

BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES

STANDING COMMITTEE 4-YEAR TERM CLERGY

The Rev. Jennifer Pedrick

Jennifer has been a priest in the Diocese of Rhode Island for ten years and Rector of Church of the Epiphany, East Providence for seven years. During this time Jennifer believes she has grown in leadership and ministry. Epiphany has grown in mission and ministry, both in measurable statistics, and in the experience of members and the wider community. Epiphany continues to face challenges with faith and hope; as well as in strategic planning and visioning. They are a parish that has recently (2007) merged and can be a resource to others, from a practical and pastoral perspective. Over time, Jennifer has served the diocese as a member of Diocesan Council, the Clergy Continuing Education Committee, Bridgebuilders, and the Commission on Ministry. She has also served as Dean of the East Bay Deanery and is currently a Deputy to General Convention. Jennifer hopes to be elected to the Standing Committee to offer leadership as our Diocese faces the economic and ecclesiastical challenges of the next several years. In her life beyond church, she is happily married to Mike DeAngelo and they have two daughters, Lydia and Bella.

STANDING COMMITTEE 4-YEAR TERM LAY

The Honorable Scott Avedisian

Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian has been Mayor of that city since 2000. Before that he served for five terms on the City Council. A lifelong Episcopalian and member of Trinity, Pawtuxet Village, he has served on their Vestry and as a delegate to Diocesan Convention. He has been a Member of the Committee on Resolutions (1999-2002), Ecclesiastical Trial Court (2002-2011), Honorary Chairman, Vice President, Member of the Board of Episcopal Charities (2004 – present), Diocesan Council (2007 – present), Diocesan Program & Budget Committee 2009. He is a recipient of the Bishop Higgins Award from Episcopal Charities.

He just began his 20th year as a member of the Board of St. Mary's Home for Children, is a Trustee of Ocean State Charities, incorporator of Kent Hospital, former Board Member of the St. Elizabeth Community, and has served on the board of more than two dozen groups over the past 20 years.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL 3-YEAR TERM CLERGY

The Rev. Scott A. Gunn

The Rev'd Scott A. Gunn is Rector of Christ Church in Lincoln, RI. Scott is committed to the Church and its need both to articulate a faith that is relevant to our modern context and to be rooted in the ancient traditions. At Christ Church, he is seeking to build on the best aspects of their local tradition while radically expanding their ministries and mission. Scott is running for re-election to Diocesan Council, which he currently serves as its Vice

President. In addition to Council, Scott currently serves the Diocese as a Deputy to General Convention and as the chair of the Resolutions Committee. He is a native of Iowa and was educated at Luther College, Yale University, and Brown University. Prior to ordination he worked in information technology, working for a variety of for-profit and non-profit organizations (*The Atlantic Monthly*, MIT Media Lab, Education Development Center, IBM). He is married to Sherilyn Pearce.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL 3-YEAR TERM LAY

Mr. Dennis E. Stark

Dennis Stark is a member of the vestry and treasurer of St. Martin's in Providence and a deputy to Diocesan Convention. He has been treasurer of the Diocese and served on the Finance Commission and Diocesan Council. He is a member of the Clergy and Lay Compensation and Benefits Committee.

He served as a deputy to General Convention in 2000, 2003, and 2006 and served from 2006 to 2009 as lay deputy to Executive Council from Province I. He was selected by Executive Council to be a member of the Administration and Finance Committee and of the Investment Committee.

Dennis is a member of the board of the RI Philharmonic, RI Historical Society, Preserve, RI, and the State House Preservation Society. His other board memberships include the Preservation Society of Pawtucket, Historic District Commission, Pawtucket History Research Center, Chorus of Westerly, Gilbert Stuart Museum, Museum of Primitive Art & Culture, Friends of the Brown Libraries, and the Harvard Business School Association of Southeastern New England.

