



The 224th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia

November 1-3, 2018, Downtown Marriott Hotel, Richmond, Virginia

Elected Positions Nomination Form

Name: _____

Position Sought: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Church Name, Location _____

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 **no later than Wednesday, October 17, 2018** to:
Secretary of the Diocese, 110 W. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23220
Fax: 804-644-6928 E-mail: bmartin@thediocese.net

The Standing Committee always has a vital role in the governance of the Diocese but especially so during this period of ecclesiastical transition, when steadfast spirit, honest communication, and solid connections between the Diocese and our parishes are essential. I believe that the breadth and depth of my church and professional experiences will enable me to share my skills in teaching, strategic planning, communication, management, and executive leadership as a member of the Standing Committee during this critical period.

Confirmed as a member of the Episcopal Church in 1977 at St. James's (Richmond), I transferred to St. Bartholomew's in 1984, where I was deeply involved in the lay leadership of the church for 26 years, serving three terms on the vestry and holding the positions of registrar, junior warden, and senior warden. I served as a lay reader, lay eucharistic minister, chair of the Stewardship Committee, lay delegate to regional council, and lay delegate to Diocesan Convention. I chaired the rector search committee (2002-03) and led strategic planning retreats for the parish. I also helped plan and lead annual parish spiritual retreats at Shrine Mont, as well as developing and teaching classes on a wide range of topics, especially the links between faith and literature, such as T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*.

Transferring to St. Andrew's (Richmond) in 2010, where my wife, the Rev. Deacon Barbara Ambrose, began serving as vocational deacon, I was elected to the vestry in 2013, and served two years as junior warden. I have served as a member of the parish's adult education planning team and taught on topics including poetry, prayer, the Eucharist and the Prayer Book. I have also been a regular lay reader and intercessor and was licensed by the Diocese as a lay preacher.

I have led annual Shrine Mont retreats for other parishes and taught seminars and workshops at diocesan conventions on Anglican poetry. I have served as a teller at diocesan conventions each year since 2011 as well as for the election of the bishop suffragan in 2012. Since 2014, I have been a member of the Committee on the Diaconate, which interviews and recommends aspirants and candidates called to become vocational deacons.

A lifelong resident of Richmond, I graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School (1969) and then received a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania (English, 1973) and an M.A. from the University of Virginia (English, 1974). Beginning in 1975, I served as assistant professor of English at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. During my tenure I served as president of the Faculty Senate, chair of the English Department, editor of the college's self-study for the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools, and chair of the college's Institutional Effectiveness Committee and its Strategic Planning Team. I led annual planning retreats and served as the chief author of the college's strategic plan. In 1998, after a decade of developing the college's first computer-assisted instruction, I became the director of Instructional Technology & Distance Education. In 2001, I became dean and then later Vice President of Technology, responsible for managing the college's computer systems, distance learning, and libraries. I served on the President's Executive Cabinet until my retirement as professor emeritus in 2013.

Since then, in addition to my work at St. Andrew's and the Diocese, my focus has been on renovating the Museum District home I share with my wife, Barbara, and our five cats, and researching and writing a book (*Young Man of Manhattan: The Life of Fred Astaire in New York City*).

I will bring these diverse experiences in the church and the world to the Standing Committee, complementing the strengths of its other members. The Diocese of Virginia may face anxious times, but if we embrace passionately the challenges, celebrate joyously our diversity, pray constantly for guidance, and listen deeply to the Holy Spirit, *all will be well*.

Endorsements:

- The Vestry of St. Andrew’s, Oregon Hill, Richmond
- Central Richmond Regional Council

