

Late Nominations: Diocesan Council | Clergy Order

THE REV. IMOGEN RHODENHISER

POSITION: Rector, Good Shepherd, Raleigh

NOMINATORS: The Rev. Maryann Younger, the Rev. Miriam Saxon and the Rev. Greg Jones

EXPERIENCE:

- Rector of downtown congregation responding with grace and hope to crises of loneliness, houselessness, and polarization
- Leadership roles in the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan: Diocesan Council (2016-2019), Trustees (2018-2019)
- Participation in Visions, Inc. Diversity and Inclusion Training and Healthy Congregations Training through Lombard Peace Center
- Preacher and Worship Volunteer at the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women
- Six years professional experience in academic and trade publishing and marketing.

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Imogen Rhodenhiser is a dynamic and engaged rector whose heart and work is centered in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. She is devoted to the importance of diversity and serving the incarcerated. She is curious and creative, seeking new ways of thinking about church and its reach in today's culture. She is experienced in the councils of the church from her time in Michigan. Diocesan Council will benefit from her energy, intelligence, and focus on the greater needs of our diocese. I wholeheartedly endorse her nomination. -The Rev. Maryann D. Younger.



THE REV. AMANDA STEPHENSON

POSITION: Associate Rector, St. Peter's, Charlotte

NOMINATORS: The Rev. Mariann Younger, the Rev. Miriam Saxon and the Rev. Carman Germino

EXPERIENCE:

- Dean of the Charlotte Convocation (2019-present)
- Pastoral Response Team (2021-present)
- Mission Endowment Board (2017-2023)
- Past (pre-ordination) experience working in a diocesan office (2012-2015)
- Administrative work as a priest

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Amanda has a strong commitment to not only parish ministry but also to the wider church. She has both clergy experience as a parish priest and lay experience working in a diocesan office. Her training as a spiritual director, and in contemplative prayer, ensures that she will approach discernment and decision making with thoughtfulness and prayer. Amanda is interested in gaining a broader understanding of the work of the diocese and looks forward to the potential of serving the wider church in a new way through Diocesan Council.



Late Nominations: Standing Committee | Clergy Order

THE REV. BRAD SMITH

POSITION: Senior Associate to the Rector, St. John's, Charlotte

NOMINATORS: The Rev. Joshua Bowron, the Rev. Robin Sands and the Rev. David Frazelle

EXPERIENCE:

- Brad has held many positions in churches and the academy that gives him a global view of different administrative structures.
- Brad's academic expertise in bioethics has trained him to have a point of view that incorporates the body, personhood, and bureaucracies.
- Brad has had eight units of Clinical Pastoral Education. Most priests and deacons, and bishops, have one. The level of self-awareness and understanding of trauma that this imparts is incredible.
- Brad can lead small groups as well as large with poise and just the right amount of leadership.
- Brad has a strong sense of the local, this is needed when offering advice to the bishop.

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Firstly, Brad is deeply committed to a life of prayer. Every minister in this church should be utterly centered in prayer. He is mature in his faith and has seen just about everything in ministry and in his own life, he will be a calm, seasoned presence on the Standing Committee. This stability will be especially useful when it comes to working with candidates to holy orders. Brad's experience in bioethics, especially his work with hospitals, has grounded his ministry in reality, making for a sober, no-nonsense approach to Christian life. Brad has held a wide range of positions in the church, giving him a broad perspective on church life. Finally, Brad has significant administrative gifts that sometimes elude the "contemplative," this dynamism between being lead by the Spirit and being able to get people to get things done is a powerful combination.



Late Nominations: Standing Committee | Lay Order

JOANNE STEVENSON JENKINS

CHURCH: Christ Church, Charlotte

NOMINATORS: The Rev. Jacob Pierce, the Rev. Valerie Davis and Wilhelmina Mitchell

EXPERIENCE:

- Chair, Board of Directors, Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, A Mission of the Diocese of NC
- Member, Advisory Board, Diocesan Reconciliation and Reparations Ministry
- Member, Outreach and Missions Commission, Christ Episcopal Church, Charlotte
- Sacred Ground facilitator for lay and clergy circles
- * Member, Board of Directors, The Reimagining America Project, Racial Justice and Reconciliation

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

The work of a willing follower of Jesus Christ is out in the world right now, not the pretty places of comfort and privilege, rather in those places of brokenness and isolation, stigma and injustice, fear and uncertainty. It is in those fields where I find myself called to be.

Beloved Community will not happen until people of faith feel safe enough to share their uncertainties about what it means to “Love Thy Neighbor” in these times of polarization and bitterness. This is hard work, Gospel Work, and requires leaders to have deep confidence and a willingness to keep stumbling forward until we, together, get this thing right.

What we have to do now is build a bigger table and bring innovative ways of guiding and supporting our Church as she continues to struggle with the ideals of radical welcome and new beginnings. Yes. This is where I need to be right now.

