

2021 Standing Committee Nominations

CLERGY NOMINEE



Nominee: The Rev. William Lowry

Church: Holy Spirit, Gulf Shores

Nominated by: Linda Martin

Church: Holy Spirit, Gulf Shores

Occupation: Priest

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position: As a cradle Episcopalian I have served on multiple Diocesan committees or boards with oversight for budgets and policies as laity and clergy in several dioceses. Before working in the Church I learned small business management by helping my father with family run businesses but had to learn those businesses from the ground up. As a lay minister I worked to grow Christian education opportunities at the parish and diocesan levels and served on a diocesan committee addressing racial reconciliation. Each parish I have served as clergy has improved overall pledge amounts and pledging units as well as implemented an overall strategy for year-long stewardship, congregational growth, outreach ministries and Christian education opportunities. It is my hope that these experiences will serve the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, our Bishop, and the greater Church.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time? The past year has caused great stress and created new challenges that most of us have never faced before. It has also brought the Episcopal Church into the digital age (which is a blessing in my opinion). Prior to the pandemic and going forward I believe the Church's challenges and opportunities mirror each other. By and large we have work to do in reaching outside of our familiar places to become community centers. We can do better at looking around our neighborhoods and seeing what need there is. Are we serving God's people in a way that really meets their needs? Are we creating ministries that engage our spiritual depths and offering ways for those seeking God and are in need of community? Are we supporting each other in our daily lives? Are we committing enough resources to the ministries we say we want? In my opinion we there is great opportunity to further the mission of the Church by doing these things. We must start small, perhaps a single event, and let the Spirit lead our next steps.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? My call to the priesthood is directly tied to the Holy Eucharist. Sharing God's infinite and impartial grace with others is tied to the shared sacramental meal in so many ways. I see Communion as literally offering sustenance, food, to those of us who are starved for hope, love, and belonging, and at the Eucharist gives those things freely. Praying and worshiping together gives me strength. Since I do not "sit still" easily, I often find God's gifts in small acts and encounters. However, there are still moments that capture my need for rest, listening, and discernment that happen daily in my discipline of meditative prayer.

2021 Standing Committee Nominations

LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: Anne Gill

Church: Trinity, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. Mary Alice Mathison

Church: Missioner to Mobile; St. Luke's, Mobile

Occupation: Part-time educator; full-time wife/mother

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position: I have both served on the Vestry and as the senior warden at Trinity, Mobile. Also at Trinity, I have chaired a Search Committee, led and taught our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd children's formation program, and served on the Altar Guild along with various committees throughout my twenty years there. I am also a member of the Daughters of the King. In our diocese, I currently sit on the Youth Ministries committee and on the Board of Trustees for Wilmer Hall. At St. Paul's Episcopal School, I have worked in various part-time teaching positions and volunteered in many different capacities, including chairing the Parent Council and co-chairing the parent fundraiser, Saints' Night Out.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time? The biggest challenge to both the local church and the diocese at this time is the limitations due to coronavirus. Our usual forms of worship and community building have to be rethought and carefully planned if held at all. There is Zoom fatigue, and online worship simply does not feel the same. While we await herd immunity, those of us in the church are called to find innovative ways to consider not what we cannot do but instead how we can do things differently, safely, and creatively. While it is difficult, rethinking can be exciting, and hopefully people who are intimidated to enter an older, beautiful sanctuary may find comfort in more relaxed outdoor and/or online worship.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? There are many things helping sustain me in my spiritual life today! Praying the Daily Office and our Daughters of the King prayer list each day connects scripture reading to my walking through life with fellow believers. I am currently in my fourth year of EfM, and this time to think theologically with others has been a great source of joy. In non-pandemic times, listening to God with the children of Trinity in our CGS atrium brings me closer to a child-like faith. Finally, time in the outdoors with my husband and four boys always brings me closer to God.

2021 Standing Committee Nominations

LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: Van Fuller

Church: St. Simon's on the Sound, Fort Walton Beach

Nominated by: The Rev. David Knight

Church: St. Simon's on the Sound, Fort Walton Beach

Occupation: Public Administration

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position: Educational: BSCE, The Citadel, 1983; MPA, Troy University, 1990; Professional Military Education. Professional: retired US Air Force Civil Engineer/Mission Support Officer, 12 duty stations, 5 deployments, 7 command assignments; former Deputy Secretary of Engineering, SC DOT; currently Executive Director of Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, Okaloosa County, FL. Volunteer: Spokane, WA Red Cross Board Member; Past Chair, Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee; Past Chair, Transportation Expressway Authority Membership of Florida; Various Offices, Society of American Military Engineers. DioCGC: Cursillo Commission member and treasurer; convention delegate. St. Simon's Church: Vestry, Senior Warden, Treasurer; worship leader; Eucharistic minister; Eucharistic visitor; Lector; usher; greeter.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time? Improving community presence and attracting more people to Christ; attracting/sustaining youth and younger families; consistency of messaging.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? Prayer; worship, liturgy, and sacraments; fellowship of believers; service.