

Election Biographies

The Rev. Susan M. Carpenter-Congregational Development

As a life-time resident of Rhode Island and cradle Episcopalian, I've served in many leadership roles in the Church. At Trinity Church, North Scituate, I served on vestry, was Stewardship chair, delegate to Convention, Sunday school teacher, Adult Formation leader, Eucharistic Minister and chair of the annual bazaar. I was active in the Deanery and served on Diocesan Council and Executive Council. In 2005 I entered seminary and was ordained a deacon in June of 2008 and 6 months later was ordained to the priesthood where I served as Associate Rector at St. John's in Barrington. In 2010 I was called to St. Thomas in Greenville and to also be the Director at ECC, both being part-time positions. In 2012 I accepted the call to be the full-time rector of St. Thomas, where I am currently serving. I have served on the ECC Board, the Episcopal Charities Board, as Dean of the Central Deanery and two terms on Congregational Development. In my former professional life, I was a teacher and I also owned my own business, an herb farm on 50 acres. I live in Scituate and am married to Brian Carpenter, and we are blessed to have our two adult sons live nearby. In my free time I make copper and glass jewelry and create stained glass pieces.

Mr. Robert F. Fye-Diocesan Council

Robert F. Fye is currently a member of St. Columba's in Middletown, RI. Robert is a current consultant to Enterprise IT Architect to the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs. He recently served on the Vestry at St. Columba's as well as chairing the vestry nominating committee. Robert also serves as an usher at services, on the churchyard committee and outreach committee.

Mr. John Gilmartin-Standing Committee

John is a typical white 72-year-old Episcopalian. He means well, and often volunteers for work he thinks he understands, before beginning the work. He has served on vestries and church councils, been a warden twice, first in St. Albans, Copenhagen and later in Trinity Newport. He was a better warden in Denmark, than in RI. He confessed belief in Jesus as his Lord and savior during a bible study on October 24, 1984. He was as surprised as everyone present, and his life changed from that day to today. He's still the same fellow, but different, and better. He's still in bible study and finds the community of scholarship and belief an ongoing blessing. John retired from the staff of the United Nations after 24 years in work primarily focused on the business and logistics of polio eradication. Prior to the UN, John worked 12 years in vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacture. His work life began in the US Army, as a platoon leader in the First Infantry Division. He is a graduate of Boston University, and Temple U. in Philadelphia. John is now completing a three-year term on the Episcopal Charities Advisory Board, and it was during this work that he was asked to think about joining one of the Diocesan committees. John was a member of the Bishop Search Committee chaired by Lora McFall, which became an important part of his learning to become a member of our church. If elected to serve on the Standing Committee John hopes to encourage and help our Bishop, and Diocese become a beautiful loving home of followers of Jesus in our Rhode Island.

Election Biographies

The Rev. John Higginbotham-Standing Committee

The Rev. John Higginbotham is a lifelong Rhode Islander who grew up in Cranston and Jamestown. After serving in the military, he entered the Roman Catholic Seminary of St. Meinrad for pre-theology and was sent to St. John's Major Seminary. He left the seminary prior to diaconate ordination and was employed in his family's business, Laboratory Services, Co. Inc. in Warwick for 25 years. He graduated from the Episcopal Divinity School in 2010 with an *M.Div.* Bishop Wolf appointed John as Assistant to the Interim Rector of St. Luke's Church, East Greenwich. He was ordained to the diaconate in January 2011 and priest on October 2011 at St. Luke's Church, East Greenwich and was appointed as Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity Church, Tiverton on January 1, 2012. Bishop Nicholas Knisely instituted Fr. John as Rector of Holy Trinity Church in October 2013. He has served on Diocesan Council, Cathedral Chapter & Task Force, Bishop's Transition Committee, Task Force 2015, and Clergy Compensation and Benefits Committee. He is the Diocesan Ecumenical Officer and Denominational Representative on the Rhode Island State Council of Churches. He currently serves on the Diocesan Investment Trust. Fr. John is the President of the Tiverton Interfaith Clergy and he is the Faith Community Representative for the Newport County Prevention Coalition. Fr. John has three children and a grandson.

The Rev. Scott R. Lee-Commission on Investments

Born and raised in Amarillo, TX, Scott attended Texas Tech University and received an undergraduate degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a minor in the Study of Addiction. For a Master of Divinity, he attended Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX, graduating in 2012. In addition to serving as an assisting priest for years in Texas and Oklahoma, Scott has managed restaurants and audio retail stores.

