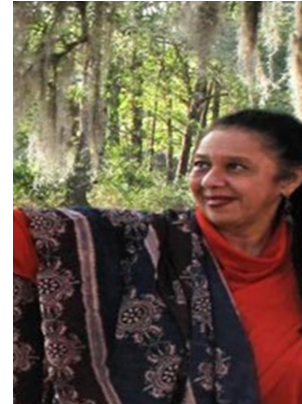
Standing Committee

Lay

Name: Minerva King

Church: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Charleston

Nominated by: The Very Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker



Nominator Statement: I am pleased to nominate Minerva King for Standing Committee. Minerva is a life-long and faithful member of the diocese as a congregant of St. Mark's, Charleston who I believe demonstrates a deep commitment and engagement to the life of the church and the wider community. I serve with Minerva on our diocese's racial justice and reconciliation commission and have worked with her as a part of the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (or CAJM). In each of these contexts, I have been impressed by Minerva's gifts for ministry, keen insight, and passion for justice. I believe she would be an asset to our Standing Committee at this critical time and bring much needed perspective as well as good humor to the work at hand.

Personal Statement: A native Charlestonian, I grew up as a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. I presently serve on the church's vestry (for the fourth time) as the outreach chairperson. In addition, I serve on the altar guild, as team leader for our church's Charleston Area Justice Ministries network and as a lector. In the past, I have taught Sunday School, done storytelling, sung in the choir, hosted fellowship, played the organ and served as secretary of our chapter of the Episcopal Church Women. I have recently become a member of the Diocese's Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission and am active with the Union of Black Episcopalians.

Community service has always been a priority with me and the church serves as a major avenue for this work. Membership and activities in the following organizations have proven to be beneficial in carrying out community service as well: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Links, Inc., the NAACP, and the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club.

I am a retired librarian and former social worker and counselor. For the past thirty years I have used my talent as a multicultural storyteller to educate, entertain and inspire audiences of all ages. I find that through the art of storytelling much healing can and DOES take place.

I am very excited about this new chapter that is opening in the Diocese of South Carolina and with Bishop Ruth's role as an advocate for justice in our church and in our community. I look forward to working with her in one capacity or another.

Standing Committee

Lay

Name: Thomas (Tom) Miller

Church: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Port Royal

Nominated by: The Rev. Roy Tripp



Nominator Statement: Tom has been actively involved in the life of St. Mark's and of our diocese throughout the four years I have been here. Drawn to the Episcopal Church through the richness of its liturgy. He has served on our Vestry, as well as a trustee to University of the South at Sewanee.

Tom brings a keen sense of intellect, coupled with compassion and insight. He is "enthusiastically Episcopalian," and will bring all of his gifts and talents as a member of the Standing Committee.

Personal Statement: There are two reasons why I offer myself as a candidate for the Diocesan Standing Committee; one is deeply person and the other reflects my talents.

At the most fundamental level, serving the Episcopal Church is part of my DNA. Both of my parents set the example by being tireless in their parish volunteer involvements. To paraphrase from James, they had both tremendous faith and did many works. Secondly, my academic training, first in history at Sewanee, and later philosophy, combined with a 37-year career as an investment advisor, all involved critical thinking. Each also demanded the ability to analyze issues, discuss options, and reach a conclusion or plan.

However, a plan can be justifiably defined as a list of things that will not happen exactly that way, as our diocese's experiences of the recent past will attest. The ability to adapt to change is crucial. Over a 30-year period at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City, I either chaired or served on the audit, finance, and investment committees, as well as being a lector and lay eucharistic minister.

At St. Mark's in Port Royal, I have continued this ministry where my skillset has been valuable. This included serving on our vestry, co-chair of the Mission & Outreach Committee, and as a member of the task force formed to oversee a tremendously successful capital campaign. This initiative allowed the acquisition by St. Mark's of the Historic Union Church, where we now have "A Home of Our Own."

Trustee, University of the South *Clergy*

Name: The Rev. Ryan Currie

Church: Holy Cross Faith Memorial, Pawleys Island

Nominated by: The Very Rev. Wil Keith



Nominator Statement: In less than two years, Rev. Ryan Currie has become indispensable to the ministry of Holy Cross Faith Memorial and certainly indispensable to me, his rector. With wisdom and a way of carrying himself, he shows distinct, but respectful leadership in all his charges. He also is a loyal alum of Sewanee, with several articles published in the University's magazine, as well as a continuing connection with the seminary.

Personal Statement: I was introduced to The Episcopal Church when I matriculated at Sewanee: The University of the South in 2009. As a member of the University Choir, for the first time I experienced the Episcopal liturgy and the experience of being part of a worshipping community. I guess I liked it a great deal—so much so, in fact, that I suffered from what some of the old timers called failure-to-launch syndrome. After graduating from the College, I stuck around to work in the Vice-Chancellor and President's Office and the Ralston Listening Center. It was in this period that I began the formal discernment process, and then attended the School of Theology.

Altogether, I was a resident of Sewanee for nine years, and in many ways I still consider it my home. I have continued to serve the University as a member of the School of Theology Alumni Council. I am firmly committed to ensuring that Sewanee continue in its faithful service to The Episcopal Church, that it become the best version of itself, and that it be stewarded for generations to come, so that the blessings I received from alma mater will be granted anew to the students of the future. It would be a privilege to continue in that commitment as Trustee.