
SLATE OF 2021 CANDIDATES

Senior Warden

Sara Siegmann

Junior Warden

Julia Stanley

Vestry (Three and a backup will be chosen)

Erin Gasser

Elizabeth Lentz

David Polet

Leanne Puglielli

Casey Reiser

Diocesan Convention Deputation (Four will be chosen)

Stephanie Elkins

JoAnne Lehman

Bob Manion

Becky Otte-Ford

Sara Siegmann

Larry Bechler

Endowment Committee (One will be chosen)

Donna McDowell

Heidi Ropa

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

Senior Warden - The Senior Warden works closely with the clergy to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for the parish. The Senior Warden attends the monthly Executive Committee meeting (currently a sixty-minute meeting held via Zoom) to help develop the agenda for the monthly Vestry meeting and assists the clergy in gathering information and documentation for the Vestry. The Senior Warden also serves as an important resource, offering perspective and thoughtful advice to the clergy and serves on various committees as a liaison and resource. In addition to the monthly Executive Committee meeting the Senior Warden attends the monthly Vestry meeting (currently a ninety-minute meeting held via Zoom), a 1 ½ day Vestry Retreat (timing and format during the pandemic to be decided), and, when we are able to gather, closes the church on Sundays one month of the year. The Senior Warden serves a 1-year term and is eligible to serve three consecutive terms if elected.

Junior Warden – The Junior Warden works closely with the clergy to identify issues, concerns and opportunities for the parish. The Junior Warden attends the monthly Executive Committee meeting to help develop the agenda for the monthly Vestry meeting and assists the clergy in gathering information and documentation for the Vestry. The Junior Warden is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the building and campus, identifying and evaluating maintenance and repair needs and the resources needed to address them. The Junior Warden does not need to be the person who does the work. They can be the person who calls the parishioner or the outside contractor with the skills to address and rectify the concerns. In addition to the monthly Executive Committee meeting the Senior Warden attends the monthly Vestry meeting (currently a ninety-minute meeting held via Zoom), a 1 ½ day Vestry Retreat (timing and format during the pandemic to be decided), and, when we are able to gather, closes the church on Sundays one month of the year. The Junior Warden serves a 1 year term and is eligible to serve three consecutive terms if elected.

The Vestry – St. Andrew's Vestry serves as the governing body of the parish. Our primary function is to develop strategies for fulfilling our mission – to grow together as the body of Christ. We also establish and monitor the budget, have robust and healthy discussions, laugh a lot, support each other and celebrate our accomplishments. The commitment to the Vestry includes a monthly meeting (currently a ninety minute meeting held via Zoom), an annual 1 ½ day retreat and, when we are able to gather closes the church on Sundays one month of the year. Members of the Vestry serve three-year terms.

Endowment Committee – Members of the Endowment Committee are responsible for establishing an application process and making recommendations to the Vestry for the distribution of funds from our permanent endowments. The first grant was awarded last year to strengthen our community of families with children. The Committee is also responsible for assessing the impact of endowment grants and designing a program of planned giving. Meetings are held as needed. Members of the Endowment Committee serve a three year term.

Diocesan Convention Deputies – The Convention Delegate attends the annual convention of the Diocesan of Milwaukee, scheduled to be online in 2020. As such, s/he reviews and votes on Diocesan resolutions and the budget. The representative seeks input from other parish members and reports on Convention outcomes during a Sunday forum. The time commitment is 3-5 days per year. The Convention Deputies serve a 1 year term.

Candidate for Senior Warden

Name: Sara Siegmann

For which position are you running? Senior Warden; Diocesan Convention

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?

I moved back to Madison in 2009 after five years away. After attending a few services in various churches around Madison, I found St. Andrew's and immediately felt at home. I was confirmed here in May of 2010.

Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I grew up in the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, but when I moved away from Wisconsin for school I found Lutheran churches harder to come by. I began attending services at an Episcopal church during college and fell deeply in love with the Anglican liturgy while living abroad. By the time I moved back in 2009, the church where I grew up wasn't home. Attending confirmation classes at St. Andrew's convinced me the Episcopal Church, and the openness and willingness to ask as many questions as we answer, was the right place for me.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?

