

# Nominations

**For positions to be elected at the 170th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee on October 14, 2017 in Delafield, Wisconsin**

## **Diocesan Treasurer**

**ONE clergy or lay person to be elected to a 1-year term**

### **Clyde Bachand (Church of the Holy Communion, Lake Geneva)**

Clyde Bachand is a member of Holy Communion, Lake Geneva where he has served as Junior Warden, Senior Warden, Vestry member, Treasurer (currently), choir director, and Cursillo Team member. At the diocesan level, he currently serves as Diocesan Treasurer, a position to which he was elected in 2015 and again in 2016.

Clyde holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from UW-Madison, as well as a Master's degree in Educational Administration. He did additional graduate study at UW-Whitewater in the areas of business and school business administration. From 1979 until 2011, he worked for Filtertek, Inc. of Hebron, Illinois; starting as a staff accountant he held positions of increasing responsibility leading to senior management roles, including V.P. of South American operations and General Manager for the company's commercial filtration business unit. (Filtertek, Inc. is now owned by ITW Illinois Tool Works.) Clyde is now retired. He has been married to Linda Bachand for 48 years and says, "We are blessed with two wonderful daughters and three grandchildren."

Since retiring in December Of 2011, Clyde has focused his volunteer activities on Holy Communion Episcopal Church; besides serving as parish Treasurer, he is a member of St. Joseph's Guild, and serves as a musician. Clyde is also active in the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra, where he is the principal bassist.

## **Executive Council**

**TWO clergy and TWO lay persons to be elected to three-year terms**

### **The Rev. Joel Prather (Christ Church, Delavan)**

Father Joel has served as the Rector of Christ Church since June of 2014. He's the husband of Tammy and father of Jude. He started to follow Jesus after reading the Gospel of John when he was 19 years old and being "utterly amazed at who Jesus was, what He did and the words He spoke" and that amazement continues to this day.

A native Chicagoan, after completing his undergrad at Illinois State University he spent nine years with State Farm Insurance until he heard God say "go" on the shores of the Amazon River in Brazil in 2003. So they "went" to the great state of Wisconsin to study at Nashotah House. After seminary, Father Joel served as the Curate of St. Philip's, Frisco TX; a 1,500 member congregation which began as a Church-plant seven years earlier. He and Tammy were then commissioned to plant Church of the Savior in Allen, TX. Upon Church of the Savior's reception as a Mission of the Diocese of Dallas and moving into their own facilities, Father Joel accepted the call to serve as Rector of Christ Church Delavan.

Father Joel is passionate about evangelism, Church growth, crossing barriers with the Gospel, helping the Scriptures become real for people, leadership development and strengthening relationships that help transform congregations and communities. He currently serves our Diocese on the Commission on Mission and Development, Multicultural Ministry Team and Clergy Day Planning Committee.

He is also passionate about Singing Rooster Coffee and was thrilled to connect them with Avant Bicycle & Cafe in Lake Geneva to become the first coffee house to feature Singing Rooster in Wisconsin.

### **The Rev. Debra Trakel (Non-parochial)**

The Rev. Debra Trakel is a priest, psychotherapist, and certified mediator. She is a proud daughter of Grace Church, Madison and has been a priest in this diocese for twenty-one years. Recently retired from parochial ministry, Mother Debra has been the Associate Chaplain at St. Francis House, priest-in-charge at Holy Cross, Wisconsin Dells, and Rector at St. James', Milwaukee and St. Christopher's, River Hills. She worships now at Trinity Church in Wauwatosa. She is a former member of the Standing Committee, Executive Council, and the Commission on Mission and Development. Currently, she is the President of the Disciplinary Board for the diocese.

