

# NOMINEES FOR DIOCESAN OFFICES

Report prepared for the 227th Diocesan Convention  
November 2017

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## Standing Committee

(3 year terms)

### 2 Clergy Seats

#### Clergy Nominees

The Rev. Dr. George Moyser

Rev. Fred Thompson

The Very Rev. J. Michael A. Wright

### 2 Lay Seats

#### Lay Nominees

Emily Guess

Rick Stall

Diane Wilson

## Standing Committee

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 Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church, The Constitution of this Diocese (Article IX), and 2 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

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## Diocesan Council

(3 year terms)

### 2 Clergy Seats

#### Clergy Nominees:

The Rev. Cn. Dr. Wilmot Merchant II

The Rev. Alastair Votaw

The Rev. Rob Donehue

The Rev. Roy Tripp

### 2 Lay Seats

#### Lay Nominees:

Ray Wannamaker Sabalis

Carrington S. Wingard

## Diocesan Council

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.

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## Trustee, University of the South

(3 year term)

### 1 Lay Trustee

Lay Nominee: Tom Miller

## University of the South Trustee

The University of the South, located in Sewanee, Tennessee, 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

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Late nominations may be presented to the Nominations Committee on or before November 10, 2017, the first business day of Diocesan Convention. Late nominations must include 110 copies of each nominee's photo, nominator statement, and personal statement.



# Diocesan Council

## Lay

**Name:** Ray Wannamaker Sabalis

**Church:** Christ Church, Denmark

**Nominated by:** Pam Guess



**Nominator statement:** I am pleased to recommend Ray Wannamaker Sabalis to serve on Diocesan Council of TECSC. Her faithfulness to the Episcopal Church may be seen in her membership in Trinity Cathedral, Columbia, SC; Christ Church, Alexandria, VA, and Christ Church, Denmark, SC. In her career she has been a staff member at Trinity Cathedral and Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia; St. Alban's Parish, Annandale, VA, and Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA. She has served our diocese as the chair of the Stewardship and Development Committee, participating in both the development and long-range planning subcommittees.

**Personal statement:** I am offering as a candidate for the Diocesan Council of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina (TECSC). My husband and I have lived in Orangeburg for five years, having returned to South Carolina after 12 years in Alexandria, VA. Given the absence of an Episcopal church in Orangeburg, we were delighted to find a church home at Christ Church in Denmark, SC.

When my children were young, I was the part-time director of Christian education at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Columbia, SC. I then worked for a decade and a half at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in fund-raising and as director of information technology. In 2000, we moved to Alexandria, VA for 12 years. There I worked for several years as an administrator at a small Episcopal church, then for seven years as director of development at Virginia Theological Seminary, the country's largest seminary for Episcopal clergy. Each of these positions required technical expertise, the ability to work as a member of a team and to consider various points of view in establishing and implementing solutions, and the capacity to develop and maintain collaborative relationships with members of multiple groups in the community at large.

Prior to moving to Orangeburg, my volunteer involvement has been primarily through my church, at both the parish and diocesan levels. While a 30-year member of Trinity Cathedral, I helped establish Trinity Learning Center, I was a vestry member and served on numerous committees, including the Christian formation and finance committees. I was active in the Cathedral's Daughters of the Holy Cross and served a term as president. It was there that I completed the Education for Ministry program and, for many years, organized women's bible study groups.

When my husband and I lived in Alexandria, we joined Christ Church, where I was a mentor for EFM students and served on the outreach committee. I volunteered with the Lazarus Ministry, which assisted the poor in the Alexandria community. I was active in the Daughters of the King (DOK) chapter; I was elected chapter president, as well as vice president of the Diocese of Virginia DOK. In TECSC, I was chair of the stewardship and development committee between 2014 and 2016. In each parish, I volunteered as a Eucharistic minister, Eucharistic visitor and a lay reader, roles that I also fulfilled for residents of the Still Hopes Episcopal Retirement Community.