I have served on the Vestry as a voting member, clerk, and now as Senior Warden through a variety of transitions in our financial situation and immediate priorities. I like to hear a variety of perspectives before I make up my mind on issues, and I'm willing to change my opinion based on new information. I'm willing to have hard conversations, and I hope I bring an open, compassionate, and practical mind to finding solutions.

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?

At St. Andrew's, we're in the position of having extraordinary resources and facing key challenges at the same time. In the next year, we need to find new ways to meet our congregation's spiritual and emotional needs as we all continue to adjust to life during COVID, as well as ways to reach out to the wider Madison community.

We also need to support the Madison community as it grapples with longstanding harm caused by racial and economic injustice by lifting up people and organizations already doing that work and helping to meet the needs they've defined.



Candidate for Junior Warden

Name: Julia Stanley

For which position are you running? Junior Warden

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?

Our family became members of St. Andrew's in 2004 when we joined the church upon the baptism of our third child, Eve. I had participated in the Women's Bible study prior to officially joining St. Andrew's.

Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

In the past 16 years, I have served in many capacities and enjoyed each commitment as a time of learning and community with fellow parishioners. I have served as a church school teacher, Pageant Director, member of the search committee that brought Fr. Andy to Madison, a member of the Healing Prayer team and the Casserole Brigade. I have also served on the Vestry.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?

I have a great love and respect for the people of this parish and for the actual space in which we gather. Our family owns an old home with a big garden – so the care of such spaces is a commitment of my interest and energy (and time!). I have professional experience convening and organizing people and projects.



What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?

Many of us have struggled with finding the same spark that ignites our Sunday worship through a computer screen. The smiling faces, Ken's music, and our Liturgy have held us together for the last six months. Creativity and perseverance will enable us to maintain our contact with one another and to continue to discover innovative, and perhaps surprising ways to share our faith. These are the challenges we will face together in the coming year.

Candidates for Vestry

Name: Erin Gasser

For which position are you running? Vestry

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?

We've been members of St. Andrews for around 5 years. We moved to Madison and after not having had a consistent church home for a few years, we came to a service our first weekend in Madison and haven't looked back. We appreciated the smiling facings and amazing sermons, and we felt at home.



Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

We went to an Episcopal Church back when we first got married and lived in SLC. We loved how welcoming they were of all people. We involved ourselves in bible studies and truly embraced their community, as they embraced us.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?

Having moved a lot over the years, we've experienced a variety of viewpoints and I strive to hear all sides of a story from all different points of view to understand where all parties are coming from before making my own informed decision.

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?

We are in strange times, and I think staying/getting people connected during our time apart is imperative. It is difficult with not having in person sermons, but we need to figure out how to reach others out in the community. We need to continue supporting our clergy and staff as they have had to work harder to keep all of us connected. Music is an important piece of my church upbringing, and I've wondered if there was some way to incorporate worship music into our weeks.

Name: Elizabeth "Liz" Jane Lentz

For which position are you running? Vestry

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?

I became a member in 2009. I visited all local Episcopalian churches, and found a church family in St. Andrew's. Father Andy married Adam and me at St. Andrew's on 10/10/2010, even though it was a Sunday.



Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I was baptized, had my first communion, and was confirmed at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Here in Madison, I went to St. Francis House and now St. Andrew's. I've participated in various roles (mainly acolyting at St. Paul's, and mainly counting and Coolios at St. Andrew's).

What strengths, talents, and experiences will you bring to the vestry?

I'll contribute my listening skills, and my attention to detail. I have experience in looking for things undone, and completing them; I've hosted more Coffee Hours this way than by planning. When I attend the early service, have time afterward, and no one signed up to host it, I'll spend the late service preparing Coffee Hour. I bring my humility, with a history of apologizing and striving to make right when I am in the wrong.

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?

Inside our walls: Providing services in a safe manner for those who have trouble connecting digitally. I'm guessing that we have about a year and a half more of mainly connecting digitally.

Inside our church: Growing our reach; recruiting more parishioners. Welcoming people into relationships with God, the Episcopal Church, and our church community.

Outside our church: Continuing our missions to provide food (Cherokee Heights food pantry), necessities (the Haiti Project), and shelter (Appalachian Service Project). Perhaps pursuing more opportunities for serving others.

Name: David Polet

For which position are you running? Vestry

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?

