

# 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia

## Nominees for Election

### **Standing Committee**

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*The Standing Committee is composed of three members of the clergy and three members of the laity. It acts as a Council of Advice to the Bishop and assumes many Episcopal duties for the diocese if there is a vacancy in the Bishop's Office, as outlined in the Diocesan Constitution Article XV, Diocesan Canon V and in the Canons of the National Church.*

### **Lay Nominees, one to be elected.**

John Hadfield, All Saints', Virginia Beach



I am a member of All Saints' Church in Virginia Beach where I have served on its vestry several times most recently for the period 2009 – 2012, have been Senior Warden at least five times, and currently serve as one of the trustees of the parish. I have been a member of the Executive Board a number of years ago. I have served on the Boy's Home Board of Trustees, a Board member of The Future of Hampton Roads, a Board member of United Way of South Hampton Roads, and a graduate of CIVIC Leadership Institute. In my secular life I was Executive Director of the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) retiring in 2008 after serving a total of 30 years for that agency, the last 11 as its Executive Director.

I am a registered Professional Engineer and a Board Certified Environmental Engineer, twice a graduate of Old Dominion University (BSCE and MBA). I am a retired US Army Captain and Vietnam veteran. I also have been using a wheelchair for over 40 years and together with my long standing involvement in this diocese, that experience will provide a unique perspective for serving on this Diocesan committee.

K. Scott Norris, Emmanuel, Jenkins Bridge



My Union Theological Seminary education focused on biblical studies and ethics, giving me a unique perspective on the social responsibilities implicit in our ministries. My active roles in inner-city, suburban, and rural parishes in four dioceses while being married to an Episcopal priest gives me an intimate understanding of the needs of our parishes in their witness to Christ's presence. I have personally dealt with needs of our Diocese as a member of its Executive Board and PB&R Committee. My attending the 2012 General Convention and three year service as Provincial Synod delegate have strengthened my commitment to furthering cooperation among our dioceses.

### **Clergy Nominees, one to be elected.**

The Rev. Conor Alexander, St. Francis, Virginia Beach



I am happy to be running for Standing Committee this year. I have spent the entirety of my ordained ministry in this diocese and have participated in a wide variety of ministries with increasing levels of responsibility. My goal is to gain as broad of a set of experiences as possible within the wider Church. Over the past eight years I have participated in: Youth Discernment Team (2008–2009), Youth Missioner Search Committee (2009–2010), Nominating Committee (2008), Chair of Nominating Committee (2009), Provincial Synod (2010 – 2012) Chanco Board of Directors (2010–2012), Chanco Board President (2011–2012), Disciplinary Board (2012–2015), Liturgical Commission (2012–Present), and Ecumenical Officer (2014–Present). I would like to

serve on the Standing Committee because I'm very interested in the health and vitality of our common life in Southern Virginia and hope to bring my experiences and insights to this ministry.

### The Rev. Chris Epperson, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg



The Rev. Chris Epperson has served as rector of Bruton Parish since 2011. Prior to his time in the Diocese of Southern Virginia, he served parishes in the dioceses of East Tennessee, Atlanta and Rhode Island. In each diocese he embraced service on the diocesan level and to the wider Church. Chris served on the Camp and Conference Committee in East Tennessee. That work ultimately led to the purchase and development of a new camp and conference center. Chris came to camp work with experience running a camp in East Tennessee that serves economically disadvantaged children. He was Camp Director and following ordination, chaplain. In Atlanta as Associate Rector for Pastoral Care and Christian Formation at All Saints', Atlanta, Chris was a member of the Commission on Ministry. While serving St. Columba's,

Middletown, RI, suburban Newport, Chris was a member of the Executive Board and the Diocesan Investment Trust. In addition to being rector of a busy parish, Chris spent a year as the Interim Chaplain at the St. George's School, Newport and assisted the school in the search for a permanent chaplain. In Southern Virginia, Chris has served on the Executive Board. He welcomes the opportunity to serve on the Standing Committee. When asked about a willingness to stand for election, Chris said, "I think we are called from our various parishes and places to offer ourselves for service to care for the whole."

