



The 226th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia

November 14, 2020

Elected Positions Nomination Form

Name: The Reverend Crystal J. Hardin

Position Sought: Standing Committee

Address 2805 23rd Road North

City/State/Zip Arlington, Virginia 22201

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Church Name, Location Saint George's Episcopal Church, Arlington, Virginia

Please provide a biographical sketch for publication, including elected or appointed positions or ministries held at the parish, provincial and/or national church level and highlighting why you would like the position and believe you are qualified. Please include a digital photograph with the nomination form.



Mail, fax or e-mail completed form to: Secretary of the Diocese, 110 W. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23220 Fax: 804-644-6928 E-mail: bmartin@thediocese.net

Nominations must be received **no later than close of business on Tuesday, October 27, 2020**

I would welcome the opportunity to serve the Diocese of Virginia as a member of the Standing Committee. As a relative “newcomer” to the Episcopal Church, with a varied church experience (lay and ordained, Evangelical and Episcopal, rural and urban) and legal background, I believe I would be an asset to the Committee.

I grew up unchurched in small town Alabama. As a teenager, I took my seeking heart and questioning ways to my local Southern Baptist church, the only available option in my hometown (the joke is that even the Methodists were Baptists!). Baptized at 16, I felt closer to God than ever before, although I soon realized that the Southern Baptist Church wasn’t for me. After many years of seeking, I found myself sitting in an Episcopal Church as a law student. I was confirmed several years later. In the Episcopal Church, I found a liturgy that deeply moved me, an encouraging, challenging, and affirming tradition, and a community of people who bring out the best in me and love me even at my worst.

I graduated *summa cum laude* with a degree in English Literature and *magna cum laude* with a Juris Doctorate. While in law school at the University of Alabama, I served as an Editor of *The Alabama Law Review*, where I was awarded the top prize for Student Contributions. I also discovered a passion for criminal and capital defense work and advocacy. I served Alabama Law’s Capital Defense Clinic for two years, aiding in the representation of multiple individuals facing the death penalty. That still stands as some of the richest, most rewarding, and painful work of my life.

My husband, Bradford, and I moved to the DC metro area in 2009. We have two children, ages 8 and 11, and have lived in Arlington for eight years.

Before seminary, our family called St. George’s, Arlington, home. There I served on the vestry, as junior and then senior warden, and was involved in multiple ministries before being called to ordained ministry and leaving to attend Virginia Theological Seminary. While at VTS, I co-founded and led a student weekly preaching workshop initiative and conceived of, and saw to fruition, a book project, *Preaching Politics: The Hope or the Curse of the Church* (2020), co-edited by Dean Ian Markham, which included an in-person, two-day discussion amongst diverse contributors and guests. I graduated from VTS with honors in 2019 and was ordained to the priesthood in September of 2019.

In the summer of 2018, I served as a Staff Writer for *Center Aisle*, the General Convention opinion journal of the Diocese of Virginia, where I focused on the intersection of the #Metoo Movement and the church. I have also published articles in *The Virginia Episcopalian* and *Sojourners Magazine*. I feel strongly that participation in the church writ large is a vital part of my call to ordained ministry.

My first call was as an Assistant Rector at Christ Church, Georgetown, where I participated in most matters of parish leadership. When our Rector became the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in DC, I took on the role of priest-in-charge and occupied that role from March to June. During that time, I stayed in close conversation with Bishop Budde and the Diocese and led a church-wide effort to connect with quarantined parishioners, to provide for virtual services, to partner with other local churches, and to create a Lay Pastoral Care Committee. I was promoted to Associate Rector in May 2020.

In September, I accepted a call to become the new Associate Rector at St. George’s, Arlington, where my primary areas of focus are the Children, Youth, and Families Ministry and Social Justice. I am delighted to be back home, in the Diocese of Virginia.