Our family became members roughly 4 years ago. My wife grew up in the Episcopal church and was eager to return to it (we were members of an ELCA in Verona at the time). Being familiar with St. Andrews because of friends who had been members, we came to a couple of services and felt the time and the place was right for us to return to her roots.



Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I only became a member of the Episcopal Church when we became members of St. Andrews. I have had a long history of being active and deeply interested in the church, worship, and theology in general. I grew up in the Christian Reformed Church and, upon moving to Madison, became a member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and then transferred to an ELCA in Verona.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?

I served on the church council at St James ELCA in Verona for 6 years, 5 years of which I served as the president of the council. I am also serving on two boards of non-profit organizations in Madison, one of which I serve as the treasurer. My professional career has been centered in project management and the project management discipline, so I do bring a lot of organization and structure experience to this role. But I also have a deep interest in theology and liturgy and believe that helps to round me out as a person.

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?

Clearly the most pressing issue for us is how to maintain a strong community while not being able to worship together in person. And as we move through the pandemic, how do we take the best aspects of what we are doing now as a community and integrate them into our traditional community activities. Finally, because St. Andrews is an open and welcoming community to various people and viewpoints, we must continue to focus on how to create that openness in our worship and community service while still remaining true to who we are in the essence of our faith.

Name: Leanne Puglielli

For which position are you running? Vestry

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?

We became members of St. Andrew's when we moved to Madison from Worthington, Ohio in February 2007. Prior To our move to Madison, we were members of St. John's, Worthington, Ohio, All Saints, New Albany, Ohio and St. John's, King George County, Virginia.



Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I have served as Outreach Chair, Endowment Committee, Justice Reflection Team Leader, Lay reader, Adult Ed Leader, Sunday School Teacher/ Youth leader, Christian Ed Director, Parish Life

Facilitator, Vestry, and Organist for my local parishes. I have served as Delegate, Chair of Episcopal Community Services Foundation, Total Ministry Facilitator, Chair of Commission on Ministry, Trustees of Funds and Endowments, Board member of St Francis House Student Center, and Standing Committee at the Diocesan Level. I was a trainer for Convivencia for the National Church.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?

Strengths - I see patterns and relationships and look for root causes in all situations. I am future oriented. I am mission driven. I focus on creative solutions to opportunities rather than problems.

Talents - Strategic thinking and Planning, including scenario planning

Experiences – in addition to a large variety of experience at all levels of the Episcopal Church, I bring my teaching of the justice tradition of scripture from the JustFaith curriculum, Living Our Baptism Series on Racial Justice, “Conversations on Being White” series, and the weekly justice reflections on the Gospel. In addition, I bring what is now six years of experience being deeply engaged in a Black church, Christ the Solid Rock.

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew’s?

To figure out how to creatively embrace the constraints imposed on us by the pandemic

How do we see the opportunities for gathering our community beyond Sunday Morning Worship using technology

How do we see the opportunities for Christian formation at all ages using technology

How do we see the opportunities to “Be the Church,” to be “The Beloved Community” using technology

How do we use our voice and our resources to work to end the racial disparities in education, health care, food security, housing security, incarceration, and employment in Madison?

Name: Catherine Reiser

For which position are you running? Vestry

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew’s?

I became a member of St. Andrews a year or so after the birth of our first daughter (b. 1980) as I felt a need for a supportive faith community to help raise our children. I had been raised Catholic but that was not an option for me moving forward. I visited St. Andrews and it resonated with me-I’m still here almost 33 years later.



Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I attended mass at St. Andrews and participated in an Episcopal 101 (the class name escapes me) primarily to learn more about the church. I wanted to be sure that the principles that drove me away from the Catholic church were not also in the Episcopal teachings. When I felt comfortable with what I knew I was formally received into the church.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?

Capitalizing on my strengths has resulted in several relevant experiences. I am a director of the Master of Genetic Counselor Studies program at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. This has required organizational and management skills to keep track rules and requirements in multiple systems (hospital systems, national accrediting bodies, school requirements etc.). In addition, as a student mentor and clinical genetic counselor I have honed my listening skills which has enhanced my ability to bring together individuals and lead them to achieve a common goal.

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew’s?

