

GOVERNANCE NOMINEES | BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Margie Harrison-Smith

Lay Nominee | Board of Trustees

All Saints | Redding

Nominated by: The Very Rev. Richard B. Yale

My name is Margie Harrison-Smith and I am a cradle Episcopalian from Shasta. I earned a BA from UC Davis and MA from John F. Kennedy University in Museum Studies. I have been manager for non-profit arts organizations for over 25 years. I have worked closely with, or served on various non-profit boards focusing on the arts.

For the Diocese of Northern California, I have served as a member of the Communications Committee since 2010. I have also served on multiple convention planning committees and was one of the lay representatives who presented Bishop Megan at her Consecration. My husband and I belong to All Saints' Redding, where I have served as Rector's Warden, People's Warden, Clerk as well as serving as an Eucharistic Minister, acolyte and verger. I have also chaired the communications team, the operations team, the Endowment Committee and am currently the Team Lead for Worship on the Ministry Council.

Our diocese has recently suffered the wrath of disasters, and it will be challenging going forward. My personal experience with disaster relief and recovery would benefit the Board as they work with Bishop Megan to envision a new path forward for our Diocese. I enjoy working with a variety of backgrounds and perspectives to find consensus for the task at hand. My background in non-profits has prepared me for the legal and financial requirements of serving on a Board, and I believe I would be an asset to the Board of Trustees for the Diocese of Northern California.

GOVERNANCE NOMINEES | SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1:

Where have you seen our mission statement “Making Disciples, Raising up Saints, and Transforming Communities for Christ” in action, and how could your governance body support them for the Diocese as a whole?

One of most profound ways that our diocese supports its mission is through the Pathways program. While I had followed the updates at convention and in the diocesan E-News, I really didn't understand the programs profound impact on our youth until my goddaughter attended Pathways. A few months after her participation in Pathways, we met for lunch and talked about her experiences. The gift of the program is it not only made her feel more connected to others in our faith, but it also invited more questions. Hard, meaningful dialogue was held about her personal spiritual journey, and I suspect many Pathways attendees were made stronger Disciples for Christ because of that program.

Another way that I have witnessed the Diocese of Northern California living into its mission statement has been through the disaster response since 2017. It was not just the influx of money, supplies and well wishes into communities that were drastically physically transformed by disaster, but it was also the spiritual support. As I saw firsthand during the aftermath to the Carr Fire, the volunteer clergy from around the diocese who supported us by listening and praying with us. These selfless acts helped bring Christ more visibly into a place where it was easy to overlook his presence.

The Board of Trustees can support this important work by:

- continuing to create strategic goals for these programs;*
- incorporating funding for the needs of the program, and staff time for program development;*
- including resources in the budget to communicate with the members of diocese (zoom subscriptions, access to video software etc).*

QUESTION 2:

As we enter the post-pandemic world, how do you see the diocese and its governance structures moving forward?

A silver lining of the difficult pandemic is that the diocese was forced to engage with our members in new ways. While the pandemic closures were isolating in many ways, it forced the diocese to reach out to people where they were at home. For many people who are not actively involved with the diocese on a weekly basis, the pandemic offered the chance to see and hear the Bishop more often than her biennial visits. By broadcasting important services online, as well as the use of zoom for everything from small committee meetings to convention, the diocese was able to include people from all corners of the diocese. Technology also offered the diocese immediate feedback so they could adjust their strategy moving forward.

As we go forward into a post-pandemic world, I would like to see the diocese continue reach out to our members instead of waiting for them to come to us. While there are some things that are more easily conducted while gathered in the same room, I advocate that the diocese continues to use technology as the gathering place for a majority of meetings. I believe that we will have broader engagement as people from great driving distances will be more likely to participate, it will take less time for participants and be more environmentally responsible by driving less.

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