## **Ron Johnson (St. Francis, Menomonee Falls)**

Ron Johnson currently serves as Senior Warden for St Francis, Menomonee Falls. Ron enjoys serving as a lector, crucifer, and jack-of-all-trades for Sunday services. As the Church's Junior Warden for three very productive years, he led a successful venture to completely remodel the narthex, altar area, removal of the pipe organ, and oversaw the replacement of the floor-to-ceiling stained glass window at the entrance of St Francis. Committed to teamwork, he led a group of four parishioners to accomplish this goal, working in close communication with the vestry. He coordinates the church's teams at the Falls Food Pantry and, with St Alban's in Sussex, helps provide an evening meal at the local community dinner. A contributing member of the parish finance committee, chair of the outreach committee, and a lay eucharistic visitor, Ron attends each Monday morning organizational meeting which facilitates communication between the many areas of church ministry. Ron completed the Community of Hope program at St Bartholomew's, visiting Virginia Highlands Nursing Home to use the pastoral skills he gained. He is a member of the COH leadership team. A graduate of CDI, Ron practices its principles daily. He has taken a leadership role in the LARCUM ecumenical group in Menomonee Falls, identifying opportunities for shared ministry. He also was appointed by the bishop as a member of the Canon 28 Advisory Committee.

Born and raised in Chicago, after high school Ron enlisted in the Navy and spent six years traveling the world. He got his first taste of being an electrician in the Navy and after completing his service, Ron went back to school and earned a degree in electronics. After completing an electrical apprenticeship, Ron worked at Miller Brewing Company for thirty-five years, first as a line electrician and then in management where he supervised over 100 employees. Now retired, Ron is president of the Miller/Coors Retirees Club. Ron and his wonderful wife, Shala, have been married for 22 years and together they share four children, eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He would bring vast experience and expertise to the Executive Council, and would be honored to serve as a member.

## **General Convention**

### **FOUR clergy and FOUR lay persons to be elected to serve at the 2018 General Convention**

#### **The Rev. Miranda Hassett (St. Dunstan's, Madison)**

Miranda is the Rector of St. Dunstan's Church in Madison, WI, where she has served for over six years. Rev. Miranda serves on the Commission on Mission and Development for the Diocese of Milwaukee, and values the opportunity that work provides to walk with and learn from parishes that are struggling, thriving, and everything in between. She has been a member of the Board of St. Francis House Episcopal Campus Ministry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for five years, and serves on the diocesan Commission on Liturgy. She has served on the Newala Companion Diocese Committee and traveled to Tanzania with Bishop Miller and other members of the Diocese in 2013 to explore ways we might deepen that partnership. From 2014 - 2016, Rev. Miranda participated in the Missional Leadership Cohort, a program of Luther Seminary for early-career Episcopal clergy with the potential to help their parishes undertake adaptive change to flourish in the landscape of 21st century faith.

Rev. Miranda served as a Deputy for the Diocese of Milwaukee at the 2015 General Convention of the Episcopal Church, and found it fascinating and inspiring to watch the Church at work. Miranda's desire to serve as an Alternate Deputy to General Convention stems from her abiding interest in our church and its global context, dating back to her doctoral work on conflicts within the Anglican Communion. As an Alternate to General Convention, she would commit to the study, preparation, and follow-through of being part of the deputation, becoming informed about the decisions and big questions facing The Episcopal Church and facilitating communication and sharing between deputation and diocese.

Miranda is a cradle Episcopalian who was active in diocesan and provincial youth and young adult ministry as a high school and college student in Indiana. She attended seminary at Duke University (Durham, NC) and the Episcopal Divinity School (Cambridge, MA). Her Masters of Divinity work focused on Contemporary Society: the role, challenges, and calls of the Church in the modern world. Miranda lives in Madison with her husband Phil and their children Griffin (12) and Iona (7).

