



NOMINATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE 206TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Diocesan Council | Clergy Order (Vote for 2)

THE REV. JIM BERNACKI

RESIDENCE: Concord

POSITION: Retired/Priest Associate, All Saints', Concord

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Nancy Cox

EXPERIENCE:

- In the Diocese of West Virginia, Jim served on Diocesan Council for four years as dean of the Southwestern Deanery.
- During the transition process of electing their new bishop in 2000-2001, Jim served as chair of the Diocesan Council, as well as a member of the Transition Committee and chair of the Consecration Subcommittee.
- Jim also served as a member and chair of the Liturgical Commissions in this Diocese and the Diocese of West Virginia.
- He currently serves on the Bishop's Committee on the Diaconate.
- Among his community activities, he continues to serve as a member of Coltrane LIFE Center Committee, which is in the process of opening an adult daycare center in Stanly County. While living in Stanly County, he was elected to the boards of a number of community outreach agencies in Stanly County, including Habitat for Humanity, Stanly Community Christian Ministries and Homes of Hope.

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

The Reverend James "Jim" Bernacki brings experience as a rector in three dioceses, previous service on diocesan council for the Diocese of West Virginia and participation on community service boards in NY, WV and NC. Jim is faithful, thoughtful and diligent. He understands the careful planning necessary for moving vision to reality. He is an excellent listener. In group meetings, he often synthesizes the offerings made by others into a cogent, actionable recommendation. As an "active" retired priest, he has invested in maintaining and extending relationships both across the diocese and with our Lutheran brothers and sisters.



THE REV. MIRIAM SAXON

RESIDENCE: Haw River

POSITION: Vicar, St. Andrew's, Haw River

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Rebecca Yarbrough

EXPERIENCE:

- Miriam has served as an associate rector at Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh and for the past seven years as the vicar of St. Andrew's in Haw River. Thus she has experience in leading programs and services at both a large parish and a small mission. Prior to her ordination in 2007, she worked for the NC Administrative Office of the Courts, teaching judges and clerks about jury management and providing management studies of Clerk and District Attorney Offices with the goal of improving office efficiency. She also helped guide the introduction of family courts in various judicial districts, including organizing training for family court staff and overseeing those special budgets.



- Miriam has served as the chair of the Commission on Ministry for the Diaconate and in that role she helped the Diocese design an ordination process tailored specifically for those seeking to be vocational deacons. She is currently the chair of the Botswana Companion Link Committee, has co-lead two pilgrimages to Botswana and is a member of the Chartered Committee on Global Missions.

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Miriam is just completing a term on Diocesan Council, where she has worked as part of the Congregational Support Department as Council strives to strengthen the vitality of our parishes and missions. As a member of Council, she has helped develop the diocesan Mission Strategy that includes a focus on congregational support and vitality, and she wishes to return to Council so that she may continue to actively support this particular work which is dear to her heart as the vicar of a small mission in Alamance County. If elected to Diocesan Council, Miriam would be able to actively contribute to the Mission Strategy work without having to spend time getting up to speed on these issues.

Miriam is also interested in supporting Council’s work in the areas of racial justice and creation care, and strengthening our relationships with our friends in Botswana, our companion diocese.

Miriam worked for many years (prior to her ordination to the priesthood) as a court administrator, where she managed court programs and finances. That past experience assures that she understands the budget process. She actively supports the funding of our diocesan efforts both at home and abroad and enjoys monitoring the healthy status of our Diocese.

Diocesan Council | Lay Order (Vote for 3)

DAVID BLAND

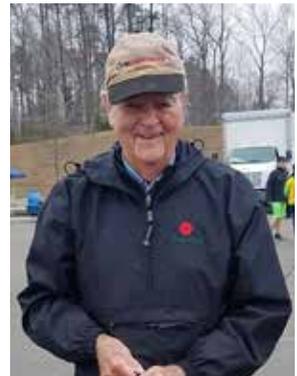
RESIDENCE: Wake Forest

CHURCH: St. John’s, Wake Forest

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Sarah Phelps

EXPERIENCE:

- David has served on St. John’s Vestry for nearly three years.
- He has served as a delegate to Diocesan Convention or as an alternate delegate for 3+ years.
- He has chaired our Adult Formation ministry at St. John’s for several years.
- He had a long career in executive leadership, both in government and as the president of a community college.
- David is currently spearheading an ecumenical, multi-denominational effort to put an end to the cash bail bond system in North Carolina.



