

# BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENTS OF NEW NOMINEES

## STANDING FOR ELECTION IN 2024

### **Mr. Gregory H. DePardo-Standing Committee**

Professionally, I am the Financial Director for a public corporation in Rhode Island. My responsibilities have included the consolidation of domestic and international financial subsidiaries, financial reporting to the Securities & Exchange Commission, business analytics and staff oversight. I serve as Treasurer for my parish, St. Stephen's, Providence. I also assist as a sub-deacon during our sung, high Mass. I have an extensive background in Patristics, with a focus on the Eastern Fathers of the Church. My family and I were Eastern Orthodox for many years, and I spent a short time in seminary (diaconate preparation). My desire is to utilize my theological/liturgical/parish governance background, coupled with my financial and managerial experience to serve the diocese.

### **Ms. Jennifer DePardo-Commission on Congregational Development**

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share a little bit about myself and why I believe I am a good candidate to serve on the Commission on Congregational Development. I have been in the non-profit development industry since 2013 when the youngest of my four children began kindergarten. My position is Assistant Director of Data Services for Institutional Advancement at La Salle Academy in Providence. I am serving the third year of my first term as a member of the vestry of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Providence. I am a regular volunteer at Epiphany Soup Kitchen which is hosted at St. Stephen's. I welcome the chance to combine my professional skills with my love for the people and places of our parishes and communities. The Episcopal Church welcomed me and my husband with open arms. We are both excited to offer ourselves to the glory of God through service.

### **Mr. Valerie Ann Martin-Diocesan Council**

Valerie Ann Martin is a retired nurse executive holding a Master's Degree in Nursing Administration. She was Director of Nursing and in that role was responsible for developing and managing budgets. She served on the Boards of the RI State Nurses Association and the RI Council of Nurse Managers. Valerie has been a member of Emmanuel Church, Newport since 1987 and has served on the vestry as Junior Warden, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Clerk, Vestry at Large and presently as Senior Warden. Valerie serves as a Counter and is the Lead Usher. Most recently she has been named one of the four Trustees of Emmanuel Church. During Covid she developed safe opening procedures so we could worship together in person and initiated the collection of non-perishable foods at Emmanuel for the Martin Luther King Center and that continues today. Serving on Diocesan Council will be her first diocesan service.

### **Mr. David Mackintosh- Commission on Investments**

My wife Mary and I moved to Rhode Island a few years ago, the culmination of our master plan for this phase of our life. We were members of Christ Church, then Trinity Church, in upstate New York for over 25 years. My volunteer work includes Junior Achievement, American Red Cross (former Chair in Syracuse, NY), Civil Air Patrol (Group Commander-Central New York), as well as numerous youth coaching opportunities. My work experience consists of being General Manager for Royal Insurance and Acadia Insurance, and I was the former owner of the emergency services mitigation company. I currently work part time as an independent claims adjuster. I'm a graduate of Hamilton College and have an MBA from Syracuse University. Currently I serve as secretary on the Recreation Committee for the town of Little Compton. I am on the Finance Committee at St. Andrew's by the Sea, Little Compton.

### **Mr. John Meier-Commission on Investments**

I am a cradle Episcopalian who has recently moved to Rhode Island, joining St. Peter's and St. Andrew's, Providence. I was previously a member of the Church of the Holy Spirit (Lebanon, NJ) in the Diocese of New Jersey, where I served as a trustee on the Diocesan Investment Trust. My wife is a permanent deacon in the Episcopal Church, as was my father. I am a graduate of the Education for Ministry program. Most of my career was spent at Lafayette College, where I was a member of the mathematics faculty and where I most recently served as the provost. As the provost I was responsible for the academic division of the College and, among other duties, I co-chaired Lafayette's campus budget planning committee. This summer I began working as the Chief Executive Officer of the American Mathematical Society.

### **The Rev. Dr. Peter Michaelson-Commission on Congregational Development, Commission on Investments**

Fr. Peter Michaelson served three congregations (and two staff jobs) in 36 years, in three dioceses, before retiring. One position was a new church development and another, a redevelopment congregation. He has been in RI since 1993. Since retiring 18 years ago he has served 34 RI congregations as Vicar, Interim Rector, "Go-to" priest, long-term and short-term supply. He holds a D.Min. in congregational development from Seabury Institute of Advanced Congregational Studies, now part of Bexley-Seabury Seminary. He is now trying to develop a more "senior" priestly role from the patience, wisdom, and experience he should have collected. Fr. Peter and his wife, Wanda, have two grown daughters, seven grandchildren, and one new great-grandson.

In church finance, until he retired Fr. Peter kept a low profile. However, he was lucky to be trained by the treasurer of his first parish, a Senior Partner of the accounting firm now known as Deloitte & Touche. Fr. Peter has more recently served as treasurer for several non-profit organizations, managing their securities portfolios as well as those of his family.

### **The Rev. Joan Testin-Standing Committee**

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 and president of the Disciplinary Board. She looks forward to serving on the Standing Committee again.