#### **The Rev. Dave Mower (Trinity, Baraboo and St. John the Baptist, Portage)**

The Rev. Dave Mowers was called to be rector of Trinity Church, Baraboo and vicar of St. John the Baptist Church, Portage in March 2017. Fr. Dave was ordained deacon and priest in 2014 and 2015 respectively in the diocese of Minnesota. Prior to Trinity & St. John's, he served nearly two years as Curate at St. Martin's-by-the-Lake, Minnetonka Beach, Minnesota. His passions in parish ministry include pastoral care for people undergoing traumatic situations in their lives or families and rigorous Christian formation for all ages involving both biblical and theological concepts as well as practices for healthy relationships. He is also interested in church planting and community development.

Prior to turning to vocational ministry, Fr Dave worked for six years in the Registrar's Office at Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota. In his role as associate registrar for Bethel's College of Adult & Professional

Studies/Graduate School, Fr Dave was responsible for the implementation and enforcement of academic policy. He served on the Academic Appeals Committee and was frequently involved in adjudicating disputes between students and the college, between faculty and students, and between faculty and administration. No one grows up thinking that they will love being a registrar, but Fr Dave loved the ways that building bridges between people often resulted in tangible progress to solve problems. Fr Dave was also an adjunct theology faculty at North Central University in Minneapolis, his alma mater, and enjoyed mentoring students and interacting with other faculty as a part of that work.

Fr. Dave has been married for nearly four years to Elizabeth Rusinak Mowers, an attorney. They have two children: Miriam, two years old, and Theodore, born in May 2017. He holds a bachelor of arts in pastoral studies from North Central University (Minneapolis, Minn.) and a master of arts in theological studies from Bethel Seminary (St. Paul, Minn.). He completed multiple other graduate courses at Nashotah House through their distance study program as a part of his ordination process. Fr. Dave is a regular volunteer for athletics programs at Baraboo High School and, prior to having children, completed four marathons and numerous shorter races. He has also coached cross country and baseball at the collegiate level.

### **The Rev. Dorota Pruski (St. Andrew's, Madison)**

The Rev. Dorota Pruski has served St. Andrew's, Madison for over four years. She has been serving as the diocesan Liturgical Coordinator for almost as long and serves on the Title IV Disciplinary Board as well.

Dorota has served the Diocese of Milwaukee as a Camp Webb chaplain, a member of the Nominating Committee, and as a co-coordinator of the 2014 diocesan-wide acolyte festival.

Dorota has attended the last two General Conventions, most recently as an alternate for the 2015 General Convention in Salt Lake City where she spent some time on the legislative floor. At that same General Convention, she was a contributor to the Episcopal Herald, an online magazine focused on analyzing, imagining and articulating the future of the Church. At the 2012 General Convention in Indianapolis, Dorota served as assistant to Bishop Miller and the Milwaukee deputation.

A 2006 graduate of Marquette University with a BA in political science, Dorota graduated in 2013 from Virginia Theological Seminary. An avid marathoner, she has coached Girls on the Run in Madison for seven seasons.

### **The Rev. David Simmons (St. Matthias, Waukesha)**

The Rev. David Simmons has served as Rector of St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Waukesha since 2008. He has a passion for fostering collaboration and seeking innovative ways to share the Gospel. He serves as the President of the Standing Committee, and as the Diocesan Ecumenical Officer. He has served as an alternate General Convention deputy in 2012 and 2015. A leader in ecumenical and interfaith issues, he serves as National President of Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Officers (EDEIO.org) and represents the diocese on the board of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee and on the Milwaukee Lutheran-Anglican Catholic United Methodist (LARCUM) coordination group. He teaches Medieval Church History at the Diocesan School for Deacons.

David is on the steering committee of the Acts8 Movement (acts8movement.org), a missionary society that works through social media. He coordinates the Acts8 Blogforce and is a regular contributor to their efforts to provide free evangelism videos to the greater church. He is the convener of the Association of Waukesha Churches. St Matthias has become a center of leadership around issues of homelessness and low-income housing in Waukesha County and has entered an active partnership with Hebron House of Hospitality, which is headquartered at the church.

David is married to his wife Micky, and has two children, Brendan and Brigid. His hobbies include Kendo, music composition, and board games.

