

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENTS OF NEW NOMINEES

(those who are currently serving on committees are not included)

Standing Committee

The Rev. Jackie Kirby

Jackie joined St. George's School as the Associate Chaplain in 2014 and was installed as Chaplain in 2017. She is the current H. Martin P. Davidson Chaplaincy Chair and teaches courses in religion and theology. She holds a B.A. in literature from Yale University, an MDiv from Yale Divinity School, and a Ph.D. in comparative literature from New York University. Prior to discerning a call to ordained priesthood, she was the Associate Director of the CAS Writing Program at Boston University, where she taught expository writing and established a residential summer program for high school students. Jackie has served on the vestry at St. Matthew's, Jamestown and on the Commission on Ministry. For the past three or four years, her ministry has included leading prayer groups and (more recently) teaching classes for women at the Adult Correctional Institution in Cranston.

Mr. David Monroe

The Episcopal Church is the cornerstone of David's life and faith. He and his wife were married at Grace Church, Providence. Their children were raised and married at St. Mary's, Portsmouth where their family worshipped for 35 years. After leaving active naval service, he has been involved in church life and leadership. He has been a warden and vestry member several times and is now the treasurer at Emmanuel, Newport. He currently serves on the board of directors of Hallworth House, he is on the Diocesan Investment Trust Committee, and he has helped with the development of the solar project at ECC. David worked as a high school teacher in CT. He is a retired naval officer and was the executive director of the US Navy Surface Warfare Officers School in Newport. Since retirement, his passion has been serving the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Pantry.

Diocesan Council

The Rev. Dorothy "Ricky" Brightman

Ricky was raised in the Episcopal Church but drifted away as an adult. While a teacher at Moses Brown School, she brought students to the Cathedral's Soup Kitchen for community service. There, her eyes opened to a broader vision of "church." She was hooked, joining the Cathedral and then its vestry, becoming senior warden. She chaired the George Hunt HELP Center and was a volunteer for Episcopal Charities, Diocesan Council, Social Justice Committee, Jonathan Daniels House Board, and the Center for Reconciliation's program committee. She was inspired to seek ordination as a permanent deacon and currently serves with Church Beyond the Walls. She wants to be on Diocesan Council as the Church moves through the pandemic. For a Church centered in "bricks and mortar," COVID has stretched our understanding of how we "do" and "be" Church. The Council will play an important role in supporting our churches and ministries during these transitions. Her diaconal work has been at churches in East Greenwich, East Providence, and Providence.

The Rev. John "Jack" Lynch

Jack has been the Missioner at St. George's, Central Falls since 2016. He is also the director the Instituto EcuMénico de Ministerio Hispano, a joint Episcopal-Lutheran ministry formation project. Together with his wife, Cecilia, he translates the Spanish version of *Forward Day by Day*, as well as writing other educational and devotional materials. Additionally, he teaches courses in theology and Biblical studies for Domuni Universitas: a French Dominican university.

Jack came to Rhode Island from the Diocese of Southern Virginia, where he served as a parish rector, assisting spiritual director to Cursillo, and member of the Hispanic Advisory Board. Prior to his return to the USA in 2009, he served as an Episcopal missionary in Honduras, where he was ordained deacon and priest. Jack has received degrees from Wake Forest University, the Catholic University of Honduras, Trinity Theological Seminary, and the Angelicum.

Ms. Phyllis Spaziano

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 25 years ago. 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 currently the clerk of the vestry, licensed worship leader and a choir member. She has completed Education for Ministry (EFM) and loves adult formation. She lives in Smithfield with her husband, Michael, and they have two adult sons, Andrew and Joseph. She works in long term care in financial management and is developing her voice for social justice particularly racial reconciliation.

Commission on Congregational Development**The Rev. Patrick Greene**

Patrick is a 37 year-old priest, born and raised in Rhode Island. He lives in Barrington with his wife Carmen, their children Jackson and Hazel, and dog Tucker. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in philosophy from the University of Rhode Island in 2006 and in 2010 from Virginia Theological Seminary with an M.Div. He was ordained to the diaconate in May 2010 and to the priesthood in December 2010. He served as assistant to the rector at St. Paul's, Wickford from 2010 to 2014. From 2014 to 2018 he was priest-in-charge and then rector of Saints Matthew & Mark, Barrington. In November of 2018, he began serving as rector of St. John's, Barrington. In our diocese he is a deputy to General Convention. Previously he served on the leadership team for Happening, as dean of the Narragansett Deanery, as a member of Diocesan Council, as a deputy to General Convention in 2015, as chair of our deputation to General Convention in 2018, and as a member and president of the Standing Committee.