Raised in the United Methodist Church, he also served as a part-time pastor of a small Methodist Church, as youth minister for a large Methodist Church, and for five years was the director of youth ministry at an Episcopal Church in Amarillo, TX. It was there that he fell in love with the liturgy and theology of the Episcopal Church, and he is delighted to now serve as rector of St. Barnabas in Warwick, RI.

The Rev. William Locke-Diocesan Council

Fr. Locke was ordained deacon and priest in the Diocese of Rhode Island by Bishop George Hunt. He was Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Pawtucket, and then Rector of St. Paul's, Pawtucket, from 1994 - 2013. He has since served as Interim Rector in six parishes, most recently at St. Matthew's, Jamestown since October 1. Fr. Locke has served on the Christian Social Relations Commission, as chair of the Financial Assistance and Missions Commission and the Liturgy and Music Commission and was a three-time Deputy to General Convention (2006, 2009, 2012). He has previously served on Diocesan Council and the Standing Committee, including two years as President of the Standing Committee.

David Monroe-Commission on Investments

Election Biographies

Is a Lifelong Episcopalian. David grew up in and married in Grace Church Providence and is now a member of Emmanuel Church Newport. David has served many times as a vestry member and warden. He is a retired teacher and Naval Officer with a passion for outreach and has a great interest in planned giving and parish financial sustainability and management.

Stanley Schofield-Commission on Finance

I am a life-long Rhode Islander and Episcopalian, having been a member of the Cathedral of St. John for 47 years before moving to St. Barnabas Church in Warwick in 2000. Throughout my entire adult life, I have been active in many parish ministries as well as attending numerous Diocesan Conventions on a regular basis. I have nearly 30 years of experience as a Parish Treasurer, having served in that capacity for 20 years for both the Cathedral Parish and Cathedral Corporation, and currently serving as Treasurer at St. Barnabas. I also serve as a Vestry member, eucharistic minister, acolyte, usher, reader, building and grounds committee member, and Diocesan Convention and West Bay Deanery delegate.

In my professional life, I am retired from MetLife, with 40 years of experience in financial analysis and reporting, data quality, compensation, sales and marketing.

I currently serve our Diocese on the Parochial Report Review Committee, the Committee on Elections, and as a resource to assist other parishes with their financial audits. I would now like to offer my service in other Diocesan areas where my experience may be of good use.

Phyllis Spaziano-Congregational Development

Phyllis is a lifelong Rhode Islander and member of the Episcopal Church. She was a member of St. James', Woonsocket until she married and moved to Smithfield and joined St. Thomas', Greenville. She has always been active in both parishes as a member of the choir, vestry, as a Sunday school teacher, lay reader, and Eucharistic Minister among other committees. She is completing her fourth year of EFM and has found the experience to be enriching and enlightening. Phyllis lives in Smithfield with her husband, Michael, and they have two young adult sons, Andrew and Joseph. She works in long term care as a finance manager and is passionate about the rights of the elderly and is developing her voice for social justice.

Olive Swinski-Diocesan Council

My name is Olive Swinski and I am seeking to serve on Diocesan Council. Currently, I am a parishioner at the Church of the Redeemer in Providence and I am amid my last year of the Masters in the Social Work Program at Rhode Island College. This past year, I served on the Congregational Development Committee and found this to be a rewarding experience. Prior to this experience, I committed myself to a year of service and spiritual discernment, by participating in the Episcopal Service Corps. Throughout my life, I have been drawn to spiritual

Election Biographies

Olive Swinski-Diocesan Council - Continued

expression through music, which I expressed by being a member of choir as a child and throughout university. I believe that my unique experiences both spiritual and secular, have poised me to sit on Diocesan Council. I am concerned about the sustainability of the Episcopal Church in Rhode Island and would like to be involved with finding solutions that ensure the longevity of the Church. Thank you for your consideration.

The Rev. Andrea Castner Wyatt-Congregational Development

Andrea is passionate about partnering with God's people to envision Christ's Church of the future and – with creativity, Spirit, faithfulness and joy – to live it into being. The Rev. Andrea Castner Wyatt is honored to lead as Rector of St. David's on-the-Hill Episcopal Church in Cranston. Andrea came to Rhode Island from Grace Episcopal Church in New Bedford. Andrea has 50+ years in three Protestant denominations – as the daughter of a Presbyterian minister, as a UCC Pastor ordained in 2001, and in Episcopal Holy Orders since 2015. For 10 years, Andrea was a Hospice Chaplain, a ministry of accompaniment at end of life, as she fell in love with the Episcopal Church in Massachusetts through The Crossing, the emergent community at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston. During formation, she was blessed to walk with The Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown and St. Mark's Church in Southborough.