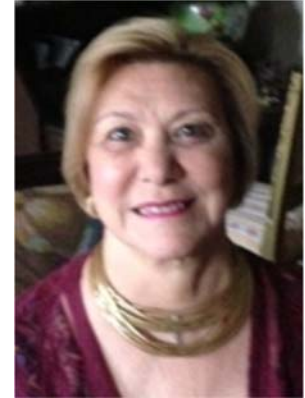
Throughout my life, my constructive leadership skills have supported the educational institutions where I have been employed and the churches where I worshiped. I hope to be able to use those same skills "to administer and carry out the missionary, educational, and social work of this diocese."

## Diocesan Council *Lay*

**Name:** Carrington S. Wingard

**Church:** St. Catherine's, Florence

**Nominated by:** Dr. Frances Elmore



**Nominator statement:** It is an honor and a privilege to nominate Carrington S Wingard to serve on Diocesan Council. A practicing lawyer and former judge, Mrs. Wingard is well acquainted with the people of the Pee Dee-Waccamaw Deanery and diocese.

She will be attending General Convention in 2018 as an alternate lay deputy.

She is also a member of the diocesan Ecclesiastical Court and serves many roles at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church in Florence. She is a founding member of the church serving on the Mission Council as Warden for several years. She is Chair of an Altar Guild team, a Lay Reader, Chalice Bearer and member of The Daughters of the King. A tireless worker dedicated to The Episcopal Church, she would be an asset to the Diocesan Council.

**Personal Statement:** I am honored to have been nominated to serve on the Diocesan Council. As a founding member of St. Catherine's, Florence in 2012, I am so grateful that we were able to maintain an Episcopal Church in Northeastern SC. I was a member of her first Mission Council and third Warden. I am an active lay reader, chalice bearer, Daughter of the King and member of Altar Guild.

A native South Carolinian, born and raised in Columbia and residing in Florence for the past 40 years, I graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1969 and the USC Law School in 1972. My husband, Col. (ret.) Barringer "Barry" Fox Wingard, Jr. and I have a blended family of three adult children and five furbabies – 2 Westies, 1 Pound Puppy and 2 foundling cats. I practice family and criminal law as a sole practitioner in Florence. I am involved in various community boards including McLeod Health Foundation, Boys and Girls Club of the Pee Dee, Florence Area Humane Society and in various legal organizations including the SC Bar Pro Bono Board, SC Bar House of Delegates and the South Carolina Legal Services Board.

## Diocesan Council

### *Clergy*

**Name:** The Rev. Cn. Dr. Wilmot Merchant II

**Church:** St. Stephen's, North Myrtle Beach

**Nominated by:** Doug Roderick



**Nominator Statement:** It is my esteemed honor and privilege to recommend the Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant, II, Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, North Myrtle Beach, SC to serve on the Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Church in South Carolina.

I have served at St. Stephen's as Senior Warden, Diocesan Delegate, Chairperson of the Trust and Endowment Commission, President of the Episcopal Church Men, Vestry Nominating Committee, Finance Committee and other many other positions. Having the opportunity to serve in these numerous positions at St. Stephen's, has allowed me to closely interface and personally work directly with Dr. Merchant for over a decade. Throughout this period, I can't think of a more qualified individual to serve on the Diocesan Council. His leadership service in our parish and the community in countless ways is a testament to his qualification. He inspires others to contribute their time, talent and resources. He continually encourages our spiritual growth through his devoted ministry—within our church and in our community – and by his example. Dr. Merchant has guided our congregation with foresight, logical thinking, love, and compassion. I believe his presence on the Diocesan Council is essential to the future direction and growth of our diocese.

**Personal Statement:** Originally from Liberia, West Africa, I have served churches in Liberia and the United States since my ordination in 1986. I have served St. Stephen's in North Myrtle Beach as Rector since August 2002.