### **The Rev. Mike Tess (Non-parochial)**

Fr. Mike Tess has been a parish priest for seventeen years in the Diocese of Milwaukee and now serves as the Vicar of St. Barnabas, Richland Center. He has served in a variety of capacities over the years within the diocese. He has been on Executive Council and was the first clergy Alternate to the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention in Salt Lake City. He has worked on the local, diocesan, and national level with the Episcopal Latino and Hispanic Ministries. He has served small churches his entire ministry including St. Aidan's in Hartford and Good Shepherd in Sun Prairie. He has a clear passion for ministry to the Latino community and those who have been away from the church for decades. He is a graduate of the Church Development Institute and the Clergy Leadership Project. He was President of the Sun Prairie Area ministers for eight years.

Fr. Mike has been married for nineteen years to his wife, Heidi. They have four children: Isaac, seventeen, a high school senior; Adam, sixteen, a junior; Ann, fifteen, a sophomore; and Emily, fourteen, a freshman. Father Mike is currently quarter time at St. Barnabas and full time as a ninth grade Special Education teacher at Cardinal Heights Upper Middle School. He is also the Middle school wrestling coach.

Fr. Mike was an alternate to the 78th General convention where he found a passion for the work of the larger national church and hopes to attend the 79th General convention in Austin Texas and represent the Diocese of Milwaukee again.

### **Janet Finn (Holy Trinity, Prairie du Chien)**

Janet Finn is an active member of Holy Trinity, Prairie du Chien where she has belonged for 48 years. She has served the parish in many capacities, including organist, altar guild president, church school teacher, lay Eucharistic minister, vestry clerk, Sr. Warden (12 years), delegate to Committee to Elect a Bishop (2003), lay deputy to diocesan convention (since 1988), search committee chair, CDI participant, member of diocesan Strategic Planning Committee, member of Canon 28 Task Force (currently). Additionally, Janet is actively involved with: Wisconsin State Historical Society, serving as a guide and curatorial cleaner; Prairie du Chien Historical Society, local hospital auxiliary; local school board (member for 12 years); American Cancer Society Relay for Life (5 years as chair); and the local performing arts board. Janet has also hosted foreign exchange students and has been active in Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. A retired middle school science teacher (20 years), Janet has been married to Theodore Finn, retired 3M chemical engineer, for 52 years; she has three married daughters and eight grandchildren. She and her husband have resided in Prairie du Chien for 48 years. Janet attended General Convention in 2012 and 2015 and seeks the nomination for alternate Lay Deputy to the 2018 General Convention, feeling called by the Holy Spirit to once more represent the Diocese of Milwaukee at General Convention.

### **Sharon Henes (St. Dunstan's, Madison)**

Sharon Henes is an active member of St. Dunstan's, Madison. At the diocesan level she serves on the Title IV Disciplinary Board and at the parish level she currently serves as the Formation Committee Chair and delegate to Diocesan Convention. Her ministries include Youth Group Co-Leader, Acolyte Coordinator, Vacation Bible School Coordinator, Lay Eucharistic Minister, and member of the Liturgy and Music Committee. In addition, Sharon is a member of Forma. She continually keeps herself apprised of issues impacting the church at all levels.

Sharon is an administrative rules coordinator for the Department of Safety and Professional Services. As an administrative rules coordinator, Sharon writes the administrative code for 10 different health and business examining boards and shepherds the administrative rules through the promulgation process. She is also involved in tracking legislation.

Sharon has been married to Mike Henes for 28 years and has two children: Kendrick, a chemistry teacher in Connecticut, and Amanda, member of the Episcopal Service Corps at Lawrence House in Massachusetts. Sharon is a graduate of Education for Ministry.