PERSONAL STATEMENT:

At 85+ David Bland remains a tireless leader and enthusiastic servant of the Church in multiple areas of ministry and mission. He has many years of experience serving on boards and doing the work of program planning as well as strategic planning. He is very proud of our diocese and the priority we give to the work of racial reconciliation and racial justice. He believes passionately in the Church as a force for peace and justice in the world. He is trustworthy, reliable and dedicated, and I believe he would contribute productively to the work of the Diocesan Council.

WILHELMINA RAE MITCHELL

RESIDENCE: Roanoke Rapids

CHURCH: All Saints', Roanoke Rapids

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Sonny Browne

EXPERIENCE:

- Rae is currently serving her second term on the Vestry of All Saints', Roanoke Rapids. She is also the chair of the Worship Committee. All Saints' was without a priest for several years, and as chair her duties included 1) planning services in accordance with the church calendar; 2) securing a supply priest for at least two Sundays each month; 3) selecting a Eucharistic minister to either assist the priest or lead Morning Prayer services when there was no priest; 4) selecting lectors and sending the lectionary readings prior to the appointed Sunday; and 5) assigning a member of the church to greet the supply priest and answer any questions. As a priest is now in place, the duty of the worship chair is to coordinate the various ministries of the church as they provide service to the priest.
- Rae works with several community-based organizations which provide service to the underserved. Through her membership in The Lake Gaston Area Chapter of the Links, Inc., and the Concerned Citizens of Tillery, she devotes many hours to projects intended to improve the quality of life for adults and children. One such project was to adopt The Boys and Girls Club in Roanoke Rapids, NC. Guest speakers were brought in to discuss bullying, obesity, Black History, etc.
- Rae is also an enthusiastic supporter of All Saints' Little Pantry, a project to provide food and water to anyone in need.
- Rae is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Halifax County Arts Council.



PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I am proud to nominate Rae Mitchell to serve a term on the Diocesan Council.

Since being called to serve as Priest, I have enjoyed working with her in various functions of the church. Rae has a deep and enriched relationship with the church and God. She is a faithful member of the choir, the Vestry, the Worship Committee, the Bible Study Group, the Book Club and pre-pandemic the Kitchen Committee.

As a leader, Rae displays excellent leadership skills, planning meetings and building consensus among the group. As a committee member, she listens, researches, contributes, critiques and offers solutions. She is a team player.

She has an ebullient personality and is liked and respected by those who know and work with her.

Standing Committee | Clergy Order (Vote for 2)

No nominations were received.

Standing Committee | Lay Order (Vote for 1)

ALICE FREEMAN

RESIDENCE: Wilson

CHURCH: St. Mark's Wilson

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Miriam Saxon

EXPERIENCE:

- Executive Council of The Episcopal Church —Mission Beyond Standing Committee, 2018-present
- Deputy to General Convention
- Diocesan Council—Co-Chair Outreach and Justice Department, 2015 - 2021
- Assistant City Manager (Retired)—Wilson, NC
- Past Chair—Wilson Community College Board of Trustees



PERSONAL STATEMENT:

As a member of Diocesan Council, Alice has served as co-chair of the Outreach and Justice Department, whose mission is to assist committees and agencies of the diocese to carry out their specified and identified missions, exercising good stewardship and accountability.

A five-time deputy to General Convention and member of Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, her appointment and election to various committees in the church and the diocese has allowed her, at times, to be that voice that is sometimes not heard. Alice is passionate about small and struggling churches and missions and believes that by opening up to new ideas and new ways of being “church,” small churches and missions can do more than just survive; they can thrive and minister to God’s people—right in their own neighborhoods.

Alice says, “Perhaps my greatest asset is love of God, hope and belief in The Episcopal Church. To both, I offer my commitment, as I pray for God’s guidance and grace.”