Over the years I have served our diocese, The Episcopal Church, and the local community in various capacities including: Member of the Steering Committee for reorganizing the Diocese; a member and President of the Standing Committee, (2013 – 2015); National Chairman of the Liberian Episcopal Community in the United States, (2008 – 2012); Board Member of the National Union of Black Episcopalians, (2004 – 2015); Coach for the Black Ministries Office of the Episcopal Church; and Senior Fellow of the Waccamaw Chapter of the American Leadership Forum.

I am currently serving as Treasurer of the Upper Grand Strand Ministerial Alliance; President of Mobile Meals of the North Strand; and a member of the Visioning Committee for the Episcopal Church in SC.

I would be honored to continue to serve our diocese, and Bishop Skip Adams, as a member of the Diocesan Council.

## Diocesan Council *Clergy*

**Name:** The Rev. Rob Donehue

**Church:** St. Anne's, Conway

**Nominated by:** The Very Rev. Wil Keith



**Nominator statement:** Rob is a lifelong Episcopalian and South Carolinian. He has been serving in the Pee Dee Waccamaw Deanery since July of 2016, and since that time, he has shown an aptitude for leadership that I think is commendable. I have enjoyed getting to know him, and his work at St. Anne's has proven to be an asset both to the deanery and the wider church. To give a few examples, Rob has been involved in several community organization projects, he helped put together a Lenten Meditations booklet for the deanery, and he meets regularly with me to discuss how we can be better ministers of the gospel. Rob brings good energy and a fresh perspective to the way church works, and I think his input would be valuable to the Standing Committee.

**Personal Statement:** I am proud to be an Episcopalian who has been a part of this diocese for over thirty-eight years. I was brought up attending Grace Church in Charleston, and I learned to be a follower of Jesus because of the dedication and example of the people there. I had the opportunity to serve at Grace as the Director of Youth Ministries from 2010-2013, and during that time the people of the diocese helped me as I discerned a vocation to ordained ministry. It was because of the support of the people of the diocese that I was able to attend seminary in Sewanee, TN.

When my time in seminary was coming to an end, my greatest desire was to come back to South Carolina to help with the rebuilding of the diocese. I wanted to put my gifts and talents to work in the diocese that has helped to shape who I am. I have had the honor of serving St. Anne's in Conway since the summer of 2016, and during that time, I have enjoyed taking part in the life of the diocese. My aim is to continue ministering in this diocese to the best of my ability and to serve however I can. I would consider it an honor and a privilege to serve on the Diocesan Council.

## Diocesan Council *Clergy*

**Name:** The Rev. Alastair Votaw

**Church:** Grace Church Cathedral

**Nominated by:** Ginga Wilder



**Nominator Statement:** The Rev. Alastair Votaw was the Priest in Charge of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Summerville from our earliest days. He led us liturgically and organizationally through the throes of becoming a church. He has been in parish ministry for over 50 years. He “retired” in June of 2003 when he arrived in Charleston. He was part-time associate at Grace Church for seven years. He has served as Chaplain to Retired Clergy, Spouses and Survivors for four years, and served one term on the Diocesan Council of TECinSC. Al is also a member of the Bishop Gadsden Board of Trustees.

In Connecticut, Al was the Rector of Trinity Church, Southport for 14 years, chairman of the Diocesan Council Management Committee, and served as Dean of his convocation several times.

Al is a logical thinker, a good listener, and well understands church organizational and political systems. He has an active sense of humor.

Most of all, Al is faithful pastor and a confident proven leader in the Episcopal Church in South Carolina. I believe he will again make a positive difference on the Diocesan Council, especially at this time.

**Personal Statement:** My first term on the Diocesan Council in the Episcopal Church in South Carolina was one of the most interesting and encouraging experiences I’ve had in Church life. That includes six meetings a year for 33 years combined between The Diocese of New Hampshire and the Diocese of Connecticut. There we made important but routine decisions. Here, we charted a course for the development of a new diocese – there were discussions, disagreements and compromise. All in good faith working to a single end.

