

## **Province V Executive Board Nominees for election at Synod 2024**

### **President**

Nominee's Name: Rick Stanitis

Trinity Episcopal Church Houghton  
Diocese of Northern Michigan

As the current vice president of The Executive Board of Province V I have a solid working knowledge of the strengths of the board membership. I have been assisting the current president with running the monthly board meetings and the regular operations of the board. Before serving as the vice president I was a diocesan representative and learned about the mission and ministry of the board. Understanding the role of the coordinator and the changing ministry of the board is critical moving forward. Serving as a campus missionary for nearly twenty years, on the vestry of my local congregation as well as many years in diocesan leadership, and a deputy to several general conventions has given me insight in the many aspects of ministry The Episcopal Church.

I have come to know that there are many opportunities to connect, network and support the local ministries throughout the province.

The Big Provincial Gathering is a unique way for the people of the dioceses to connect for education, networking and fellowship. The coordinator and board are ready to keep these connections strong and relevant for the benefit of the people of the province. Keeping networks current is one of the priorities of the coordinator and network liaisons. Network meetings are useful gatherings for individuals engaged in similar ministries.

Finally, support of local ministries across the province occurs many different ways. Diocesan representatives, serving as board members, meet at monthly board meetings reporting from around the province. A number of these board members serve on the grant committee, this sub committee of the board is always exploring opportunities to support the people and ministries of the province.

**Vice President**

Nominee's Name: Matthew Gunter

Diocese: Fond du Lac / Eau Claire

**Treasurer**

Nominee's Name: Rebecca Elfring-Roberts  
Congregation: Church of Our Saviour, Chicago  
Diocese: Chicago

Nominee Statement--"What gifts and qualifications do you bring to this position?"

I serve as the comptroller in the Diocese of Chicago and the current treasurer for Province V. I work closely with Heather Barta and fully expect to continue our strong and supportive relationship. I have worked in diocesan finance for over twelve years and hold a master's degree in nonprofit administration with a certificate in nonprofit finance.

What opportunities do you see for the Province as we work to "connect, network, and support" the local ministries across the constituent dioceses?  
(150 words or fewer)

I believe the financial support of the Executive Board to promote collaboration and networking across dioceses and provinces is essential to meeting the purpose of Province V. I see opportunity in strengthening the communication channels that encourage participation and reveal places of intersection and possibility.

## **Secretary**

Nominee's Name: Mike Fowlkes

Congregation: Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Louis

Diocese: Missouri

Nominee Statement--“What gifts and qualifications do you bring to this position?”

- Mike holds a BS in Chemistry from Howard University and has worked as a Quality Control Chemist with W. R. Grace in Baltimore, Md. Prior to retirement, Mike, a certified Project Manager, managed infrastructure and software development projects at IBM, Express Scripts, and at Charter Communications.
- Mike has served on the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church in St. Louis as Junior Warden and on the Episcopal City Mission's Deaconess Anne House Advisory Board. He has served on the Standing Committee in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, where in 2021 he served as the Standing Committee President. Mike served on the 2022 and 2023 Diocesan Convention Resolutions Committee. In 2023 Mike was a member of the Nominations Committee.

What opportunities do you see for the province as we work to “connect, network, and support” the local ministries across the constituent dioceses?

- Province V offers the opportunity for all the constituent dioceses to provide best practice training opportunities that address parish level concerns, and to share newly developed ministry models with fellow constituent dioceses.