

Candidates for Elected Office

Diocesan Board



The Reverend Kenneth Vinal
Candidate for Diocesan Board
Clerical Order

Chaplain, Trinity Prep School

Associate Priest, St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Orlando

Work History

2000 – present Chaplain, Trinity Prep School, Winter Park, FL
1999-2000 Rector, St John's, Kissimmee, FL
1996-1999 Assistant Rector, Holy Trinity, Melbourne, FL
1995-1996 Assistant Rector, Good Shepherd, Lexington, KY
1983-1992 Accountant in Life Insurance industry

Education

M-Div, University of the South, 1995
BS-Accounting, University of Florida, 1983

Diocesan Service

I have served on the Diocesan Board for one full term and, for the past two years, in a partial term. I have also served on the Commission on Ministry and, for the last 18 years, as chairman of Committee Nominations and Elections for the Diocesan Convention.

Personal

My wife Laura and I celebrated our 26th wedding anniversary in October of this year. We have two children, Elizabeth and Cooper, and one grandchild.



Mrs. Sonya Shannon
Candidate for Diocesan Board
Lay Order

Born in Tyler, Texas, I was confirmed at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Grand Prairie, Texas. I met my husband, Colin, in high school and we were married at St. Andrews in 1990. We joined The Cathedral Church of St. Luke when we moved to Orlando in 1993. Today we are the proud parents of three beautiful "cradle Episcopalians"-Shelby is 21, Erin is 17, and Kendall is 14. I seek to secure a safe place for my girls to grow in their love of the Lord.

I currently work at the Cathedral as the Nursery Coordinator. In diocesan work I have served previously on Diocesan Board, on the Standing Committee and on the Congregational Development Commission. In 2015 I served as a lay deputy to the General Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

As a diocese, in fact, as the Church, we face a culture that is increasingly non-Christian. We routinely encounter individuals who have only a limited knowledge of Jesus Christ. They are looking for answers and meaning but have no idea of where to turn for grace and hope. Our first challenge, therefore, is to renew our own faith and find ways to articulate those personal stories of faith and encounters with the Lord. Our call to evangelism is to step out of our comfort zone. Our comfort zone for many years has been to stay within the confines of our parish, even literally within our very church buildings. We can no longer wait for people to come to us.

As strong as our witness is right now, we can become even stronger in our faith. We should continue to develop programs that teach the basics of the faith, renew the spiritual life of the individual members of the diocese, and provide the tools for growth in the life of the Church.

I believe the Diocese offers a unique opportunity for those who would seek to know our Lord and deepen their relationship. I will continue to work to make a difference in the life of the church by helping to maintain the continuity and integrity throughout the churches in the Diocese of Central Florida.

I am committed to serve as best I can to help the bishop fulfill his vision of raising up new leaders and restoring lives in our community I believe I can be effective in this effort as a member of the Diocesan Board.

Mrs. Heather Rodriguez
Candidate for Diocesan Board
Lay Order

I have been a member of the Church of the Incarnation since prior to its founding as a mission church. I joined the church as a young adult, dated my husband, both of us were confirmed together, got engaged, and got married within this diocese. We are the parents of Elijah, 2 years old, and Eva, 2 months old. I view this opportunity and calling of continued service to our church as a means of adding my voice and experience in serving and ministering to others to the counsel being provided to our bishop and diocesan leadership.

I am the Minister of Music at the Church of the Incarnation and work privately as a music instructor. I have been a musician at this church since its founding. I also have worked in College and Young Adult Ministry, alongside my husband and others, for the past 8 years. I have a passion for reaching out to young people who are away from home at college or beginning to settle into their new adult lives and making sure that Jesus as well as an intentional Christian community are at the cornerstone of their formation.

I am a small business owner and have been for more than the past decade. I have always served the local church since my teens through participating as a musician in worship. I was drawn into the Episcopal Church as a young adult because of its rich history, liturgy, musical tradition, and sacrament. I feel called to be considered for this role within the Church in order to continue my service to the Church I love so much. I wish to support our bishop in prayer and through participation in the councils of our diocese and in support of our unique role in making known the Gospel of Christ, and strengthening and expanding the Kingdom in Central Florida.

Standing Committee



The Reverend Christopher Rodriguez Candidate for Standing Committee Clerical Order

It has been my privilege to serve as Rector at Trinity Episcopal Church in Vero Beach since August, 2012. In the recent past, Trinity faced many challenges, but I continue to be amazed and give thanks to our Lord, for the tremendous growth in joy, spiritual depth and in number.

Prior to my ministry in Vero, I served as Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Red Bank, New Jersey. During my six year tenure in Red Bank, the parish doubled in Average Sunday Attendance (ASA). I also served the Diocese of New Jersey as the Chair of Congregational Development Committee and as a member of Diocesan Council.