I served a term on the Diocesan Council of our diocese, completed last November; and until July 1, 2017, I was the priest-in-charge at Good Shepherd in Summerville. I continue as Diocesan Chaplain to Retired Clergy, Spouses, and Surviving Spouses, and I attend services at Grace with my wife, Holly.

Bishop Adams has continued a vibrant direction of Reconciliation within the new reality following the legal decisions. We have more real work to do in our diocese as the implications of the decisions become clearer. Your Diocesan Council needs people of experience, patience and candor to wend our way through the process of continuing to create our diocese in light of the new circumstance.

I want to be a part of that process as a member of the Diocesan Council. I will lend my strength, experience, and commitment to the Episcopal Church in South Carolina to help define what our diocese will look like and stand for in coming years.

## Diocesan Council *Clergy*

**Name:** The Rev. Roy Tripp

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

**Nominated by:** Woody Rutter



**Nominator statement:** A native of Maine, The Rev. Roy Tripp is the first full-time Rector of St. Mark's. He has served parishes in Washington state, Delaware, and most recently, Massachusetts. Roy has proven to be a wonderful priest for St. Mark's. His enthusiasm, his love of Christ and The Episcopal Church are contagious and he is steadily increasing the membership of St. Mark's. Church attendance regularly exceeds 100 each Sunday and he is largely responsible. With his experience, his sense of humor, his sincere commitment to 'The Jesus Movement' and his intelligence, he would make an excellent member of Diocesan Council.

**Personal Statement:** After an extensive career in marketing, sales and public relations, Roy entered seminary attending the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California. Roy has served churches in Washington state, Delaware, and Massachusetts. In each of these dioceses, he has been actively involved at both a diocesan level serving on diocesan councils, and standing committees.

“When I was ordained to the priesthood, I vowed to participate in the councils of the Church. If elected to the Diocesan Council, I will bring my energy, and experience as together we meet the challenges and opportunities we face in the years ahead.”

Roy lives in Beaufort with his wife Liz and their dog and cat.



## Standing Committee *Lay*

**Name:** Emily Guess

**Church:** Christ Church, Denmark

**Nominated by:** Pam Guess



**Nominator statement:** Emily Guess is a lifelong Episcopalian in this diocese, and I am pleased to recommend her to serve on the Standing Committee of TECSC. She is a committed leader at Christ Episcopal Church. Her skills are evidenced by the way she performs her duties as senior warden, lector, and lay Eucharistic minister. Emily has been creative in satisfying the role of clergy at Christ Church by employing Anglican nuns serving as priests. As an outspoken and creative candidate, she can bring to the committee the model of mutual support and shared-experience found in the southern deanery.

She is a past member of the Diocesan Council and the Visioning Committee. Emily serves on several community boards with fiduciary responsibilities: Bamberg County Disabilities, Tri-County Community Foundation, and the Mary Ann Morris Animal Society, Inc. Her voice echoes love for our diocese, Christ Church, and the community.

**Personal Statement:** I am a lifelong Episcopalian in this Diocese. I was baptized At Grace Church, Confirmed At St. Johns, John's Island, and married at Grace Church. I have been married to Joseph Guess for 51 years. We have two children, Alice and Gardner Guess. Gardner was born in 1974 two months early and we had a very shaky first year with a multitude of health problems. Gardner was hospitalized several times at the Medical University. Bishop Temple had every church praying for him and always sent me a priest when we were hospitalized in Charleston.

Our little Christ Church in Denmark sent our priest Joel Keys with us to the University of Alabama where Gardner had successful heart surgery. I am telling all of this because it is why I am such a good Episcopalian. I have been trying to pay back what was done for me and my family.

I am devoted to this Diocese and all of the people in it. I served on Diocesan Council for three years before the split. I consider it a badge of honor that the disassociated group never called our church to ask what we were doing. I have been the Senior Warden at Christ Church for ten years.