### **Ron Johnson (St. Francis, Menomonee Falls)**

Ron Johnson currently serves as Senior Warden for St Francis, Menomonee Falls. Ron enjoys serving as a lector, crucifer, and jack-of-all-trades for Sunday services. As the Church's Junior Warden for three very productive years, he led a successful venture to completely remodel the narthex, altar area, removal of the pipe organ, and oversaw the replacement of the floor-to-ceiling stained glass window at the entrance of St Francis. Committed to teamwork, he led a group of four parishioners to accomplish this goal, working in close communication with the vestry. He coordinates the church's teams at the Falls Food Pantry and, with St Alban's in Sussex, helps provide an evening meal at the local community dinner. A contributing member of the parish finance committee, chair of the outreach committee, and a lay eucharistic visitor, Ron attends each Monday morning organizational meeting which facilitates communication between the many areas of church ministry. Ron completed the Community of Hope program at St Bartholomew's, visiting Virginia Highlands Nursing Home to use the pastoral skills he gained. He is a member of the COH leadership team. A graduate of CDI, Ron practices its principles daily. He has taken a leadership role in the LARCUM ecumenical group in Menomonee Falls, identifying opportunities for shared ministry. He also was appointed by the bishop as a member of the Canon 28 Advisory Committee.

Born and raised in Chicago, after high school Ron enlisted in the Navy and spent six years traveling the world. He got his first taste of being an electrician in the Navy and after completing his service, Ron went back to school and earned a degree in electronics. After completing an electrical apprenticeship, Ron worked at Miller Brewing Company for thirty-five years, first as a line electrician and then in management where he supervised over 100 employees. Now retired, Ron is president of the Miller/Coors Retirees Club. Ron and his wonderful wife, Shala, have been married for 22 years and together they share four children, eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He would bring vast experience and expertise to the Executive Council, and would be honored to serve as a member.

### **Rick Lutes (Trinity, Janesville)**

Rick Lutes is an active member of Trinity, Janesville. He is the husband of The Rev. Kathy Monson Lutes, priest-in-charge at Trinity, Janesville. Since his arrival at Trinity Church in September of 2015, Rick has taken an active role as lay Eucharistic minister, usher, and as a delegate to diocesan convention.

Before arriving in Janesville, Rick was active at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Rapid City, SD in the Diocese of South Dakota. He represented the Diocese of South Dakota as a deputy to the 2015 General Convention in Salt Lake City, UT. Rick also attended General Convention in 2012, 2006, and 2003 as a visitor / volunteer and in 1988 as a vendor, representing Episcopal Ad Project. Rick served as a vestry

member and as a Sunday school teacher in Episcopal parishes in Minnesota and Texas and as a youth chaperone at two Episcopal Youth Events (EYE) - Berea, KY and San Antonio, TX. He also served with the multi-denominational campus ministry at the South Dakota School of Mines, serving two terms as chair of the campus ministry board.

Rick has been married to The Rev. Kathy Monson Lutes for 32 years; they have two grown sons. Rick has worked in high school and college athletics, officiating high school and college for 35 years, working football, basketball, adaptive sports, Special Olympics, and track and field.

Rick would be honored to represent the diocese as an alternate deputy to the 2018 General Convention.

### **Tammy Prather (Christ Church, Delavan)**

Tammy Prather currently splits her time ministering as the Director of Formation at St. Mary's Dousman and the Executive Minister at Christ Church Delavan. Tammy's passion is to "mobilize people and processes for the purposes of the Kingdom of God."

She completed her Master's in Theological Studies at Nashotah House this year and has trained as a Spiritual Director through Heartpaths DFW / Spiritual Directors International. She has served professionally in lay ministry for nearly two decades and prior to returning to Wisconsin, planted Church of the Savior in Allen, TX as the Executive Minister alongside her husband. She has done ministry consulting in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas and was the Director of Children & Family Ministries for Church of the Resurrection, IL overseeing 100 volunteers.