### **Disciplinary Board**

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*The Disciplinary Board is composed of nine members elected for three year terms, five members of the clergy and four lay persons. The Board, defined in Canon XXII of our Diocesan Canons, serves as the trial body for any member of the clergy charged under Title IV of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, which defines causes for which a member of the clergy may be brought to trial and outlines the rules and procedures that will be followed if such an action is initiated.*

### **Lay Nominees, one to be elected.**

#### Matthew White, St. David's, Chesterfield



I am a member of St. David's in Chesterfield, along with my wife Brittney and my step-children Khalil and Darriell. I currently serve as an acting member on St. David's Vestry, and I have also served as chairperson of the Christian Formation Commission at St. David's. I am a first-year student in the Master of Divinity program at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, and I earned my B.A. and Master of Liberal Arts degrees from the University of Richmond. My previous work experience has included the retail and educational fields. My family and my faith are the most important parts of my life. I am passionate about the life, ministry, and mission of the Episcopal Church, and I realize that the structures for disciplinary proceedings established under

Title IV of our Canons form an important part of our Episcopal Church order and polity. I believe my skills in communication, analysis, and team-building would be a valuable asset to the Board. I would be honored by your selection.

## **Clergy Nominees, two to be elected.**

### **The Very Rev. Dale Custer, St. John's, Chester**



A priest for fifteen years, it has been my privilege to be with the people of St. John's Chester since August 2004. Currently, I participate in Repairers of the Breach and serve as Chair of the Commission on Ministry. I attended the last General Convention as a Deputy from Southern Virginia. I was elected to the Disciplinary Board (2012-2015) and served as President for three years. Reconciliation and accountability are the ideals of the Title IV Canon, and, if elected, I will attempt, with God's help, to work for those standards.

### **The Very Rev. Susan Grimm, St. Timothy's, Clarksville and Trinity, South Boston**



I believe one of the strengths of our denomination is the mutual accountability we practice in so many ways. And one of most important is our responsibility for the health of all our communities by ensuring those who serve them are held to professional standards. As a priest, that's important to me. Having served previously on the Ecclesiastical Court (the Disciplinary Board's canonical predecessor), the Executive Board, the Standing Committee, the Commission on Ministry for Local Formation, and with Cursillo, I feel I have an overview of the life of this diocese that is helpful for those charged with our health and well-being. My prior experience as a lawyer with statute and structure is also helpful.

## **Provincial Synod**

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*Our Diocese has three deputies to Provincial Synod (two lay persons and one cleric) who serve three-year terms. They are responsible to the Bishop and the Executive Board and report to the Board following Synod meetings. One of these deputies is also appointed by the bishop to serve a three year term on the Provincial Council.*

## **Lay Nominees, one to be elected.**

### **Andrea Morgan, Trinity, Portsmouth**



I have outstanding communication skills and enjoy working as a part of a team. I currently serve as a member of the Executive Board, vestry, and altar guild. I serve as an LEM, lector, and acolyte. For me, service in the church, is allowing God to work through me.

**K. Scott Norris, Emmanuel, Jenkins Bridge**



My Union Theological Seminary education focused on biblical studies and ethics, giving me a unique perspective on the social responsibilities implicit in our ministries. My active roles in inner-city, suburban, and rural parishes in four dioceses while being married to an Episcopal priest gives me an intimate understanding of the needs of our parishes in their witness to Christ's presence. I have personally dealt with needs of our Diocese as a member of its Executive Board and PB&R Committee. My attending the 2012 General Convention and three year service as Provincial Synod delegate have strengthened my commitment to furthering cooperation among our dioceses.

**Clergy Nominees, *one to be elected.***

**The Rev. Canon Frederick Walker, St. Mark's, Suffolk and St. James', Portsmouth**



I am interested in the position of Provincial Synod. I have served on Provincial Synod in the Anglican Communion and I am cognizant of the procedural dynamics of a province. I will be glad to serve with your endorsement.