MARY WELLMAN

RESIDENCE: Roanoke Rapids

CHURCH: All Saints, Roanoke Rapids

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Sonny Browne

EXPERIENCE:

- Current member of the Vestry, delegate to Convention, chair of Outreach, co-chair of Altar Guild, secretary of Daughters of the King
- Former organist, director of Christian education, EYC Leader, choir member, handbell choir member, and DOK president
- Former member of the Diocesan Youth Committee
- Retired Greensville County Public Schools Director of Pupil Personnel (Special Education, Nursing, School Counselors, Home School/Home-based/Homebound Instruction)
- Volunteer at John 3:16 (local nonprofit organization that supports low-income families in Halifax, Warren, and Northampton Counties)



PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Mary Wellman is a lifelong Episcopalian with strong ties to the Diocese of North Carolina. She was baptized, confirmed and married at All Saints, Roanoke Rapids, and was a member of the Chapel of the Cross as an undergraduate and graduate student at UNC-CH. She is married to Tom Wellman (a member of the Episcopal Church Foundation and former member of the Standing Committee), and their

three children were all baptized and confirmed at All Saints'. It has been the center of their family life. As a retired public school special education administrator, Mary is committed to inclusion in both school and church. In leading the Outreach Committee, she seeks to involve the parish in local, regional, national and international outreach efforts.

Board of Trustees, University of the South (Sewanee) | Clergy Order (Vote for 1)

THE REV. CARMEN GERMINO

RESIDENCE: Davidson

POSITION: Rector, St. Alban's, Davidson

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Marion Spratt-Goldson

EXPERIENCE:

- As an alumna of the College, Carmen serves as a volunteer Class Agent for the Sewanee Annual Fund, encouraging her fellow C'04 graduates to contribute to the University each year.
- She served as the Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at Yale Divinity School for three years and served on the Council of the Graduate Society of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale for an additional three years. She knows firsthand the importance of strong theological education in the Episcopal Church
- She was elected to a term on the Executive Board of the Diocese of Virginia, serving as a member of the Budget Committee. She is knowledgeable about governance and oversight of large and complex organizations.
- As rector of St. Alban's in Davidson, she leads a congregation with a vibrant campus ministry at Davidson College and is passionate about the church's role in supporting college students.
- Under her leadership, St. Alban's has initiated an anti-racism ministry team to continue the ongoing work of dismantling white supremacy in our church institutions and communities.



PERSONAL STATEMENT:

The University of the South is at a crucial moment. The school's governing bodies must reflect the breadth of its constituencies so that Sewanee can live up to its highest ideals. Carmen cherishes Sewanee and believes that, with God's help, building beloved community is possible there, as Psalm 133 suggests. She wants to help the institution engage in the hard but meaningful work of self-reflection leading to real and lasting change, while holding fast to the traditions of Sewanee that are healthy and distinctive. Carmen has long been a supporter of the university as a fundraising volunteer. She has extensive experience in theological and higher education settings. As rector of St. Alban's in Davidson, she understands the importance and complexities of campus life and ministry. Her experience leading a congregation in engaging in anti-racist education and advocacy would be particularly valuable at this time.

Board of Trustees, University of the South (Sewanee) | Lay Order (Vote for 1)

RICHARD AMMONS

RESIDENCE: Durham

CHURCH: St. Philip's, Durham

NOMINATOR: David Shumate

EXPERIENCE:

- For 8 years, he has provided strategic consulting to Presidents, Chief Development Officers, and Boards of Trustees at institutions of higher education, arts and culture, research and social benefits organizations, in his role as Senior Consultant and Principal at Marts and Lundy.
- For 31 years, he held senior-level positions in development at 6 colleges and universities (Fuqua School of Business at Duke, Colby College, Macalester College, Morehouse College, the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins and Amherst College).
- He served on Boards of Trustees (General Theological Seminary, the Tilton School) and Boards of Directors (the Council for the Support and Advancement of Education, Penumbra Theatre).
- He served parishes on the Vestry, as Senior Warden, and on a Rector Search Committee.
- Other volunteer service includes advisor on philanthropy to the Smithsonian's Museum on African American History and Culture; Leadership Atlanta; and President, Amherst's Alumni Society.



PERSONAL STATEMENT:

In addition to the wide professional, volunteer and church-based experience detailed above, his educational background includes a BA from Amherst College, an MBA from Stanford, and a Certificate from Harvard's Institute of Educational Management.

With all this experience, he is well-suited to serve as a Trustee at the University of the South. I can add an observation of his personal characteristics. I served with Richard on the Vestry when he was Senior Warden during two extraordinary years: 2020 and 2021. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, both our Rector and Associate Rector resigned and had to be replaced. His leadership and grace in dealing with loss and limitation impressed me greatly. He brings a variety of perspectives to any problem, along with unusual ability to communicate and to build consensus.