I have a Master's degree in Industrial / Organizational Psychology and spent ten years in the corporate world. During this time I lead teams in Information Technology to articulate and achieve objectives. I am passionate about preaching, leadership, and giving people the vision and tools to use the gifts that God has given them.

If elected to the Standing Committee, I will use my experience to serve our Bishop on his council of advice. I believe the best days for our Diocese are ahead of us if we are willing to rise to the challenges confident in our Lord's provision.

I have been married to Kathleen for nineteen years and we have three daughters. I enjoy running, reading, playing guitar and spending time with my family and friends



The Reverend James A. Sorvillo, Sr. Candidate for Standing Committee Clerical Order

Fr. Jim has been rector of the Church of the Ascension since 2003 and active in diocesan ministry since 1992. He and his wife Debbie have two sons Jim Jr. and Michael, and were blessed with a grandson this year. His passion is for people to encounter the risen Christ and to make our historic worship and God's Word relevant to our every day journey of faith!

He has served our diocese as the Chair of the Congregational Development Commission, the President of the Episcopal Counseling Center Board, member of the Board for the Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center, as well as served two terms on the Diocesan Board and been a deputy to the 2012 and 2015 General Conventions. He is presently completing on his doctorate in congregational healing and renewal.

Fr. Jim would like to be able to bring his diocesan experience and passion for its future to the Standing Committee. He is excited about the years to come and would be honored to serve the bishop in that capacity.



Mr. Orman Kimbrough
Candidate for Standing Committee
Lay Order

Not only is our Episcopal Anglican denomination a treasure to millions of people, it has been part of our country from its beginning. Unfortunately, just as other main line denominations have diminished in membership during recent decades, so has our membership.

Fortunately, the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida has flourished and continues to thrive in great part due to the leadership of our bishop, clergy and lay leaders. Today, Bishop Brewer sees the opportunity of the Episcopal Church to serve the community like it has never done before. As the faces of Central Florida have changed, so has the complexion of our parishes and diocese. It would be an honor to walk alongside Bishop Brewer by assisting him in growing and further broadening our membership in our faith and service to others.

As a member of All Saints in Winter Park, I have had several tours of duty on the Vestry and have been Senior Warden to two Rectors. I serve at the altar as a Eucharistic Minister, a reader, and have actively participated on numerous commissions. I am a 14- year member of the Diocese Commission on Ministry, currently serving as Chair.

My wife, Kay, a former Orange County school teacher, and I have two children who “grew up” at All Saints and have reached young adulthood. Our daughter is a Job Counselor, with GoodWill Industries, for those people who have cognitive, intellectual, and physical challenges, and our son is a Civil Engineer working in Washington, D.C.

It has been a privilege serving the people of our Diocese and I hope to have the opportunity supporting our Bishop by becoming a member of the Standing Committee.



Mr. Randy Wiseman
Candidate for Standing Committee
Lay Order

I am a lifelong Episcopalian and I have been a member of St. Edwards in Mount Dora since 1982. Over the past 35 years I have been a member of our vestry, served as youth leader for 20 years, served as a lay Eucharistic minister, served as a trustee to the University of the South, served on the Honduras Committee and I currently serve on the Cursillo commission. I have known Bishop Brewer for many years and even served on a Cursillo team with him in the early '90's. I am well aware of the importance of the Standing Committee to the bishop as well as to our diocese and I am ready, willing, and able to serve.

Trustee, University of the South



Mr. Frank Gummey Candidate for Trustee, University of the South Lay Order

I have been a member of St. Mary's in Daytona Beach for 34 years where I have served as a lector, lay eucharistic minister, three times vestry member, search committee member, stewardship chair, and unofficial "chancellor." A life-long Episcopalian, I received my BA from the University of the South. After service in the US Army, I attended law school at the University of Florida. As a certified local government lawyer, I have represented Daytona Beach, Volusia County and New Smyrna Beach for over 42 years. I have participated in the leadership of a number of professional, civic and charitable organizations on the local, regional and national levels. My wife of 34 years, Susan, is a teacher and our daughter, Sarah, is a school guidance counselor. Our son, Topper, is a recent graduate of UCF.

The University of the South, "Sewanee," has been a continuing relationship for me. I have been a regular contributor and inveterate booster. As a Trustee since 2010, I have enthusiastically supported significant advancements in the University's mission.

As a member of the Community Relations Committee I have encouraged greatly expanded outreach to the community beyond the campus. Rural areas of people of moderate means and less are being helped by a great upsurge in faculty and student volunteerism in University and community organizations.

As Episcopalians we have an incredible resource for clerical and lay Christian education in Sewanee and I hope to continue to work to improve the breadth and depth of its impact on the Church and community at large.