



The 228th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia

November 17-19, 2022, Crystal City Gateway Marriott Hotel, Arlington, Virginia

Elected Position Nomination Form

Position Sought:

STANDING COMMITTEE _____ GENERAL CONVENTION _____ PROVINCE III _____

Order: LAY _____ CLERGY _____

Name: _____

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 Tuesday, November 1, 2022** to:
Secretary of the Diocese, 110 W. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23220
Fax: 804-644-6928 E-mail: bmartin@thediocese.net

Jane Roth/St. James Episcopal Church, Leesburg, VA/Province III nomination

By way of background and insight to my faith journey, I am including an article I wrote in 2012, *Why I am an Episcopalian*, which was published in the [Virginia Episcopalian](#). My desire to serve as a Province III Representative continues this journey as I seek to contribute to the Church in a broader way.

Since I became a member of St. James in 2007, I've been a delegate to the Diocese Convention, a regular lay reader, and participated in two mission trips to New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. I served on the Vestry 2009-2012 and again 2018-2021. Vestry service was under two Rectors and an interim Rector, so I have experienced changing Church dynamics. I am currently Registrar, an officer of the Church. As Registrar I take minutes at all Vestry and parish meetings, and have been a key contributor in coordinating development of Church policies including Standard Operating Procedures, Alcohol Use Policy, and the Facility Use Policy. With recent increased attention to the gun violence, I am currently spearheading a focus on security across the St. James campus, which includes the St. James Pre-School. Most recently I participated as a member of the St. James Re-gathering Committee whose purpose was to prepare for post COVID services and associated logistics, and the Accessibility Task Force, whose goal was to upgrade multiple restrooms on the St. James campus. This work is near completion.

My professional career includes many years on Capitol Hill in the House of Representatives and United States Senate followed by a career in the private sector as Sr. Director of Global Real Estate for a higher education technology company with oversight of offices from India to Australia. This experience brought many opportunities for collaborating across cultures and business practices throughout the world. Working collaboratively has been a key to fostering relationships across St. James with parishioners and Ministry Leaders as we transitioned to welcome a new Rector. As Vice Chair of the University of Iowa Libraries Advancement Council, I have fostered relationships across the campus and with strategic partners to broaden the impact of the University Libraries.

I am a strategic thinker with strong organizational skills. I look at the broad view of an issue with a focus on thinking out of the box to solve challenges. I am comfortable as a public speaker and engaging with people one on one. I am a good listener. As shared in the attached article, I believe the Episcopal Church embraces trying something new and if the idea does not work, build on what does. God is the Guide.

I also know God is leading me and opening doors at his pace for an expansion of my faith journey and service in his name. I welcome the opportunity to place my name in nomination to be a Province III Representative.

Why Am I Episcopalian?

When I think about Why Am I Episcopalian, the first thought that comes to mind is the signpost on Cornwall Street in front of St. James, which reads "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You". That sign signifies what the Episcopal Church means to me. It is all about openness to all no matter where the individual may be in their faith journey. There are no questions asked. There is no litmus test of approvals. Being Episcopalian means none of that matters. The Episcopalian church is here front and center for you, whoever you are.

That openness means a great deal to me. I became an Episcopalian later in life after having distanced myself from other protestant faiths years before. My experience had been where others spoke of openness; it was really in name only. There was still a distance between if you didn't quite fit the mold of being accepted. As a divorced career professional without children, I found other denominations not quite sure of where I fit into their world. I wasn't a couple and I didn't have kids, so what would I do? That led me to sensitivity to others seeking openness, which have far varying backgrounds and life experiences than me. What were they feeling?

The Episcopalian faith has provided the sanctity of personal prayer while embracing me in a bedrock steadfastness of worship. The respect for the traditions of being an Episcopalian are unwavering; yet, being Episcopalian means it is also OK to try something new, reach out a little differently while understanding that if that new initiative didn't quite work out as planned, it's OK. We can build on what worked or recognize it didn't, that God had something else in mind for us.

My faith has become a power in my life, which guides me when I am not even consciously realizing it. Being Episcopalian has kept me grounded with my religion in a way I have never felt before. It lets me be me while giving me the courage to take a step because I know through my faith God has my back. I think about my faith and know that being an Episcopalian is at the core of who I am as a person. My faith has strengthened my resolve to connect with God in a deeper and more powerful way.

Why Am I Episcopalian? It is my guidepost for the future while centering me for today.

Jane Roth
Lay Delegate – St. James Episcopal Church, Leesburg

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April 29, 2012