Tammy attended Illinois State University and began her professional life in Social Work providing therapeutic counseling for children and teens. She also used her entrepreneurial skills to launch a multi-venue, university catering business in Bloomington-Normal. Her passion for missions and education has taken her around the globe including South Korea, teaching English to Muslim students in Tunisia, the

Brazilian Amazon, Peru and Hurricane Relief in New Orleans. Tammy also began studying Icon Writing with Judy Kaestner in 2008.

Tammy says "Every place I have ministered has been such an interesting opportunity to see God at work. I love that God has gifted us all in many different ways to work together with others to help grow, encourage, and start new ministries. I can't wait to see what God will continue to do here to build His kingdom."

## **Standing Committee**

### **ONE clergy and ONE lay persons to be elected to four-year terms**

#### **The Rev. Scott Leannah (St. Mary's, Dousman)**

The Very Rev. Scott Leannah is Rector of St. Mary's Parish, Dousman, where he was served for the past 13 years. He is also serving as Director of Field Education at Nashotah House Seminary. He is the Dean of the Waukesha County Convocation. Scott is blessed to be married to Gina. He is a step-Dad to Ben, Zach and James, and he the Dad of Mia, who is in sixth grade. Scott has served the diocese in a variety of capacities including as President of the Standing Committee, a past Deputy to General Convention, the diocesan Finance Committee, and as Spiritual Director for Camp Webb. He is currently co-chairing a diocesan Task Force that is working on a revision of Canon 28, a canon that seeks to address congregational life in our diocese.

#### **Mary Cady-Thickens (Christopher's, River Hills)**

Mary has been an active member of St. Christopher's for 42 years. She has been on the Vestry for 2 terms, including an extended term of 7 years. In addition, she has been Senior Warden twice, including a year when there was no Rector or Interim. She has twice been chair of the Search Committee and twice been chair of a Discernment Committee. She has been a delegate to the diocesan convention for 12 to 13 years. Mary has been the volunteer coordinator every 6 weeks at The Gathering for 35 years and is a current member of The Gathering Board of Directors.

Mary retired after 42 years as a nurse, including 16 years as Director of the Emergency Department at Community Memorial Hospital.

Mary has been married for 44 years to Richard E. Thickens. They have 2 grown children who live locally with their families and who are also members of St. Christopher's, and 4 adored grandchildren.

#### **Carlynn Higbie (Trinity, Wauwatosa)**

Carlynn has been a member of Trinity, Wauwatosa, for 35 years. Her parish involvement includes serving multiple terms as Sr. and Jr. Warden, vestry member, Stewardship Chair, Stewardship committee, Capitol campaign committee, Co-chair of million dollar building project, multiple children's ministries and youth leader roles, and a variety of lay ministries. Her particular areas of interest in her church life include liturgy & worship, congregational development, Christian leadership development, as well as stewardship.

Carlynn's diocesan involvement includes Camp Webb Board of Directors, Executive Director of Camp Webb, Racial Justice Task Force, Stewardship Committee, Commission on Mission and Development, Consecration

Sunday Leader, Transition Committee Co-Chair on the Diocese of Milwaukee Bishop Search Committee, Diocesan Convention Deputy, and a member of the diocesan Misconduct Response Team. She has served as a consultant to several parishes outside of our diocese as they have initiated their recovery process from clergy misconduct. Carlynn has also attended several National Church-sponsored conferences related to stewardship and evangelism. She was a member of Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers, Inc. Carlynn has served as a Lay Deputy to five General Conventions of the Episcopal Church, and will again represent the Diocese of Milwaukee in this role at the 2018 General Convention. She and her wife, The Rev. Debra Trakel, enjoy spending time with their family and grandchildren. In her professional life, Carlynn is a pediatric occupational therapist, with expertise in school-based practice. She also provides consultation and continuing education for school therapists and school districts regarding Individualized Education Plans and Medicaid documentation practices.