Dennis was Vice President for Business and Finance at the University of Rhode Island and served as chief financial officer of five banks in four states, including two in Rhode Island. He is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University, studied international economics at Princeton University, and has an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL 3-YEAR TERM LAY

Ms. Modesta Pellet

Modesta has been a member of St. George's in Central Falls since 1993. She works as a volunteer administrator in the office of St. George's and serves as their Senior Warden. She coordinates parish programs such as the Food Pantry, Vacation Bible School and their Outreach ministry, and teaches ESL to a group of women from St. George's. Modesta is a Eucharistic Minister and Eucharistic Visitor at both St. George's and Mision Iglesia El Mesias and assists Fr. Jose Roberts with other programs at Mision. She has served on the Diocesan Council for the past year and is seeking to fill that slot for the upcoming 3-year term. She is a member of the Blackstone Valley Deanery ECW and Delegate to Diocesan Convention.

Modesta is married with four children, seventeen grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren and resides in Pawtucket.

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT 3-YEAR TERM CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. Christopher A. Pappas

Christopher is the father of 4 wonderful children (Iliana, Aleta, Aeneas & Tasia) and the husband of Elisabeth Thompson, a family physician and Anglican priest. A graduate of Yale Divinity School & Berkeley Divinity School, he was ordained deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Eau Claire and priest in the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton where he served as a rural dean, territorial archdeacon, member of executive council and the electoral synod working group. There he was also involved in church growth and nurturing of healthy congregations programming as well as Cursillo and Alpha programs. Currently serving as the Rector of Christ Church Westerly, Chris has served for the past year on the Committee for Congregational Development as an appointee. Prior to ordained life, Christopher received a BS in Biology from Trinity College, Hartford and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science from UCONN. He served as a research scientist at the Yale School of Medicine and also as the Asst. Secretary of the State for the State of Connecticut.

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT 3-YEAR TERM LAY

Ms. Carol S. Drought

Carol is a member of St. Francis Church in Coventry. She presently serves on their Bishop's Committee. St. Francis is the product of the recent merger of Christ Church and St. Matthias Church. Carol was a member of Christ Church for over 25 years during which time she served as Sunday school teacher, Clerk, Junior Warden, and Senior Warden.

Carol has been a member of the Commission on Congregational Development for three years. She has enjoyed being part of the Commission's process of redefining its role in helping churches transform and grow. She brings to the Commission energy and enthusiasm as well as her perspective as a member of a merged congregation.

Carol retired in January after working at the Warwick Public Library for 34 years, 25 as Deputy Director. She was named Outstanding Librarian by the Rhode Island Library Association in 2008.

COMMISSION ON FINANCE 3-YEAR TERM LAY

Mr. Robert E. Bergstrand

Robert E. Bergstrand is a parishioner of the Church of the Epiphany, Rumford, a lifelong member of the Diocese of Rhode Island and a candidate for the Diocesan Commission on Finance. It was at church that he met the girl who eventually became his wife, so he feels he owes the church a huge amount of thanks. At Church of the Epiphany, Robert has served as a vestry member, Parish Clerk, Finance Commission member, Chair of the Parish Endowment Committee, and a delegate to Diocesan Convention.

At Church of the Epiphany, they had the great opportunity to experience the merging of two parishes. It was a long process requiring some give and take on both original parishes, but especially difficult on those who had to give up their beloved worship space. In seeing how some people had to sacrifice part of their past in order to make the merger work, he became keenly aware of what the closing of a parish does to all involved and how loving and prayerful we all must be. As a vestry member who was involved in the financial aspect of the merger, Robert will bring to the Finance Commission valuable experience that can be used to advise others when future mergers happen.

Professionally, Robert has a B.S. in Business Administration with extensive experience in international business. He has hired and supervised personnel in the Pacific Rim countries and has administered multimillion-dollar budgets. Additionally, he operated his own business for 12 years before selling and retiring. It is his intention to work on the Finance Commission melding sound business practices with the compassion that is necessary in this environment.