# Standing Committee

## Lay

**Name:** Rick Stall

**Church:** Messiah, Myrtle Beach

**Nominated by:** Pat Neumann



**Nominator Statement:** I am pleased and honored to nominate Rick Stall for a lay position on the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Rick has been a member in good standing of The Episcopal Church since 1975. He retired from the financial industry in 2012, the year of the schism. But God had further plans for Rick and called him to his intense involvement in the formation of The Church of the Messiah in Myrtle Beach. Rick has been the Senior Warden of this Mission Church for four years and has led this continuing worship community through the joys and challenges of basically starting a church from scratch. He has also been a member of our Diocese's Mission Committee and served on the Committee for New Parishes and Missions, both places where his thoughts and suggestions have been invaluable.

Over the years, Rick has served on numerous boards and organizations – civic and religious, local and statewide, in leadership and as a contributing member. Rick graduated from Presbyterian College with a BS in Business Administration; he has an MBA from the University of Georgia. The Rev. Dr. Randy Ferebee, Vicar, and the Mission Council of Church of the Messiah enthusiastically endorse this nomination.

**Personal Statement:** A significant portion of our diocese's recent history is that of the worshipping communities and missions. My desire to serve in a lay seat on the Standing Committee of the diocese centers around utilizing my four years of experience (organizing, attaining mission status, and leading/sustaining The Church of the Messiah in Myrtle Beach) to help engineer our diocese's solutions to:

- the significant challenges of sustaining the regained church properties
- related challenges of reconciliation and healing of interpersonal relationships
- structuring/streamlining the diocese for operating effectively in the realities of the church in the twenty-first century

My pre-retirement professional experience (gained in 27 years in banking) with organizational development, quality of service initiatives, and leadership/management process engineering are directly applicable to those challenges.

I feel led to use my professional and more recent mission church experiences for the good of our diocese at this particular juncture, which is clearly a time for visioning and rebuilding in exciting new ways that honor the rich history of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina. As a native South Carolinian I know that we are a state that helped found a nation, and we are a people not unfamiliar with the work of reconstruction. With your support, I am eager to serve, if elected.

## Standing Committee

### Lay

**Name:** Diane Wilson

**Church:** St. George's, Summerville

**Nominated by:** The Very Rev. Chris Huff



**Nominator statement:** It is my honor to nominate Mrs. Diane Wilson as a lay candidate for the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Church in South Carolina. I have worked with Diane for the past 7 years. During that time I have observed her in many different leadership capacities that have required problem solving, creative thought and strong drive. She is currently in the diocesan diaconal studies program. She received a diploma from the Haden Institute in Spiritual Direction after completing a 2-year program of study. She is intelligent and articulate, and is a delight to work with on a team. Diane has remained a faithful advocate for the Episcopal Church in a time of schism in our diocese. She has served as a lay delegate to Diocesan Convention the past two years, and has been elected to serve as a delegate to this year's convention, as well. She would make a faithful, committed, hard-working and prayerful member of our Standing Committee.

**Personal Statement:** My name is Diane Wilson and I am a member of St. George's in Summerville. I am also the Parish Administrator at St. George's. I'm not a cradle Episcopalian. Actually I was not raised in the church. My journey in the church began in 2001 when my son became involved in the Youth Group with his best friend and he insisted that I come to church with him. As a result we were both baptized in 2002.

Since then I have been actively involved in many ministries in and out of the church: Vestry, Clerk of the Vestry, directed the Outreach Committee, served on the Altar Guild, served on Cursillo teams, attended and hosted home groups, member of the Daughters of the King, and currently I am Director of the Benedictine Oblates of St. George's. One of the most life changing opportunities in my life is serving on mission teams to Honduras. Outside of the church I serve Dorchester County as a volunteer Guardian ad Litem. All of these ministries have strengthened my relationships with people both in and out of the church along with learning about how the church functions. More importantly, however, these relationships have also strengthened my relationship with God.

I retired from a 34 year career with AT&T in 2010. During that span of time I worked in many different departments most of which were working in, supervising and managing in call centers.

Thank you for this opportunity to be considered to serve the diocese on the Standing Committee.