### **Tammy Prather (Christ Church, Delavan)**

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Tammy says "Every place I have ministered has been such an interesting opportunity to see God at work. I love that God has gifted us all in many different ways to work together with others to help grow, encourage, and start new ministries. I can't wait to see what God will continue to do here to build His kingdom."

## **Title IV Disciplinary Board**

### **TWO clergy and ONE lay person to be elected to three-year terms**

#### **The Rev. Jason LaVann (St. Luke's, Bayview)**

I am currently the priest-in-charge of St. Luke's in Bay View. I have been a priest since 2006, and never tire of enjoying the ways in which priesthood allows me into the lives of others. Whether it is preaching and presiding on Sunday mornings, pastoral counseling or sacramental preparation, or just simply having a conversation over coffee, I love to connect with people and learn about how God is alive and active in their lives. I believe thoroughly that God meets us right where we are at, and that faith is much more a journey nourished by questions and searching than a destination of ready-made answers. I am blessed to serve a community and congregation of welcoming and authentic people on such a journey.

I also passionately believe that the church is so much larger than any one parish. It is a blessing to be able to serve the church at a diocesan level. I currently serve on the Trustees of Funds and Endowments. In the past, I have done work on the Professional Standards Committee as well as a Multi-cultural team. Service at the diocesan level provides me with wonderful opportunities to build all sorts of life-giving bridges!

When we have free time, my wife Kristy and I enjoy running, hiking, music, reading, movies, friends, and walking our dogs through the Bay View.

#### **The Rev. Dave Mower (Trinity, Baraboo and St. John the Baptist, Portage)**

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Fr. Dave has been married for nearly four years to Elizabeth Rusinak Mowers, an attorney. They have two children: Miriam, two years old, and Theodore, born in May 2017. He holds a bachelor of arts in pastoral studies from North Central University (Minneapolis, Minn.) and a master of arts in theological studies from Bethel Seminary (St. Paul, Minn.). He completed multiple other graduate courses at Nashotah House through their distance study program as a part of his ordination process. Fr. Dave is a regular volunteer for athletics programs at Baraboo High School and, prior to having children, completed four marathons and numerous shorter races. He has also coached cross country and baseball at the collegiate level.

### **The Rev. Elizabeth “Liz” Tester (St. Paul’s, Watertown)**

Having graduated with a degree in Philosophy and Religion from Appalachian State University Elizabeth pursued her Master’s of Divinity at Virginia Theological Seminary. She currently serves as rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Watertown. Elizabeth served on the Executive Council in her former Diocese of Western North Carolina and currently serves on the EC council for the Diocese of Milwaukee. She is married to the Rev. Oscar Rozo and they just welcomed their first child Ezekiel (Zeke) into the world in March. She also has a pit-bull named Amos (Aimes) and a Persian cat named Bathsheba (Sheebs).

### **Bevra Cole (Trinity, Baraboo)**

Bevra Cole is a much-loved member of Trinity Church, Baraboo. She came to the Episcopal Church as a young adult and has made Trinity her church home a couple of different times, first for about 16 years when she and her husband moved to Baraboo in 1968. During that period, Bevra served as parish treasurer and Deanery representative. She was also involved in the diocesan Cursillo movement. Bevra and her husband returned to Trinity in 2013. Bevra currently serves on Trinity’s vestry and volunteers in the church office, playing an important role as the publisher of Trinity’s weekly bulletin. She also serves as a lay reader and officiant for Morning Prayer and has helped facilitate Trinity’s Wednesday evening adult programming during the school year, assisting her husband in providing a film course focused on the problem of evil.