Since I have not had conversations with relevant stake holders these are my thoughts and not necessarily a reflection of what the congregation or the vestry leadership know. Recent experiences working with the campus community and paying attention to local and national affairs suggest that two issues are a likely priority 1-the isolation individuals are feeling due to COVID-19 and 2) the social justice issues our society faces. One of the reasons I was attracted to St. Andrews was that social justice issues mattered beyond the pulpit. Its one of the reasons I stay. Also, we cannot forget our children; ensuring our children feel welcome and safe at St. Andrews would be another priority.

Candidates for Diocesan Convention Deputy

Name: Stephanie Elkins



For which position are you running? Diocesan Convention Deputy

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?

I had to work on Sundays for years and was unable to attend church regularly until the summer of 2016. At that time my Sundays became free, and I decided to explore Episcopal churches in the area. I settled on St. Andrew's immediately – I was drawn in by the sense of welcome, by the palpable love and mutual care permeating the congregation and leadership, by the powerful, meaningful sermons that often move me to tears, and by the music ministry. I became a member right away and I've been singing with the choir since September of 2016 and up until COVID restrictions put a temporary end to our in-person services.

Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I was born to two Episcopalians, but my father was in the military so we were always moving and attending a different church. Finally, when I was 11, we settled in Arlington, VA and stayed for almost five years. I had my first experience with a real home church there, at St. Michael's. It was magical, and I still recall that time with a strong sense of well-being, belonging, safety and love. It was a small stone church with a red door, and I sang in the choir with my brother and sister. My parents often played brass instruments for special services there. When my father died suddenly when I was 14, the congregation was incredibly generous with food and other comfort and support, further reinforcing the sense of being cared for in the name of Christ.

I was confirmed at St. Michael's at age 12 and in 2017, I decided to go through confirmation classes again here at St. Andrew's, some 40+ years later. I wanted to get to know the Episcopal Church better as an adult, and I wanted to commit to it with all my heart and soul and of my own volition. I found the classes informative and deeply inspirational. I was re-confirmed by Bishop Steven A. Miller on June 3, 2017.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?

- My strengths include deep curiosity and open-mindedness; independent and critical thinking skills; interest in other people and the ability to listen; honesty, patience and vulnerability. I'm also pretty analytical.
- My talents include public and extemporaneous speaking, especially advocating for causes I believe in. (I've been a public radio host and fundraiser for over 20 years.) I'm a skilled writer – I worked as a journalist and also as a
- writer/editor focusing primarily on grant-writing for nonprofits. At heart I am a clarifier, able to convey complicated ideas and processes in a simple and straightforward manner.
- As far as experience goes, my undergraduate degree was a double major in political science and French, and I studied economics in graduate school. Other experience:
 - * sales and marketing for a Fortune 10 company and two other large companies
 - * director of development (fundraiser) for a nonprofit
 - * trained facilitator with a focus on eliciting and incorporating input and feedback from multiple points of view
 - * co-founded and helped run a web-based corporation that serves musicians around the globe
 - * established the first Smart Growth Committee in my rural WI township
 - * served on the boards of Madison Opera and the Madison Early Music Festival; currently serve as a Trustee for the Wisconsin Foundation for School Music
 - * regular pledge talent for Wisconsin Public Television
 - * Leadership Greater Madison alumna

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?

- Maintaining/regaining stable financial health during and after the pandemic; building on the excellent work already accomplished in this area
- continuing to focus on diversity, inclusion, equality and access:
 - * in the congregation's make-up
 - * in member education
 - * with opportunities for members to engage in social justice activity
 - * by building on the excellent work already being done in this area
- care and feeding of clergy and leadership
- fostering a sense of welcome and belonging for new and potential new members, especially during the pandemic; continuing the excellent work already being done in this area

Name: JoAnne Lehman

For which position are you running? Diocesan Convention Deputy

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?

When I moved to Madison's near-west side in 2009, I noticed St. Andrew's and liked the idea of a neighborhood church I could walk to. One of the first people I met at St. A's was the Venerable Susan Mueller, arch-deacon for the diocese, who was serving part-time here and whose irrepressibly welcoming spirit drew me in and kept drawing me back. At first I mostly attended the intimate Wednesday morning Eucharist, which would always be followed by what I liked to call Holy Bagel Hour, with free-ranging discussion. I got to know Father Andy there and appreciated the atmosphere of openness and welcome I found in that group. Over the next few years, I felt supported by Susan, Andy, and the St. Andrew's community as I struggled through my parents' declining years and deaths. Another experience that strengthened my bond with this community was serving on the discernment committee for a member of the parish considering a call to ministry. And in the last few years it's been hugely encouraging to see and become part of this community's commitment to social justice.

**Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.**

A descendant of Mennonites, I was a baby Baptist, a high-school Jesus Freak, and a leader in my campus InterVarsity chapter. My first post-college roommate introduced me to an Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan (which also happened to be a St. Andrew's). The EC seemed radical and daring to me as the daughter of a conservative fundamentalist minister. I was drawn to the liturgy as well as what seemed a more open-minded atmosphere that could hold space for my searching and questioning as I moved away from some of the ideology of my heritage. I was confirmed in Michigan in the late 1980s. In the early 1990s I lived in Seattle, WA, where I was a member of St. Mark's Cathedral and also visited my first Friends meetings. I also came out in Seattle, and met my future spouse; I followed her to Wisconsin, where we both felt connected to Quakerism (our non-legal 1998 wedding was "in the manner of Friends") and were active for a few years in a small Unitarian Universalist congregation. Martha and I were both unsure about staying involved in religious organizations and drifted away from the UU, experiencing our spirituality as more personal but always centered in the Quaker notion that there is "that of God in everyone." We described ourselves as "Quakertarian Episcopagans." By the time I found St. Andrew's/Madison in 2009, I was yearning for both community and liturgy again and was moved by the journeys of some Episcopalian writers, in particular Sara Myles, whose book *Take This Bread* reawakened in me a desire to experience the mystery of the Eucharist in a progressive liturgical community. I'm pretty sure I'm here to stay.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?

I tend to think slowly, deeply, and critically about issues, and seek to make decisions informed by reliable information and rooted in values of compassion, justice, and community. I have some oral and written communication skills that might be helpful. I have been both an insider and an outsider in relation to churches and other organizations and think I can understand multiple perspectives.

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew’s?

I want St. Andrew’s to be a strong spiritual/moral center from which we seek to live out justice and grace in society. I think we need to focus even more on understanding and dismantling racism, personally and corporately, in ways that engage the whole parish and go beyond friendships with Black churches and donating to causes and projects (important as those things are). I also hope St. Andrew’s will have a strong voice in selecting a new bishop and influencing the future direction of the diocese.

Name: *Bob Manion*

For which position are you running? Diocesan Convention Deputy

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew’s?

I became a member at St. Andrews’ in 1994. I began actively participating in its mission since 1997.



Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I was involved with St. Francis House in the late 1970s and into the 80s. The Episcopal churches liturgy and its welcoming spirit appealed to me.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?

I think that I can bring a knowledge of the history of this diocese and can relate with the other parishes and their issues.

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew’s?

Being more involved in combating systemic racism in our community. Also, to continue to reach out to members of our church family who are isolated and alone during this pandemic.

Name: *Becky Otte-Ford*

For which position are you running? Diocesan Convention Deputy

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew’s?

I joined St. Andrews a few years ago. I live not too far away, and knew the former associate pastor. I appreciated the small parish size, the simple but prayerful liturgy, and having women at the altar and pulpit.



Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I’m a former Catholic, and St. Andrew’s is the only Episcopal church I’ve been a part of. I enjoyed being part of the Episcopal 101 class and learning more about the denomination.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?

I have experience in attending district church conferences. I listen, think, and pray about the decisions to be made. And I have a passion for social, economic, and environmental justice and how the church can be a part of change for the good.

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew’s?

I think we need to acknowledge our privilege as a mostly white, mostly affluent congregation and examine how we as a parish and as part of a wider church community can become anti-racist. We need to look at how Covid-19 has affected how we worship together and what our worship will look like in the future. We have so many resources but so much work to do.

Name: Sara Siegmann

For which position are you running? Diocesan Convention Deputy

See page 6 for questionnaire answers

Name: Lawrence E. Bechler

For which position are you running? Diocesan Convention Deputy

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew’s?

My late wife, Patty Struck and I joined in 1983 while awaiting the birth of our first son, Tom. We’d been investigating several Madison Episcopal parishes since moving to Madison from Oconomowoc in 1982, deciding on the parish closest to home – St. Andrew’s.



Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I’m a cradle Episcopalian, baptized and confirmed at St. Mark’s, Milwaukee. I’ve been active at St. Andrew’s as well, serving on the vestry for three terms in the 1980s, 1990s and currently, as well as a Diocesan Convention Deputy once in the 1990s and currently. I chaired the committee that wrote the first Parish By-Laws. I’ve been active in Foyers since the program started, and have long been a member of the “Dawn Patrol” Wednesday morning Bible Study group now convening via Zoom.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?

As a municipal lawyer, I’m very familiar with how meetings go, having attending a huge number of them, including this year’s Diocesan Convention. I’m rather familiar with the church’s constitutional structure, first created by some of the same people who attended the US Constitutional Convention. My Facebook page says my political views are pragmatic, and that’s because I like to listen carefully to debates before forming my own conclusions.

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew’s?

A huge priority to St. Andrew’s, the Diocese of Milwaukee and the Episcopal Church USA is COVID-19. All of our long-standing excellent programs, especially including formation programs and incorporation of new members are threatened by this. Finances are one part of it, but I fear the full impact won’t be known for 5 – 10 years from now. Given the excellent leadership from Father Andy and Mother Melesa, we’re doing OK, but our future as a parish is threatened by this overwhelming problem.

Candidates for Endowment Committee

Name: Donna McDowell

For which position are you running? Endowment Committee

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew’s?

1989 when our adopted children were ready to participate.



Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church. I was raised in the Catholic Church and attended Catholic Schools through university.

I left the rigid doctrine of the church of my childhood when I learned more about the Episcopal Church. I was delighted to discover shared liturgy and tradition combined with an open intellectual attitude and study of scripture.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position? I had a successful career in administration in the state Dept. Of Health and Social Services developing community based programs for older persons and people with disabilities, securing long term support from the legislature and seven governors, and promoting our vision at the national and international level. I served as senior warden during the sabbatical of our prior rector and during the search for our current wonderful rector; I served two terms on the vestry.

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's? It is important that we use our human and material resources to activate our faith within our congregation, in the community and in the nation and the world. At this difficult time in history, we are called to reach out to communities of color with love and respect; to learn about justice and our responsibilities to those who are denied the benefit, and to walk together into the future that has been reshaped by a pandemic, a recession, a climate collapse and an intense divisiveness in society. Our leadership is small in the scheme of things, but important to us as we live out our faith. Our endowments are one important resource in this effort.

Name: Heidi Ropa

For which position are you running? Endowment Committee

How and when did you become a member of St. Andrew's?

My family arrived at St. Andrew's in February of 2000 after we moved to Madison from Chicago. We found a welcoming community of young families and quickly became part of playgroups. Christmas pageants, Vacation Bible School, Walking Through Holy Week, Worship Center and Followers of Jesus were important in my kid's sense of belonging. The Women's Bible Study was a source spiritual support and growth while we prayed for Darshana during the adoption process.



Briefly describe your background and history with the Episcopal Church.

I was baptized at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Hamilton, NY as a toddler after my parents returned with me from India. From age 3 to 18, I attended Grace Episcopal Church in Holland, Michigan. In the 1990's I attended the Washington Cathedral Folk Eucharist, preferring the conversational and down to earth feel of the service. Later, while living in Chicago, I attended St. James Cathedral Church where Ben was baptized.

What strengths, talents and experiences will you bring to this position?

I am process oriented, collaborative by nature and value listening. I bring skills of networking, facilitating, and writing to this work. The Jesse Crane Endowment is personally very meaningful to me as I remain in relationship with one of the families, she brought to St. Andrew's over 30 years ago. I understand the depth of her commitment to journeying with people.

What issues do you think are a priority for St. Andrew's?

I believe the fundamental call of faith is how we live into the fullness of embodying God's love. This takes many forms and requires different gifts. Jesus came to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. I would prioritize anti-racism work that seeks to uproot structural racism across all areas of our society: economic opportunity, education, legal, housing and health systems. The depth of our commitment will translate to a felt sense of belonging among all who arrive at St. Andrew's to journey with us in walking our faith. From a personal perspective, to build capacity to remain in this work, a contemplative practice is necessary.