## Standing Committee *Clergy*

**Name:** The Rev. Dr. George Moyser

**Church:** All Saints, Hilton Head Island

**Nominated by:** The Very Rev. Rick Lindsey



**Nominator statement:** George Moyser is an experienced priest who has a passion for our life as a diocese moving forward. He has a strong commitment to the wider Church and a sensitivity to the issues of reconciliation. He is a strong committed leader, who is acutely aware of our past, is active in our diocese, and is hopeful as we discover our path forward.

George has a broad range of experiences professionally, that includes his dual vocation as political science professor at the University of Vermont and as priest in charge for a mission in that diocese. He is currently active as a priest at All Saints, Hilton Head and in the Southern Deanery.

I value his strong voice among us as we endeavor to honor Christ here in our diocese.

**Personal statement:** The coming period in the life of our Diocese will be a particularly important and critical one. In this context, I offer myself for election to the Standing Committee with enthusiasm. At present, I serve as an Assisting Priest at All Saints Episcopal Church on Hilton Head Island, though I live in Bluffton. I also provide supply as needed in the Southern Deanery.

I bring a variety of skills and experiences that would be relevant to the Committee's agenda and work. I have served as an Episcopal priest at parish level for nearly 25 years both in this Diocese and, previously, in the Diocese of Vermont. These church communities ranged from small rural parishes to the Cathedral in Burlington. During that period, I have also served on a variety of administrative committees both at diocesan, deanery and university chaplaincy levels. I also have had substantial experience of the churches of the Anglican Communion - in Canada (where my seminary was based) and England (where I lived until coming to the USA in 1987). Beyond that, as a bi-vocational priest, I served as a university professor and administrator for 38 years giving me experience in issues of human resources, finance and program planning. If elected, I would bring these varied experiences and perspectives to my service, doing so in a spirit of respect for all who serve the Church.

## Standing Committee

### *Clergy*

**Name:** The Rev. Fred Thompson

**Church:** The Episcopal Church on Edisto

**Nominated by:** James Gettys



**Nominator statement:** Serving as Senior Warden of The Episcopal Church on Edisto I would like to nominate the Rev. Fred E. Thompson for Standing Committee of The Episcopal Church of South Carolina. Fr. Fred is currently employed by the Medical University of South Carolina and serves as the Graduate Program Coordinator for MUSC's College of Nursing. This position clearly demonstrates he has both the abilities and skills needed to analyze and make difficult decisions as we move forward as a diocese. The coming year promises to be full of challenges and we need people that are qualified and willing to lead us in the future.

Fr. Fred would bring to the Standing Committee a fresh perspective on identifying and achieving the future needs of our parish and mission churches in the diocese. Fr. Fred has faithfully served our mission church and I am sure he will be instrumental in continuing our growth in what our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, calls "The Jesus Movement". His dedication to the Church and the Gospel will ensure we, as a diocese, will continue to grow and prosper in the years to come.

**Personal Statement:** I was born and reared in Charleston County on the Isle of Palms, South Carolina, graduated from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, and began a counseling career first at the South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and then at the Institute of Psychiatry at the Medical University of South Carolina. I was working as the Psychiatric Triage coordinator in the ER when I was ordained as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church in 2005, serving at St. Michael's and then at my wife's home church, St. John's on John's Island. I began working as a MUSC Chaplain in our Level One Trauma Unit on nights and weekends that same year. Currently, I work full-time as the Graduate Program Coordinator for MUSC's College of Nursing and still part-time as a Chaplain in the Emergency Department.

Since being ordained as an Episcopal Priest in January 2016, I serve as the Diocesan Disaster Coordinator for the Episcopal Church in South Carolina, work part-time as the Assistant Priest at the Episcopal Church on Edisto and serve as a supply priest for St. Mark's. I feel that I can best use my talents for the Diocesan Standing Committee as we continue to strengthen the Episcopal Church in South Carolina. I celebrated 28 years of marriage this past July 1st with my "cradle born Episcopalian" wife and librarian, Alicia "Lish" Anderson Thompson. We live on Wadmalaw Island, SC, with our Marsh Tacky (SC's state horse), and our two Jack Russells.