Outside of the church, Bevra lives on a farm near Baraboo and has been active in breeding, training, and showing Arabian Horses. She has been widely involved in the administration of the international Arabian Horse Association, serving on its Board of Directors, as Resolution Reader at the Annual Convention, and on various boards. Most significantly, she has served for 23 years on the Association’s Ethical Practice Review Board which adjudicates complaints against Arabian horse owners, breeders and trainers across the United States and Canada who are alleged to have committed financial improprieties, abuse or neglect of animals, misrepresentation, and other violations of the Association’s Code of Ethics and Sportsmanship. These experiences have given her skills and abilities at hearing complaints, weighing evidence, recognizing and accounting for personal bias, and protecting the welfare of vulnerable animals and people. She also serves as Secretary for the Greater Sauk County Community Foundation, a philanthropic organization dedicated to working for the common good for the Baraboo area and surrounding counties by raising funds and providing grant monies to other community organizations. She also spent several years on the Board of the Baraboo Community Scholarship Corporation, which awards about 100 scholarships yearly to Baraboo High School graduates.

Bevra has been married for 52 years to David Cole, a retired professor of English and has two adult children. She holds a degree in English from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and is a retired English Instructor in the University of Wisconsin Colleges system, where her assignments focused mainly on teaching English Composition online. Bevra also was a licensed United States Equestrian Federation Arabian Steward and officiated at accredited Arabian horse shows across the country. Perhaps, however, the most unique and rewarding facet of her adult education experiences was attending and completing the two year “Institute for Christian Studies in the Diocese of Milwaukee” at Nashotah House 1981-1983. Today she still helps tend to a large stable on her farm and remains active in community and church interests.

### **Jen Vettrus (Trinity, Wauwatosa)**

Jen Vettrus served as the Lay Assistant for Ministry Development at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wauwatosa, WI for four years before completing a Master’s Degree in Negotiation and Dispute Resolution through Creighton University (2010). Through that program she gained experience in Restorative Justice, particularly in leading talking circles with participants of all ages and diverse backgrounds. She is also one class away from a certificate in Biblical Studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Before coming on staff with Trinity she served as an urban project director for a college ministry in Milwaukee for eleven years, training students in social justice and racial reconciliation. She has led two student pilgrimages to Northern Ireland. She is now the Senior Endowment Associate at the Jewish Community Foundation, part of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, where she manages operations for donor advised and endowment funds, a college scholarship program and a legacy gift program, involving creating biographical sketches of donors. She is currently serving her first term on the Vestry of Trinity Church.

## **Trustees of Funds and Endowments, Inc.**

**TWO clergy or lay persons to be elected to three-year terms**

### **The Rev. Mindy Valentine Davis (St. James, West Bend)**

#### **The Rev. Jeff Ward (St. Christopher's, River Hills)**

Comes to St. Christopher's most recently from Eagle River, WI, where he served as 'church planter' of a new mission church - St. Francis. There, he led the congregation to full union status with the convention of The Diocese of Fond du Lac, seeded a needs-based ministry - Caritas of Eagle River, and established significant Ecumenical partner relations.

Prior to Eagle River, Fr. Ward was priest associate at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Hartford, CT. There he assisted the Dean in most matters of the Cathedral, and was intrinsically involved with their Urban feeding ministries.

For the past decade his role is known as a 'tent-maker', (named so after St. Paul, who earned a living as a tent maker). In that capacity he held a secular position and has been a non-stipendiary resource to the church. His executive experience includes management of the Pension Resource Centersm, a MetLife company responsible for more than 17,000 qualified retirement plans. As subject matter expert on ERISA regulatory matters; he collaborated with the firm's gov't affairs group and was an active participant on committees and discussion panels for a number of industry trade organizations; holding professional designations Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant, Accredited Investment Fiduciary, and Certified Financial Planner. Now fully retired from secular work, he has accepted the call for Rector of St. Christopher's.

A graduate of Nicolet High School, Fr. Ward also holds a Bachelor's Degree from Viterbo University, Master of Fine Arts Degree from Trinity University, and Master of Theological Studies from Seabury Western. Other interests include fishing, canoeing, scouting, cross country skiing, and of course our home town teams - The Brewers, Packers, and Bucks. He and wife Valerie have six children, two grandchildren, and two yorkies who think they are children - Banjo and Susanna.