Ms. Ivy Swinski

Ivy Swinski is a lifelong Episcopalian. She currently attends St. Barnabas Church, Warwick and is one of the producers of the diocesan podcast Tea Time Theology. Her day job is being the project manager for the OneCranston Health Equity Zone.

Commission on Diocesan Investment Trust**Mr. Mark D'Agostio**

Mark has been an active parishioner at St. Michael's, Bristol for over 10 years. He currently serves on the vestry and he is an usher and a soloist. He has been Stewardship Co-chairperson for the past three years. Professionally, he has worked over 35 years in senior leadership positions, predominantly in finance and operations. While holding the position of VP Operations for the former Lloyd Manufacturing Corporation in Warren, he was the trustee of the company's defined benefit plan. In this capacity, he oversaw the plan's investments in support of their union employee's retirement benefits. This included the filing of the plan's annual reporting requirement (5500). In another capacity, he was a member of the board of directors of the former Columbus Credit Union in Warren and served as chair for three years. This role required him to manage investments and lending. He is experienced in balancing risk and rewards in investment portfolios.

Mr. Matthew DiTomasso

Matthew is a lifelong Episcopalian- born and raised in Rhode Island. He grew up in Jamestown and attended St. Matthew's Church. He now lives in Saunderstown and is a member of St. Paul's, Wickford. He is married with three children and lots of extended family all around Rhode Island. He is currently Dean of Student Life at Immaculate Conception Regional School in Cranston. In the past he has worked as an educator at Prout High School and the Deering Middle School in West Warwick. Prior to his jobs in education, he worked in the financial service industry for over twenty years. He has experience working with individual investors, as well as institutional investors. He has been involved in the Labor History Society of Rhode Island and is a vestry member at St Paul's. In his spare time, he enjoys working in the garden and spending time with family and friends.

The Rev. Jennifer Pedrick

Jennifer serves as the Rector of St. Mary's in Portsmouth. In addition to sacramental and pastoral roles, her gifts and interests include ministries of welcome and incorporation of new members and helping people and communities discern their gifts for ministry. She currently enjoys supporting staff, lay leaders and members in their stewardship of a large, historic campus with a healthy endowment, a balanced budget, and most importantly, a faithful community of followers of Jesus. Her past diocesan ministries include serving on the Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Council, Deputy to General Convention, Standing Committee, and Mission Task Force as well as planning clergy retreats.

Ms. Elizabeth "Liz" Segovis

Liz is a retired attorney. She worked at RI Legal Services for 25 years and as part of her job, she provided services for low-income taxpayers. For 20 years, she has served on the board of Goodwill Industries of Southern New England. Liz is a member of Trinity, North Scituate where she sings in the choir. She and her husband, Jim, have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 1 basset hound.

Commission on Ministry

The Rev. Joan Testin

Joan is a second career priest who was ordained in 2010. After serving as a curate, and then assistant at Emmanuel Church in Chestertown, MD, she was called in 2013 to be the rector at Emmanuel, Cumberland. Since arriving in RI, she has been blessed to serve with energetic, creative, generous, and quirky folks in the northeastern corner of the state. She lives on the gorgeous campus with her spouse, Barbara, and two Norfolk terriers. She has served on Diocesan Council, the Commission on Salary Review, the Commission on Ministry and as president of the Standing Committee. She looks forward to serving on the Commission on Ministry again and considers it a privilege to help folks discern the unique ways that the Spirit calls them to serve God's peoples as lay or ordained leaders in the Church.

Committee on Elections

The Rev. Dr. John Reardon

John currently serves as Vicar of Saint James Episcopal Church in North Providence, RI. He is also a member of the faculty at St. George's School in Middletown, RI. He holds a Master of Social Work from Smith College and a PhD in Theology from Fordham University. He has worked in the fields of government, non-profits, ministry, education, and mental health. He lives in Providence with his dog, Jimmy, and his three cats—Mitty, Prenny, and Georgie.