



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

The 222nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia

January 26-28, 2017, Hyatt Reston Hotel, Reston, Virginia

Nomination Form

Nominee for:

- Standing Committee, Class of 2019 Diocesan Missionary Society
 General Convention Deputy Trustees of the Funds
 Provincial Synod Deputy Virginia Diocesan Homes
 Bloomfield

To be completed by nominator:

Name of nominee The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Agnew Phone 540-775-6245

Order: Clergy Lay

Address 12433 Richards Ride E-mail drcma2@yahoo.com

City/State/Zip King George, Virginia 22485

Church Name, Location Saint Paul's, Nomini Grove

Nominated by The Rev. Alan B. Hooker This nominee is endorsed by Region II

Signature of Regional Dean or President (If endorsed by the region) See attached

To be completed by nominee (use separate sheet, if needed)

Professional/Educational Background:

See attached

Church Involvement – Local, Diocesan, National:

See attached

Pertinent skills you bring to this work:

See attached

Why do you wish to serve?

See attached

Signature of nominee *Christopher M. Agnew* Date 12-20-16

Mail, fax or e-mail completed form **no later than Wednesday, January 11, 2017** to:
Secretary of the Diocese, 110 W. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23220
Fax: 804-644-6928 E-mail: bmartin@thediocese.net

To be completed by nominee (use separate sheet, if needed)

Professional/Educational background:

Episcopal Priest, historian, archivist and ecumenist. AB in History, Bucknell University; MA and Ph.D. in history, University of Delaware, STM General Theological Seminary. Prior to ordination I was a college history professor.

Church involvement – local, diocesan and national:

I have served in parishes in Region I and Region II of the diocese. I am currently Vicar of St. Paul's Nomini Grove in Region II. I have served the last six years as an Alternate Deputy to General Convention. I am the Ecumenical Officer of the Diocese of Virginia and Chair of the Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee. I also have served as Ecumenical Coordinator for Province III of the Episcopal Church. I have served as chair of the Faith and Order Commission of the Virginia Council of Churches and as a member of the Virginia Council of Churches Coordinating Cabinet and Steering Committee. I am the recipient of the 2013 Faith in Action Award of the Virginia Council of Churches. Nationally I have served as Vice President of the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers. I was editor of the Ecumenical Bulletin from 1989 to 1994. I am the former Associate Ecumenical Officer of the Episcopal Church on the staff of the Presiding Bishop. I have served in numerous ecumenical roles including staff for the Anglican Roman Catholic Consultation – USA, the Episcopal Russian Orthodox Joint Coordinating Committee, and the Lutheran Episcopal Joint Coordinating Committee. I served on the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches. I was a founder of the National Council of Churches Interfaith Relations Commission and served as chair of the National Council of Churches Christian-Jewish Relations Committee from 1991 to 1999. I have served on the boards of the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church and the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists. I am a past president of the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists. From 1989 to 1991 I served in the World Mission Unit at the Episcopal Church Center. From 1985 to 1989 I was the registrar, archivist, and historian of the Diocese of Delaware.

Pertinent skills you bring to this work:

Due to my former position on the Presiding Bishop's Staff and my ecumenical work I have attended six previous General Conventions and am familiar with the working dynamics of General Convention. My local, diocesan and national church experience gives me knowledge of the working of the Episcopal Church on all levels. I was the editor and compiler of the Forward Movement Publication, "Anglican Statements on Ecclesiology" that was part of the Riverdale Report in 1994.

Why do you wish to serve?

I am committed to the work of the unity of the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I am committed to the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church.

Much of the work of General Convention concerns the unity of the Church. Much of my ministry has been in ecumenical work and has centered on questions of ecclesiology. I am committed to seeking the full visible unity of the church in obedience to the gospel imperative given to us by our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our Lord on the night before his crucifixion prayed that his followers would be one even as the Godhead is one so that the world might believe. Church unity today is not an option; it is an imperative. The ministry entrusted to the Church by our Lord is compromised by our disunity. I am committed to the task of bringing about the full visible unity of all those who at all times and in all places have broken bread in Jesus' name and have proclaimed the Good News as found in Holy Scripture. Given my experience and knowledge I believe that I am called to offer these gifts at this time for the work of General Convention and the Diocese of Virginia.

I serve as Vicar of a rural congregation on Virginia's Northern Neck and have helped cover four other congregations in the same area, as well as another in Essex County. Many of our congregations are struggling financially. Each has a unique identity and gifts that, if lost, would be a loss for the whole body of Christ. We need each and every one of these congregations, and we need to make sure they have clerical leadership. I have a passion for small church ministry. Part of a sense of call to ordained ministry came while I was a member of the faculty at the State University of New York in Plattsburg, New York. I was a licensed Lay Reader, which at that time meant that I was licensed to preach and conduct worship outside my home parish. I was part of what was called the Champlain Valley Team Ministry. We covered small congregations not only on the shores of Lake Champlain but also for a portion of the Adirondack Mountains. I believe the church on both the national and diocesan levels needs to put in place strategies such as team ministries for better supporting our small congregations.