## Standing Committee

### *Clergy*

**Name:** The Very Rev. J. Michael A. Wright

**Church:** Grace Church Cathedral

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Cn. Caleb Lee



**Nominator Statement:** Michael has provided faithful leadership in the church for many years. In South Carolina, he has been a source of much grace, strength, and innovation during a very challenging decade for the church. I imagine that the next three years of our diocesan life will be full of challenges and opportunities. At this time in our history, as we continue to rebuild the church with God's help, it would benefit our diocese greatly if Michael served on the Standing Committee. He is a rational voice, trusted leader, and faithful servant.

**Personal Statement:** The Very Rev. J. Michael A. Wright became the 10th Rector of Grace Church, Charleston in 2006, and the first Dean of Grace Church Cathedral in 2015.

He is a member of the Diocesan Council and served as a Deputy to the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church. Michael also serves as Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer and Diocesan Liturgical Officer.

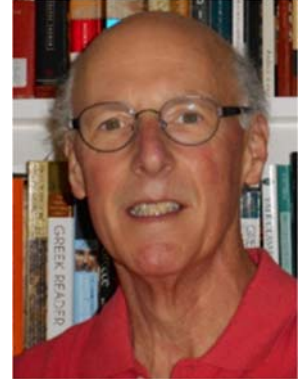
"My spirituality is probably best summarized as hopeful for if God's presence is assured then great possibilities lie ahead. No words capture better my hope-filled vision for faith and life than these, penned by a former Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie: 'Faith is not hoping the worst won't happen. Faith is knowing there is no tragedy which cannot be redeemed.' And so it is that in faith and hope, no matter what lies ahead for our church and the world, I say, let the journey continue."

## Trustee, University of the South *Lay*

**Name:** Tom Miller

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

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Roy Tripp



**Nominator Statement:** Tom Miller's faith journey is grounded in the Episcopal Church. He and his wife, Paula have an active role in our congregation and bring much to the life of our faith community. He is deeply spiritual. His sense of humor helps keeps his perspective fresh and his energy high.

Tom will bring a deep and passionate commitment to the role of post graduate education in the Episcopal Church. He is engaged in life-long learning experiences for himself and others. His background in finance will allow him to bring creative and fiscally responsible approaches to the challenges and opportunities universities and students face. Tom's ability to understand the big picture while staying focused on the task(s) at hand bring a unique set of talents that will serve Sewanee well.

I am honored to nominate him.

**Personal Statement:** A lifelong Episcopalian, I am a graduate of Sewanee and have completed Oxford University's Certificate of Higher Education Program (History). I will receive that award from the Department of Continuing Education in March 2018.

I have been a longtime supporter of Sewanee financially and by actively participating in recruiting efforts and counseling high school graduates who have accepted invitations to attend Sewanee. I am also the recipient of the 2013 'Alumni Arcadian Service Award.' The Arcadians are Sewanee alumni who volunteer their time to attract and connect with exceptional prospective students.

As a member or chair of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral's finance, investment, audit, discernment, and nominating committees, I have extensive experience in parish oversight and leadership positions. I have also served as a Lector and Lay Eucharistic Minister for more than 25 years.

Now officially retired, I am a tutor in Beaufort's 'Thumbs Up' program, which is designed to assist at-risk students to be successful in their elementary education development, as well as serving as a substitute teacher at Beaufort Academy. A parishioner at St. Mark's Parish, Port Royal, I am Assistant Treasurer, a member of the Vestry, and serve on the Outreach Committee, which guides the mission program of the parish.

My membership at St. Mark's Parish follows a 36-year career as a financial advisor. As a senior member of an investment team that held fiduciary responsibility for the stewardship of endowment, foundation, pension and private investment assets, I have an extensive knowledge base that is directly transferable to duties and responsibilities of a Trustee of Sewanee.

